

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Rochester Health Foundation Funds Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

Greater Rochester Health Foundation announced a \$96,200 grant to the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning (CPLP) to support staffing, lead poisoning prevention education, and communication initiatives for Coalition efforts throughout the Finger Lakes region. “We thank Greater Rochester Health Foundation for their continued support of this important community-wide initiative,” says Trilby de Jung, CEO of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency.

According to John Urban, president and CEO of the Health Foundation, “In the past decade, our community has seen significant improvement in making our community lead safe through the efforts of many community partners.” Mel Callan, a family nurse practitioner at Highland Family Medicine and co-chair of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, said, “Our community has seen first-hand what collaboration can do to make our community a safer place to live, work, and play. In the past 10 years we have experienced dramatic decreases in the number of children reported with lead paint poisoning because we have used evidence-based best practices and worked together to solve the scourge of lead paint poisoning.”

Louis J. Papa, M.D., program committee chair of the Health Foundation, relayed that statistics regarding Blood Lead Screening Data are encouraging and show an 81% reduction from 2003 to 2013 in the number of children diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels. He added, “At the same time, the community’s work is not done because not all children are tested for exposure to lead and many homes still need to be made lead safe.”

The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning says eliminating lead poisoning is everyone’s responsibility: “Learn what to look for and how to make your home and children lead safe. Make sure your children get tested for exposure to lead (in accordance with New York State law). Get your home tested if it was built before 1978, and make sure anyone doing work on your pre-1978 home is EPA RRP certified (in accordance with federal law). Make sure they follow lead-safe work practices when doing renovation, repair or painting work. Go to www.letsmakeleadhistory.org or call (585) 224-3125 to learn more, get

access to local resources, and request free educational materials. Although devastating, lead poisoning is completely preventable. Together we can end childhood lead poisoning in the Finger Lakes region.”

The mission of Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to improve the health status of residents of the Greater Rochester community, including people whose unique health care needs have not been met because of race, ethnicity, or income.