

B2 Metro

THE BOSTON GLOBE

IN CELEBRATION

— Kimberlee Reardon and Rob Demeo embraced at the Dimock Center's 3rd Annual Breakfast of Champions on Monday. Both were special guest speakers, and both are in recovery. The Dimock Center was founded in 1862 as the New England Hospital for Women and Children. It provides health and related services to 212 communities across the state, according to its literature.



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

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Our Third Annual Breakfast of Champions on Monday March 21, 2016, was an opportunity to discuss the progress that has been made in the fight against the growing opioid epidemic in Massachusetts, as well as future initiatives aimed at combating this serious and complex issue.

We were touched by the personal stories of triumph shared by Dimock clients Rob Demeo and Kimberlee Reardon. Their inspirational testimonials of strength and recovery inspire us to continue our important work. We are proud to support Rob, Kimberlee and many other women and men on their journey to recovery. Please watch our new video below, which debuted at the event. It captures the moving experiences of people across the Commonwealth who have been touched by the substance abuse epidemic.

All of our speakers expressed the sentiment that much more can be done in this fight against opioid addiction. Governor Baker stated the need for ongoing support after detox, and urged the federal government to invest in research to strengthen and study effective treatment programs. Secretary Sudders stressed the importance of reducing the stigma around addiction, which would help those in recovery attain jobs and housing. She also advocated for the use of alternative pain treatments to limit the number of opioid pills being prescribed.

The Dimock Center's comprehensive substance abuse treatment services are a model for future state and national treatment initiatives. We are proud to work with leaders in this fight against opioid addiction. Together, we can make progress.