July 23, 2020

Dear Partners,

From the beginning of the pandemic in mid-March through today, we have been focused on learning from your experiences and adapting our work to match your needs.

We recognize the strain nonprofits have been under to meet the elevated demand for emergency food and other assistance while shifting to deliver programs and services online or in other socially-distanced formats. At the same time, the pandemic has further illuminated and added to the social and health inequities in our region that disadvantage communities of color as well as lower-income individuals and families.

We've been in awe at the efforts and collaboration of community activists, our grantees, and our partners, who have been working tirelessly to provide resources and address inequities during these dual public health emergencies. The pandemic has further exposed and added to the profound racial inequities in our region and we're encouraged by the way our community is coming together to name and address racism as a public health crisis.

Throughout this time the staff and board members of the Health Foundation have been actively engaged in crisis and recovery efforts in our community by:

- Providing nearly $1.9 million in unrestricted funds to more than 35 community agencies throughout the region.
- Changing practices around reporting and allowing flexibility in use of current grants funds to support grantees’ capacity to respond and adapt.
- Supporting and participating in governance of the Community Crisis Fund coordinated by United Way and the Rochester Area Community Foundation.
- Connecting with our grantees as well as other nonprofit organizations and community partners to better understand community and organizational impacts and needs.
- Regularly sharing resources and funding opportunities via our newsletters and social media posts.

Another way we’re sharing resources and information is through our partnership with WXXI for educational programming. Be sure to catch their Live Forum, tonight at 8 p.m., which will explore the
unique challenges the coronavirus outbreak has posed to people living with disabilities. Click here for viewing information.

We're continuing to listen to the needs of our community and we look forward to sharing more details on our future efforts with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Kuhlenbeck  (He/Him)
President & CEO

REOPENING & RELIEF RESOURCES

Last Thursday, the New York State Education Department released Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools to help schools and school districts as they plan to reopen, whether that occurs in person, remotely, or in a combination of the two. The guidance builds on the Framework of Guidance that the Department presented to the Board of Regents on Monday, July 13. Read more here; click on the document image to open the guidance document.


Jumpstarting ROC outlines the City's response to the crisis, plans for recovery, and resources including grant opportunities, loans, housing supports, an interactive map of food distribution sites, and a collection of resources for reopening.

Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce has compiled a list of member vendors taking orders for personal protective equipment and service. View the list here.

Applications for the COVID Rent Relief Program are being accepted through July 30. The program, part of the Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020 signed by Governor Cuomo, provides eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household’s landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance, however, the window to apply is short. The rental assistance payment will cover the difference between the household’s rent burden on March 1, 2020 and the increase in rent burden for the months the household is applying for assistance. Households may apply for up to four months of rental assistance. For more information and to apply, click here.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW: The School-Based Healthcare Solutions Network’s Student Support Recovery Grant is accepting applications from local education agencies (LEAs), charter school management companies, public schools, charter schools, and private schools throughout the U.S. to help them implement telehealth mental health program services for children impacted by short and long-term school closures. Grants will range up to $250,000. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is no longer available. Click here for more information and to apply.

Greater Rochester Health Foundation Resource Page

Farash Foundation’s COVID-19 Relief Fund provides unrestricted support to non-profit organizations located in Monroe and Ontario Counties. General operating support is intended to invest in an organization's mission and impact, and to help support the infrastructure and operational needs of an organization, rather than a specific project or program. Learn more and apply here. The Fund is restricted to organizations with a mission specific to arts and culture, education, or entrepreneurship/workforce development.
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In a webinar hosted last week by The Funders Group on Parent Organizing, Family Engagement, and Leadership Development, parent leaders from the Parent Leader Network and staff facilitators from the Center for the Study of Social Policy talk about Co-Creating with Parent Leaders: Lessons on Building Authentic Collaborative Relationships from the Parent Leader Network.

What does it mean to be an anti-racist? What roles do People of Color (POC) and White allies have in dismantling racism?

Anti-Racism 101 is a 4-part program offered by PiRI (Partners in Restorative Initiatives) and the Levine Center to End Hate, designed primarily for White people, as an introductory course on understanding anti-racism and learning how to effectively participate in the current movement in support of Black lives.

Through the use of talking circles, participants will reflect on our own experiences of privilege and oppression, explore anti-racism terms and definitions, and identify next steps in our learning and commitment to dismantling racism. Registration includes participating in ALL four virtual Zoom sessions. Sessions are from 1 to 3 p.m. on the following Mondays: July 27, August 3, August 10, August 17. Click here to register.

Nonprofit New York is hosting a virtual nonprofit Congressional legislative briefing with U.S. Senator and Democratic Leader Charles Schumer on issues impacting nonprofits. Nonprofits across New York are encouraged to attend this event at 3 p.m., on Friday, July 24. Senator Schumer will provide Congressional updates that have been made since the CARES Act, share plans for another federal relief package, and discuss specific issues and needs of New York’s nonprofits. Register here.

WAYS TO HELP

Diapers & Wipes Drive

Leadership Rochester is hosting a drive to collect baby diapers for Healthy Baby Network this Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Donations may be dropped off in the back parking lot “drive through” station at 693 East Ave. Guidelines will be followed for safety.

Healthy Baby Network strives to give every baby the opportunity to be born healthy by supporting vulnerable mothers and families.

Leadership Rochester identifies and develops leaders representative of the greater Rochester community, who are encouraged to serve and contribute for the betterment of all.

Latinx Youth Survey

Ibero & La Cumbre invite you let your voice be heard and participate in our Latinx Youth Survey. This information will be used to inform advocacy groups of important issues that are impacting youth in the community. This survey is for participants that are ages 12 through 24 that live in the greater Rochester area.

Ibero y La Cumbre les invitan a que su voz sea escuchada y participas en la Encuesta para la Juventud Latina. Esta información se utilizará para informar a los grupos de apoyo de la juventud sobre asuntos importantes que están impactando a los jóvenes en nuestra comunidad. Esta encuesta es para participantes de 12 a 24 años que viven en el área de Rochester. iaal.org/youthsurvey

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Save the date for the 9th Annual Community Health Fair!

This joint community endeavor with Black Physicians Network, the Rochester Black Nurses Association and Rochester Jamaican Organization returns to Genesee Valley Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on August 15.

This year's fair focuses on men's health education and prostate health. Attendees will be able to sample healthy foods while learning nutrition tips, get screened for diabetes, high blood pressure, and other health issues and may participate in yoga and other fitness demonstrations.
The mission of the Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to pursue and invest in solutions that build a healthier region where all people can thrive.