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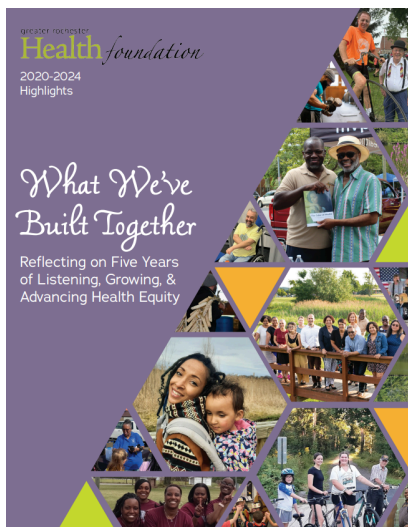
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greater rochester
Health foundation



August 2025

Coming Soon:
What We've Built Together -- Reflecting on Five Years of Listening, Growing, & Advancing Health Equity



Over the past five years, we've been on a journey to become a more community-centered and responsive foundation -- one that listens with care, shows up with consistency, and works to **remove barriers to equity** alongside our partners.

Since 2020, 26% of our grantees have been organizations new to us -- a reflection of our **commitment to building new relationships and expanding access to funding**. We're especially grateful for our **growing partnerships in rural communities**, where annual investments rose from 11% in 2020 to 60% in 2024. Across all nine counties we serve, we've deepened our presence and worked to ensure our values are reflected in every action we take.

Stay tuned: In the coming weeks, we'll share our report, *What We've Built Together: Reflecting on Five Years of Listening, Growing, & Advancing Health Equity*, a reflection of this journey and the community voices, partnerships, and possibilities that shaped it.

Honoring Lives Lost & Advancing Community Safety

Greater Rochester Health Foundation recently joined Project CERV on WXXI's Connections radio show to mark one year since the tragic mass shooting at Maplewood Park. The conversation focused on healing, honoring those lost, and community-led violence prevention efforts.

Racial Health Equity Program Officer Chiara Smith joined Keyvo Owens, CERV coordinator at [Rise Up Rochester, Inc.](#), Alex Council, father of Phylicia Council, and Laquita Roundheart, mother of Tyasia Manning.

Together, they reflected on the trauma of gun violence and the importance of long-term, community-based solutions like CERV -- launched in 2019 to reduce dispute-related violence through trusted outreach and hospital-based intervention. The segment is available [here](#), and may also be accessed on [YouTube](#).



Maplewood Park shooting one year later

By [Racquel Stephen](#), [Elissa Orlando](#), [Veronica Volk](#), [Julie Williams](#)

Published July 28, 2025 at 2:08 PM EDT



Gary Podup / WXXI News

Welcoming New Board Members Advancing Equity Through Community & Leadership

We're excited to welcome André J. Washington and Zachary Ennis to the Greater Rochester Health Foundation Board of Directors. Both bring a powerful blend of lived experience, professional expertise, and deep commitment to equity.



André J. Washington is an Associate at Phillips Lytle LLP, where he represents lenders in community development and affordable housing financing. His legal work supports projects that benefit low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, aligning with our focus on the social determinants of health. In addition to his legal career, André is an active member of Rochester's arts and civic communities, serving on multiple nonprofit boards.



Zachary Ennis is the Founder and Executive Director of Rochester Deaf Kitchen (RDK), the first Deaf-led food justice organization of its kind in the world. Since launching the Deaf Community Food Pantry in 2023, RDK has distributed over half a million pounds of food through services delivered in American Sign Language and grounded in Deaf culture. Director Ennis has presented on Deaf health equity at national and international conferences, and his leadership has been recognized with honors from Gallaudet University, the University of Rochester, and the Monroe County Legislature.

We also want to take time to recognize and extend our appreciation to our departing board members, Christine Wagner, SSJ, Thomas Bartlett, and Sady Alvarado-Fischer.



Christine Wagner, SSJ



Thomas Bartlett



Sady Alvarado-Fischer

We are grateful for their dedicated service, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering commitment to advancing health equity across the region!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

New Report Sheds Light on Behavioral Health Needs in Monroe County

**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**
Monroe County, New York



Our partners at Common Ground Health have released the **Monroe County Behavioral Health Needs Assessment 2025**, offering a timely and comprehensive look at the current behavioral health landscape in our community.

Developed through a multipronged research approach, the assessment highlights key areas where increased support and coordination could improve mental health and substance use outcomes across the county. It also emphasizes the importance of both clinical care and community-based services in addressing behavioral health challenges.

The report identifies five focus areas for deeper analysis, outlining actionable opportunities to strengthen systems, close gaps, and better meet the needs of residents. As a partner committed to advancing health equity, we're proud to support Common Ground Health and we are grateful for their leadership in creating this resource alongside the many community voices that informed its development. Access the full assessment and issue briefs [here](#).

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Jordan Health's Front Porch Festival Happens This Weekend!

On **Saturday, Aug. 9, from noon to 4 p.m.**, the [Anthony L. Jordan Health Center's](#) Front Porch Festival and Health Fair will bring music, food and fellowship centered around community well-being to Baden Park in Rochester, located at 525 Upper Falls Blvd. in Rochester.

More than just a neighborhood gathering, the free event is a tribute to the organization's more than 100-year history of caring for Rochester residents, inspired by Dr. Anthony L. Jordan himself. In the early days, Dr. Jordan welcomed patients to the front porch of his Adams Street home, providing care to all -- whether they could afford to pay or not. That spirit of compassion and accessibility continues today.

This year's Front Porch Festival will offer free health screenings, annual physicals for children returning to school, and giveaways to support a healthy start to the year. Families can also enjoy food, games, and live entertainment throughout the afternoon. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Bringing Resources & Resilience to Rochester Families

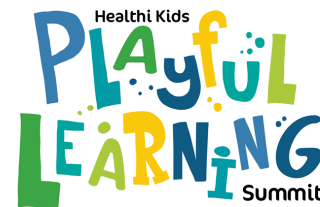
[Rochester Regional Health's Healthy Moms program](#) will host its annual Family Resource Fair at St. Mary's Medical Campus at 89 Genesee St. in Rochester, on **Thursday, Aug. 14. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The free event connects families in the 14611 neighborhood with more than 50 local organizations offering services like health screenings, early childhood education, and workforce support. Guests can enjoy family activities, giveaways, and raffles. Now in its fifth year, the fair promotes health equity and community connection by addressing the root causes of maternal and family health disparities.

The Health Foundation is proud to support this event. Find more information [here](#).

Join HealthiKids for a Playful Learning Summit

[HealthiKids'](#) third annual Playful Learning Summit celebrates the power of play and movement in learning. Participants will explore how joyful, creative environments support children's growth, achievement, and well-being.



The event, set for **Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, takes place at the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave. in Rochester. The Summit is a hub for educators, parents, and community partners to explore the transformative power of playful education. Dr. Deonna Smith, author of *Rooted in Joy: Creating a Classroom Culture of Equity, Belonging, and Care*, is the keynote speaker. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

NEW: The [Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust](#) awards grants to nonprofit organizations based in the United States that serve sick and injured veterans



and their families. Supported programs may include access to quality healthcare services; assistance for veterans dealing with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and substance abuse; support for mobility and rehabilitation needs, and initiatives that evaluate and address the unique needs of veterans from various eras of military service. **Applications are due Oct. 31.** Learn more and apply [here](#).



Our [Rapid Response Fund](#) provides short-term relief grants—up to \$75,000—to help nonprofits continue their work in the face of immediate federal funding disruptions and is designed to swiftly address the critical needs of our community by supporting the organizations that serve our most vulnerable neighbors. **Applications accepted on a rolling basis.**



Did you know that [Causewave Community Partners](#) is available to help small and mid-sized nonprofit organizations secure the funding to increase community impact? Learn more about the Grants Capacity Building Initiative offering free grant-writing support [here](#). The

Health Foundation is proud to support this important initiative along with our friends at [Rochester Area Community Foundation](#).



Grant applications are open for [Fordham University's Flourishing in Community initiative](#), funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Inflation Reduction Act. This landmark program will distribute \$40

million to support community-led environmental justice projects across New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and eight federally recognized Indian nations. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.** Learn more and apply [here](#).



[Tribal Health Program Support](#) Technical assistance and training for tribes that provides public health information, advocacy tools, policy analysis, and health promotion and disease prevention programming with the goal of elevating the health status of tribal citizens.

Geographic coverage: Nationwide; **Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**
Sponsor: United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

COMMUNITY BOARD

DRIVING FOR PURPOSE
ADAPTT'S 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
<https://givebutter.com/SlapzH>



Enjoy a delicious BBQ dinner included in registration, catered by our friends **Old Soul's catering**

Frozen treats provided by: **Herr's Ice Cream**

Drinks for the day provided by, **FIFCO**

FIFCO USA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025, 10:00 AM
GENESEE VALLEY NORTH
 REGISTRATION INCLUDES GOLF CART AND DINNER!



JOIN US FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL COLOR WAYNE



FUN RUN • WALK • ROLL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH 2025
 REGISTRATION OPEN: 9AM | EVENT TIME: 10:30AM - 1:30PM

Come celebrate the Arc Wayne with music, yard games, refreshments, color powder stations, and more. This is a family-friendly, accessible Fun Run and not an official timed race. The route is approximately 3K.

Register Today!
\$5.00 Early Bird
\$10.00 At Event

LOCATION:
 T. SPENCER WRIGHT PARK
 AT THE PORT OF NEWARK
 199 VAN BUREN ST
 NEWARK NY, 14513



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12 PM TO 7 PM • \$10 ADVANCE TICK • VIP \$40 • \$15 THE DAY OF EVENT
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Highland Bowl
 1137 SOUTH AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NY 14620



*Centered in equity, the mission of **Greater Rochester Health Foundation** is to pursue and invest in solutions that build a healthier region where all people can thrive.*



Greater Rochester Health Foundation | 255 East Ave Suite 402 | Rochester, NY 14604 US

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