Dear Partners,

In recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Month, the Greater Rochester Health Foundation is uplifting the work of Rochester activist Audrey Smith.

Smith broke the silence on violence after losing her son Richard “Ricky” Smith in August of 1990. Distraught by the pain she felt, she decided that something needed to change. Smith, Clara Crittenden, and her sister Maudine Brown formed Mothers of Murdered Children and Victims of Violence in 1991 and soon after, the City of Rochester launched its first-ever Gun Violence Awareness Campaign. The group provided a number of support services from counseling to assistance with burial/funeral costs, and Smith was also instrumental in advocating for the development of hospital trauma units. Mothers of Murdered Children and Victims of Violence became a trusted and sought-after resource for mothers experiencing loss. Smith traveled the country, placing a “face” on gun violence. Smith passed away in February of 2016, however, her legacy carries forward, and there is much work to be done.

At the Health Foundation, we recognize that gun violence is a public health crisis. We have partnered with Project CERV to support violence reduction, awareness, and education. CERV, which stands for “Community Engagement to Reduce Victimization” is a community-based violence intervention program targeting dispute-related violence led by Dr. Irshad Altheimer. CERV aims to reduce victimization by enhancing the existing hospital-based violence intervention programs at Rochester General Hospital, supporting collaboration between organizations providing street outreach, and linking victims with support services.

The Health Foundation is proud to work with CERV and other community partners to identify needed areas for further investment to address this critical health and public safety issue.

Please join me at 7 p.m. Monday, June 7 for ROC the Peace’s online forum to discuss gang violence, gun violence and illegal guns via Facebook Live.

Chiara Smith,
Associate Program Officer

COVID-19 RESOURCES

What You Need to Know

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
All individuals 12 years of age and older residing in the United States are eligible to receive the vaccine.

**NEW:** Sign up for the Get a Shot to Make Your Future program, an incentive for 12- to 17-year-olds to get vaccinated. Participants may enter into a random prize drawing and potentially receive a full scholarship to a SUNY or CUNY college.

New York State has adopted the CDC’s Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People for most businesses and public settings. See New York’s guidance for implementing the new CDC recommendations.

Vaccinated and Traveling? See the CDC's latest recommendations for travel in the U.S.

**Vaccinations Available**


- Eligible New Yorkers may reserve appointments for COVID-19 vaccines via phone (New York State COVID-19 Hotline: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829) or via the Am I Eligible app. Community members calling from within Rochester city limits may dial 311 for assistance in making appointments.

**Ways to Help**

The United Way of Greater Rochester continues to enroll medical and general volunteers for the “Vaccine Volunteer Force,” and anticipates the need for volunteers to continue as vaccination efforts evolve.

Volunteers must be 18 or older and a vaccination or COVID test are NOT required to volunteer. The application approval process to become Vaccination Volunteer takes about 2 weeks. Learn more here.

**Questions?**

Visit the Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Hub’s Things to Know webpage for answers to frequently asked questions or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX.

**LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT**

**Children & Family Access Forum**

New York State’s Office of Mental Health’s (OMH) Office of Diversity and Inclusion is sharing information about an important upcoming Children and Family Access Forum from **3:30 to 5 p.m. on Friday, June 4.**

As children, adolescents, and their families have been acutely affected by COVID-19 both directly and indirectly, with disproportionate impact on families and communities of color and low-income families and communities, OMH invites stakeholders to join a focus group.

This forum is to address an acute change reported across the state, an increasing level of presentations of children and adolescents in CPEPs, ERs and other inpatient settings. The focus of this forum is to come together to identify approaches to understand these changes and to bring system resources to bear to help improve flow through the system, diversion and discharge options.
This virtual event is intended for individuals who can comment on the presentation of children and youth in emergency and crisis settings and potential ways to address this challenge. Register here.

**Protect Your Team - Learn About the Vaccine**

Join the Theta Omega Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. for "Protect Your Team, Learn About the Vaccine" -- a virtual conversation on the COVID-19 vaccine at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15.

Hear stories from local community members about their vaccine hesitancy, and why they ultimately decided to get vaccinated.

**Dr. Angela Branche, infectious disease specialist at the University of Rochester**, will join guest speakers to answer questions from the community.

Register here.

**RECOMMENDED LISTENING:**

**Pop-Up Pride Events in Rochester**

Rainbow Roc radio show chats with Braden Reese, Kristin Kat Wiggall of Rochester LGBTQ+ Together Rochester LGBTQ+ Mutual Aid about some of the Rochester Pride events they are working on. Click here to listen.

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

**New Teen Mental Health Resources at Local Libraries**

Last December, Common Ground Health was awarded a grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, to fund its "FLX Teens Are Alright project. The FLX Teens Are Alright initiative was created with the goal to improve mental health literacy for middle- and high-school aged youth in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. To achieve this, the project brought together a diverse team of 15 local teenagers to create new mental health resources for their peers.

Together, youth worked with a team from Common Ground Health to learn more about youth mental health literacy, as well as with a team of graphic design professors and students from the Rochester Institute of Technology to design the new materials.
These new resources aim to improve collections and programming in public libraries across Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming Counties. The initiative was a partnership between Common Ground Health, Monroe County Library System, Pioneer Library System and the Rochester Regional Library Council. A Young Adult Librarian from Monroe County also provided support for the written content of the materials.

Stop by your local library and browse the new resources! To learn more, click here.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW: Governor Cuomo recently announced the $800 million small business recovery grant program which will provide funding to small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Priority will be given to socially and economically disadvantaged business owners, including minority- and women-owned business enterprises, service-disabled veteran-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses, and businesses located in economically distressed communities. Empire State Development (ESD) has a website to highlight the various resources available to support small businesses seeking pandemic relief in advance of the June 10, 2021 grant application launch date and will host a webinar at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11 to share information.

The deadline to submit an Idea Proposal for the Health Foundation Call for Ideas grant opportunity is 6 p.m., Friday, June 11. Through this grant opportunity, we are looking to advance our investment in innovative, partnered work that reimagines systems, programs, and services to disrupt inequities and rebuild stronger, healthier communities. These grants allow flexibility to test new ideas and approaches to challenges driven by community voice and to share related learning. Visit our website to learn more about this funding opportunity and to access resources to guide you through the submission process.

NEW: The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy will be making approximately 4 awards of up to $375,000 per year for the Rural Behavioral Health Workforce Centers - Northern Border Region program. The purpose of this program is to improve behavioral health care services in rural areas through the education and training of future and current health professionals in treatment and interventions for behavioral health disorders, including substance use disorder. The application deadline is June 28. Click here for more information.

Rochester Area Community Foundation has launched its Community Vaccine Education Grant seeking innovative ideas from neighborhood groups and community-based organizations in select Rochester ZIP codes on how best to encourage neighbors to get the COVID-19 vaccine. There is a rolling due date for grant applications. Groups interested in applying for grants up to $3,000 may watch a Community Foundation-hosted webinar here for more information.

COMMUNITY BOARD

Raising Antiracist Kids
A Workshop Series at Brooklyn Public Library with

Tabitha St. Bernard-Jacobs
Adam St. Bernard Jacobs

June 10, 17 & 24 at 8pm on Zoom

Join us to stand against violence in our homes, schools, and communities. Special Tribute: Officer Manuel "The People's Cop" Orta. We Create Change Award to Caleb Mantooth-BICARE, Victim Assistance, Pathways to Peace, Wanda Ridgeway-RiseUP and Katy Richardson Brady. Brady United Rochester Chapter of Moms Demand Takes Pledge. nationalfatherdaypledge.com

For co-sponsorship or more info at fathersdaypledge@gmail.com
Centered in equity, 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.