October 7, 2021

Dear Partners,

We're excited to shine a spotlight on our partners at SOAR (Strengthening Our Area Residents) -- a Neighborhood Health Status Improvement Project funded by a grant through the Greater Rochester Health Foundation and administered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County.

In the Galen-Savannah-Clyde Community, SOAR collaborates with residents, organizations, businesses, institutions, and municipalities to bring positive changes to our physical, social and economic status and beautify our villages to make Clyde, Savannah and Galen a healthier place to live, learn, work, and play.

In this video, created by community member Steve Groat, residents and business owners share stories of how SOAR has impacted their community and the accomplishments made over the last eight years of partnership.
COVID-19 RESOURCES

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot Information From the CDC:

COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least 6 months ago and are:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- Age 18+ who live in high-risk settings

Stay up to date with new and updated content on the COVID-19 website

Vaccinations Available


Recommended Reading: The Hidden U.S. COVID-19 Pandemic: Orphaned Children – More than 140,000 U.S. Children Lost a Primary or Secondary Caregiver Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Free Training: Transforming Cultures of Nice

Whiteness at Work is offering a free training on Monday, Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. to "dig into the reality and impacts of Cultures of Nice." Event description: We've all worked in environments where keeping up the veneer of "nice" was prioritized over giving quality feedback, developing genuine relationships, and participating in constructive conflict.

Maybe this describes your current organization, team, or community/volunteer group.

We know that Cultures of Nice are antithetical to meaningful change, especially racial equity work. We can't create racial equity without talking about power and identity,
engaging in difficult conversations, and naming what isn't working in our organizations and what's causing harm. Click [here](#) to learn more and register for the online event.

**Identifying as an Anti-Racist Organization: Aligning Motivations with Transformative Action**

From Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI): Becoming and identifying as an Anti-Racist has become one of the most popular racial equity and justice movements in the 21st century.

As individuals become aware of the embedded forms of racism on a systemic, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized level, the motivation to change is only natural. But there has been an avoidance of essential reflective questions one must ask themselves to match their motivations with meaningful, transformative actions. This webinar will explore these questions and the often missing but fundamental steps organizations and individuals must embark on, to understand the meaning of Anti-Racism. Because just saying you are is not enough.

The webinar, presented by Terrell Smith, Talent and Culture Specialist for CCSI, will be held on [Wednesday, Oct. 20 from 12:30 to 1 p.m.](#). Register and learn more [here](#).

**Recommended Reading: First-Ever Rochester Latinx Agenda Released**

Presented at [Ibero’s](#) virtual 2021 State of the Latinx Community luncheon, the newly established Rochester Latinx Leaders Roundtable unveiled the first-ever Rochester Latinx Agenda.

The document highlights analyses and recommendations in the areas of: Language access; arts and culture; housing; the faith community; education; health; LGBTQI+ community; positive youth development; civic engagement; and economic development. Click [here](#) or on the image to access the report.

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Spotlight on Project CERV**

In our recently released [2020 Annual Highlights](#) report, we feature the stories of grantees from each of our program
areas, and we will be sharing them in this newsletter as well.

This week’s grantee spotlight shines on Racial Health Equity grantee Project CERV, led and directed by Dr. Irshad Altheimer. Project CERV (Community Engagement to Reduce Victimization), created in 2019, is a community-based violence intervention program targeting dispute-related violence.

The program is a collaborative effort between the Center for Public Safety Initiatives at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester General Hospital and three street-outreach organizations: Pathways to Peace; Action for a Better Community’s Save Our Youth; and Rise Up Rochester. CERV aims to reduce victimization by enhancing the existing hospital-based violence intervention programs at Rochester General Hospital and supporting partnerships between the organizations providing street outreach. Project CERV strives to help safety net providers reach and intervene with gun violence victims before new victimization events unfold.

**HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWS**

**Coming Soon! Responsive Grant Funding: Call for Ideas**

Responsive grants are one way we partner with and support a broad array of communities and organizations as they are best suited to understand their priority needs and to create solutions that improve health. Driven by community voice, responsive grants are open, nimble, and responsive to emerging health issues and needs. These grants allow flexibility to test innovative ideas and different approaches to challenges and share what we and our partners are learning from the projects supported.

Through Call for Ideas we are seeking innovative, partnered work that reimagines systems, programs, and services to rebuild stronger, healthier communities and address inequities affecting populations including communities of color/indigenous communities, children and adults impacted by poverty, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA persons, rural residents, immigrants/refugees and older adults.

**The Call for Ideas grant opportunity will open soon.** Workshops, resources, and other supports for prospective grantees will be made available in the coming weeks. Be sure to check our [website](#), this newsletter, and our social media pages for announcements.
Community Foundation President Jennifer Leonard to Retire

Rochester Area Community Foundation President Jennifer Leonard announced this week that she will retire in September of 2022 after 28 years of dedicated service to the community.

In response to her plans, the Community Foundation's board of directors has promoted Simeon Banister to executive vice president. Simeon will work closely with Jennifer to ensure a smooth leadership transition as the Foundation marks its 50th anniversary year. Click here to read the press release.

Congratulations to both Jennifer and Simeon!

Jennifer Leonard

Simeon Banister

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Visit our website for funding resources
- Grant Opportunities from Rochester Area Community Foundation
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation People, Parks, and Power: A National Initiative for Green Space, Health Equity, and Racial Justice (P3) IS a joint effort of RWJF and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, led and managed by Prevention Institute. Click here to learn more about this grant opportunity.
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.