July 1, 2020

Dear Partners,

We are now halfway through a year like we’ve never seen before. The first six months of this year have challenged our community in ways we could have never imagined, but also demonstrated our resolve and strength. As we look to the next six months and beyond, we must reflect on what we’ve learned and experienced in order to realize the change that we need. We have an opportunity to use this momentum to propel a movement that creates a healthier, equitable region where all people thrive.

Next week we’re looking forward to joining our partners at the Urban League of Rochester for the 41st Annual Salute to Black Scholars Ceremony. The virtual event takes place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8 on the Urban League’s Facebook page and features keynote speaker Michael A. Robinson. Everyone is welcome to tune in and honor our scholars!

Looking forward, July brings us a great opportunity to support Rochester’s economy by participating in Black Restaurant Week, organized by Rochester Black Young Professionals, an auxiliary group of the Urban League of Rochester. Black Restaurant Week runs Monday July 6th to Sunday the 12th. Each day, the community is asked to patronize the featured Black-owned restaurant as indicated on the flyer. Read more here.

In addition, as more industries start to reopen under Phase 4 of the State’s guidelines, we are happy to see some summer camps in our area are now open or enrolling. Browse options from the City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services, YMCA, and Kids Out and About.

As we approach this holiday weekend, we are cognizant that the meaning of Independence Day can differ vastly across our communities. We are challenging ourselves to reckon with our nation’s history of oppression that endures in the structural racism of today, while also reflecting on the promise of equity and justice that we are called to fulfill together. We offer Frederick Douglass’s Independence Day oration, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July? as a start to your exploration.

Sincerely,
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Showing Up for Racial Justice - Rochester invites the community to its July workshops:

- **Writing to Heal**
  - Register [here](#)

- **Enacting Accompliceship: A Discussion of D-L Stewart and Bettina Love**
  - Register [here](#)

- **Building Racial Justice through Allyship**
  - Register [here](#)

- **Responding to Racist Remarks**
  - Register [here](#)

As a chapter of the national SURJ organization, SURJ ROC’s purpose is to support the missions of People of Color-led racial justice groups in the Rochester area in their fight against oppression and inequality. SURJ educates white people about privilege and white supremacy and organize white people to act for racial justice with passion and accountability. Learn more [here](#).

Prince George’s County Memorial Library System presents National Book Award winner and New York Times bestselling author Ibram X. Kendi as he discusses “How to Be an Antiracist.”

View the discussion live at 7 p.m., Monday, July 20 with Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George’s Community College. Register for the free virtual event [here](#).

In partnership with the Health Foundation, WXXI has announced its next Live Forum: The Impact of COVID-19 on People with Disabilities.

The forum will be broadcast live on WXXI at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 23. Watch on WXXI-TV, [WXXINews.org](http://WXXINews.org) or @WXXINews on Facebook; listen on the radio at AM 1370. Questions may be called in to (585) 209-3180, posted to Twitter/Facebook tagging @WXXINews, or emailed to [forum@wxxi.org](mailto:forum@wxxi.org).

Lifespan has been open during COVID-19 to assist with information, guidance and services and is offering a series of online workshops. Register [here](#) for upcoming events including: Scams, Fraud & ID Theft, Tuesday, July 7, 2 to 3 p.m.; Effective Communication Strategies for Dementia Care, Tuesday, July 14, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Recommended Reading

The Chronicle of Philanthropy has posted a special report on racial equity in nonprofits and foundations on its website: [A Defining Moment for Racial Equity](#).

**Self-reported experiences of racial discrimination among African Americans in Upstate New York**. This article was published in the July 2020 edition of the *Journal of Black Studies*. Co-authors include African American Health Coalition member and Association Professor at the University of Rochester, Amina Alio and Common Ground Health CEO, Wade Norwood.

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**HEALTH SPOTLIGHT**

**Thriving Forward with Healthi Kids**

Erick Stephens, Parent Engagement Coordinator for [Healthi Kids at Common Ground Health](#), recently joined the [Thriving Forward Podcast](#) to talk about his relationship to the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) field, how he has found meaningful IECMH connections in the work of Frederick Douglass and Tupac Shakur, and his commitment to "spreading the good word."

Since 2008, Healthi Kids has been advocating for healthier kids in the city of Rochester and across the Finger Lakes Region. Erick provides technical assistance and support to schools to strengthen and improve parent engagement efforts and works directly with parents training them on advocacy and connecting them to opportunities. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

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**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

NEW: The [City of Rochester](#) is seeking to partner with up to 20 city restaurants to deliver meals to area seniors age 60 and above who are unable to travel or frequent restaurants due to the coronavirus pandemic. The City will award grants of up to $15,000 to support selected restaurants in each quadrant of the city that agree to prepare free meals for delivery to area seniors for up to three months. The City is contracting with Goodwill and its [211/Life Line](#) program to perform facilitated enrollment services. Funding for the program is provided through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Applications are due July 2. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced that $65 million in federal CARES Act funding is available for child care providers statewide through the [New York Forward Child Care Expansion Incentive program](#). The funding available includes:

- $20 million to assist childcare program with reopening and expansion of capacity by providing materials to support a more socially distant model, and for supplies and activities associated with reopening and expansion. This may include partitions, short term rental of space, etc.

- $45 million in childcare Reopening and Expansion Incentive funds to pay for 50% of the cost of a newly opened classroom (maximum grant amount of $6,000) as an incentivize to open the classroom. The temporary funds will phase out over the second and third months as more parents bring their children back into childcare.

[Community Crisis Fund](#) activated by the [United Way](#) and [Rochester Area Community Foundation](#)

[Federal, State, and Local Financial Assistance](#) compiled by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

[COVID-19 Related Funding Compiled by GrantStation](#)
RESOURCES

The City of Rochester has created a webpage to help residents navigate and understand what's open and to help businesses with their reopening plans.

**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.

In order to help businesses and individuals comply with New York State guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, [Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce](https://www.rochesterny.com) has compiled a list of member vendors taking orders for personal protective equipment and service. View the list [here](https://www.rochesterny.com).


From [Common Ground Health](https): Three new posters are available for download on the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when caring for COVID-19 positive patients. The PPE procedures were reviewed and approved by the Monroe County Long Term Care COVID-19 Collaborative Response Team, which brings together leaders from skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. The designs were adapted with permission from Emory University by Common Ground Health and are made available here for community use. Get the posters [here](https).

**Jordan Health's** Respiratory Clinic is now open to the public for COVID-19 respiratory evaluations. Call (585) 423-5848 to schedule an appointment. Other appointments may be scheduled virtually via telehealth by calling the same number.

Reminder: Summer Meals are now available! Safe drop-in locations across the city are offering free grab-and-go meals for Rochester youth or their families all summer long. Check out [SummerMealsROC.org](https) for locations and more information.

**Foodlink** has created Pandemic-EBT informational flyers to help local families navigate this program and process. Download the flyer in [English](https://foodlinkinc.org) or [Spanish](https). The P-EBT Food Benefits Helpline is (833) 452-0096.

**PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES TO SHARE**

![Protect Your Circle](https://foodlinkinc.org)

![Manténgase a Pies de Distancia](https://foodlinkinc.org)
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.