

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Town RoCKs Earns Impact Award from Greater Rochester Health Foundation

The Dundee Health Improvement Project, also known as “Our Town RoCKs”—Raising Our Community, especially our Kids, to be Strong—has earned an Impact Award from Greater Rochester Health Foundation (GRHF). The award recognizes grantee organizations whose work reflects GRHF’s mission to improve the health of the community and whose projects have had impact on their community. Our Town RoCKs is a community-led project of the S2AY Rural Health Network.

Funded by GRHF since 2008, residents of the Village of Dundee and the Towns of Barrington and Starkey started with the strengths of their neighborhoods and developed a plan to kick-start the health of their community. GRHF President and CEO John Urban stated, “Our Town RoCKs recognizes that health has many more components than health ‘care.’ Overall health is impacted by where people live, work, play and attend school, social and family relationships, and the local economy. Where we live also influences our ability to make healthy choices—such as eating a healthy diet and engaging in physical activity. The Dundee Health Improvement Project is working to improve the community’s health in the best sense of the word.”

Project coordinators, resident leaders of the “Champions Group” and hundreds of other local residents are dedicated to building on the strengths of their community. “They have launched the Dundee Farmers Market, revitalized Main Street, provided micro-loans for small business development, and increased physical activity and healthy eating opportunities for adults and children,” said Louis Papa, M.D., chair of the Foundation’s board program committee.

“It is with great pleasure that we presented the Foundation’s second Impact Award to Our Town RoCKs,” said Essie Calhoun-McDavid, board chair of GRHF. “They are a model for other rural communities of all that can be accomplished by working together as neighbors.” Janet Meaney, and Phyllis Maciag, former and current Chairpersons of the Our Town RoCKs project, accepted the Impact Award from Bonnie C. DeVinney, vice president and chief program officer of the Foundation. Both thanked GRHF for its support and willingness to take a chance on a rural project.

Project Coordinator Lauren Snyder congratulated the community for all of the hard work they have done in the past four years. “You have much to be proud of in Barrington, Starkey, and Dundee. The success of the Our Town RoCKS project is evidence of the strengths of this community.”

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Photo Caption: Lauren Snyder, Project Coordinator of Our Town RoCKS, expresses her thanks for the Impact Award to Bonnie C. DeVinney, vice president and chief program officer, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, (far left) on behalf of Janet Meaney and Phyllis Maciag, former and current Chairpersons of the Our Town RoCKS project and other community champions. The Impact Award recognizes Foundation grantees whose work improves the health of their communities.

