



For Immediate Release

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Health Foundation and YMCA Honored at White House

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Greater Rochester Health Foundation received a White House Champions of Change Award on June 7, 2013, as a partner to the YMCA of Greater Rochester. The Champions of Change program recognizes individuals, business and organizations that are doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities, and acknowledges the work of the Health Foundation and the YMCA of Greater Rochester for their work to transform the Rochester community and make it a better place in which to live.

Representing the Health Foundation at the White House ceremony were John Urban, president and CEO, who accepted the award, and Essie Calhoun Mc-David, Health Foundation board chair. Joining them from the YMCA of Greater Rochester were George Romell, president and CEO, and YMCA board chair Mary-Beth Cooper.

The YMCA of Greater Rochester is one of the 12 YMCAs in the country to be recognized for their work and invited to nominate a White House Champion of Change. Romell nominated the Health Foundation for its work with the YMCA to prevent diabetes, increase the number of urban families at a healthy weight, and improve the 90 year-old Maplewood branch to accommodate programs, as well as for the Foundation's work to improve neighborhood health and health care delivery.

"The Health Foundation is a long-term community partner that we have worked with the closet to advance the agenda of healthy living, and I knew right away that John Urban, on behalf of the Health Foundation, was who I would nominate for the Champions of Change award," said Romell.

"There are some natural synergies between the missions of the Health Foundation and the YMCA, including our shared belief that lifestyle plays a significant role in a person's overall health," said John Urban. "The Y's programs, many of which are evidence-based, to prevent diabetes, increase the number of children at a healthy weight, and teach adults how to maintain a healthy lifestyle play a very important role in our community. We are fortunate they have been, and continue to be, such a strong and committed partner. I have a great deal of respect for George Romell and his staff which makes his nomination of us very meaningful on a personal and professional level."

"This is a great honor for the Health Foundation and a tribute to Rochester's YMCA and the other organizations who champion good health for all the people in our nine-county service area. When we fund the YMCA of Greater Rochester, it is truly about investing in programs that can create sustainable health improvement," said Calhoun-McDavid.

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