

Profile – Dr. Norma Bowe

Where in the World is Dr. Norma Bowe? Well, Everywhere!

Dr. Norma Bowe, Director of Global Grace Health/Be the Change and Winner of the Russ Berrie Foundation Making a Difference Award 2023

Many of us know Norma as the Director of Global Grace Health who runs the mobile vaccine unit in and around Highland Park, but for those who don't know, *Norma started Be The Change, a 100% volunteer effort, over 13 years ago to address social justice issues in NJ. She's led teams of volunteers to deliver food and support to homeless individuals in Newark every week for 12 years.

During the pandemic, she created an Emergency Pandemic Food Pantry that delivered 46,800 food boxes to vulnerable people in seven counties. She

began outreach to elderly individuals living in homeless tent encampments in Ocean County. And as if that's not enough, she's also a professor at Kean University.



About receiving the award, Norma says: "Be the Change started really as a student initiative. So I teach a class on death that has a three-year wait list and I have learned that service work is grief work and when you can do something in honor of someone or if you're deeply grieving or deeply troubled or worried about the world,

when you go out and do something in the community and you get to meet other people and you make a difference, it's astounding how healing and and what kind of balm that is for all kinds of trouble. **This is what we say in Be the Change: 'You're not who you say you are; you are what you do.'** And I find that, our group, they want to go out and do stuff and if we can bring it to fruition, we absolutely do. This is a great honor to be part of a selection of incredible people. You know, none of us do this work for the recognition, but it just really is touching and it feels really good to be honored in this way."

RCHP-AHC congratulates Norma and is beyond grateful for all the work she and her team have done to bring badly needed services to vulnerable populations throughout NJ! Check out these videos from the Russ Berrie Foundation + her appearance on Think Tank with Steve Adubato:

Norma Bowe 2023 Honoree of the Russell Berrie Foundation Making a Difference Award.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaAaz_691Zw

Think Tank with Steve Adubato on PBS - aired on 9-16-23

<https://www.pbs.org/video/making-a-difference-service-to-others-jx3wj2/>

*Source: Russell Berrie Foundation