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.

Community Voice & Equity

At the Greater Rochester Health Foundation we believe that community voice and leadership are essential for advancing equity.

That’s why we collaborated with our partners at National Parent Leadership Institute and Coordinated Care Services, Inc. to develop “Engaging the Power of Families and Community,” a detailed roadmap for funders looking to authentically engage and partner with their community across areas from strategy planning to grant-making decisions.

Click here or on the image to open the resource.

Health Foundation in the News

We’re grateful for the recent opportunities we’ve had to talk about our new mission and to share information about Community Health Grants while highlighting the work of current grantees.

On News 8 at Sunrise, we were joined by Mary Starks, vice president of the Rochester Black Nurses Association, who talked about their project to train local nurses and professionals who work with children to recognize the warning signs of a mental health crisis.

On Good Day Rochester on Fox, Dr. Linda Clark, president of the Black Physicians Network of Greater Rochester (BPN), shared information about their grant-funded project launching soon that will expand their capacity to serve as a resource for community members seeking information about African-American physicians in our area.

We were also featured in the Rochester Business Journal, and we look forward to next month when we’ll be on News 10 NBC’s Rochester in Focus show and in the upcoming edition of In Good Health newspaper.

Now Available: Community Health Grants

Recognizing that there are many smaller non-profit organizations that have few options for funding their good works, Community Health Grants help to address this gap by supporting these organizations’ innovative ideas and approaches to solving challenges identified by those most affected.

These 1-year grants of $1,000 to $35,000 can support a wide range of short-term, health-benefiting activities from equipment and renovations, to pilot projects, and more. The program design allows us to quickly respond to needs raised by the community while allowing us to reach and partner with a variety of non-profits.

The application deadline is Friday, March 13. A second funding cycle will open in August.
An Update on Opportunity Grants

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on your experiences with our Opportunity Grant program. We are currently redesigning the grant process based on your input, and aligning the work with our new mission: to pursue and invest in solutions that build a healthier region where all people can thrive.

Additional details will be shared on our website in the next several weeks, and will include finalized information on the timeline and process. We'd like you to know that the Health Foundation will:

1. Release a two-step Opportunity Grant Request for Proposals mid-spring, 2020
2. Seek to expand on the types of community partners we fund
3. Look to diversify the communities we engage
4. Increase our focus on prevention with an eye towards diversity, equity and inclusion

We’ll continue to keep you updated as we move the process forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monica Brown, Senior Program Officer at (585) 258-1710 or by email.

From the New York State Health Foundation:
The 2020 Special Projects Fund Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available. Projects must have an impact on New Yorkers at a local, regional, or statewide level. Applicants must submit an online inquiry form to determine if a proposed project fits the criteria. The deadline for the online inquiry form is March 4, 2020.

From Rochester Area Community Foundation:
The Wayne County Community Endowment is accepting applications from 501(c)(3) organizations for grants that improve the health and quality of life for residents in Wayne Co., especially youth and seniors. The deadline to submit is March 27, 2020.

From the Administration on Disabilities:
The Administration on Disabilities (AoD) seeks to fund a five-year cooperative agreement to support the use of several strategies to build capacity in the health care field to improve access to and the quality of health care for people with ID/DD. The deadline to apply is June 9, 2020.

Community & Partner News

New Resource Supporting Moms & Babies

Congratulations to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Theta Alpha Zeta Chapter on the grand opening of the Stork’s Nest Prenatal Program, in partnership with the March of Dimes.

The Stork’s Nest, located in building N at 1099 Jay St., encourages pregnant women to receive early and regular prenatal care to help them have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. Advisory members include Healthy Baby Network and a host of other organizations working to improve maternal health in our community.

Workshops for expectant mothers will be held bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. beginning on March 11. Dinner, transportation assistance, and child care support will be provided.

Please share with your networks!

Photo Credit: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Theta Alpha Zeta Chapter

Genesee-Orleans-Wyoming Opioid Task Force Reports Progress

Last month, our partners at the Genesee-Orleans-Wyoming (GOW) Opioid Task Force held their quarterly meeting to showcase progress made in 2019 and to talk about what’s being worked on in 2020.

Established in 2017, the Task Force is a collaborative effort created to address the growing opioid crisis in the tri-county area. Members represent various sectors of the community including public health, mental health, human services, government, substance use disorder treatment and recovery agencies, law enforcement, EMS, faith-based groups, health systems and medical practitioners, educators, business owners, concerned individuals, families, and individuals in recovery.

The Batavian News published a detailed report on the meeting. The next quarterly meeting is set for Thursday, April 23, and is open to the public. For tabling opportunities, call (585) 815-1863.

Community Calendar

Saturday, February 29
RocRestorative invites community partners, advocates, parents, students, and educators to its February symposium, Esteemed: Claiming Sacred Spaces for Girls of Color. The event features a keynote address by Jackie Campbell, Alliance Director at ROC the Future, a panel discussion with girls of color honoring their experiences, and an opportunity to participate in interactive workshops focused on claiming sacred spaces for girls of color.

Wednesday, March 4
The Hoekelman Center for Health Beyond Medicine, a unit of the University of Rochester Medical Center’s Department of Pediatrics, is hosting its 26th annual Dyson Day. The event features networking, breakout workshops, a panel discussion and a lecture, "The Social Determinants of Health: What Should We Do About Them, And How Does One Teach That?" by Dr. Cappy Collins from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Dr. Sara Horstmann from the Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte NC.
Hello Friends!

I hope you’ve enjoyed this newsletter. I’d like to introduce myself to you: I am the new Communications Officer at Greater Rochester Health Foundation.

To share a little bit about my background: I’ve worked in broadcast journalism as an assignment editor; for the City of Rochester as a writer and TV producer; and briefly in the field of eLearning just prior to joining the Health Foundation. I’ve also had the privilege of working with several non-profit organizations as a communications consultant. Throughout my career, I’ve enjoyed seeking out and amplifying the inspiring stories of people and organizations doing meaningful and important work — especially in the areas of social justice, education, and equity.

It’s been a busy past few months here at the Health Foundation getting the word out about our new mission, and I feel grateful to be in a position where I can combine my professional skills with my personal passion for serving the community.

One of my first priorities is to get to know our wonderful partners and grantees across our nine-county area of service. Please invite me to your events or meetings, and I will attend whenever possible. I’d love to hear from you and learn about your projects and programs, and tell your stories on our social media pages and in this newsletter. If you would like to connect, please give me a call or send me an email about your project, service, or program at your convenience. If you’ve received news coverage, had your work published in a journal, or have other good news to announce, let us know and we’ll share that too!

If you think of other ways that I might be of assistance to you in your communications efforts, please reach out. I look forward to meeting you!

With gratitude,

Tiana Stephens
Communications Officer
(585) 258-1799