

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Rochester Health Foundation makes grant to S2AY Rural Health Network for South Seneca County Neighborhood Health Improvement Project

Greater Rochester Health Foundation (Health Foundation) has awarded a grant to the S2AY Rural Health Network, Inc. to improve the health of the residents of the south Seneca County towns of Ovid, Romulus, Covert and Lodi. This grant is an investment in the Health Foundation's Neighborhood Health Status Improvement initiative, a long-term strategy that acknowledges that where you live—the social, economic, and environmental conditions of your neighborhood—can have an impact on your health and ability to engage in a healthy lifestyle.

The grant will fund a resident-driven, asset-based neighborhood-based health improvement project. As a first step in a three-phase approach to improve neighborhood health, the project will complete a community assessment to determine the strengths and needs of the community.

"The Health Foundation is pleased to expand the Neighborhood Health Status Improvement initiative to Seneca County. We are confident that the S2AY Network and local residents will be successful in this endeavor and will identify many community strengths on which to build to create a healthier community," says John Urban, president and CEO of the Health Foundation. Board chair Essie Calhoun-McDavid adds, "Strong neighborhoods and communities are vital to the achievement of health, and we have learned that community residents are key to transforming their environments into healthier places to live."

The S2AY Network is an affiliation of six Public Health Departments in Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates, Ontario and Wayne Counties, dedicated to improving health outcomes in the region. Residents from the four towns have named the project STEPS, or Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions. The project will be housed at Finger Lakes Community Health's new clinic at 7150 North Main Street in Ovid. A Project Assessment Coordinator, Mary Theresa Lahr, has been hired to manage the project and can be reached at mtlahr@gmail.com or 315-651-9919.

The mission of Greater Rochester Health Foundation, founded in 2006, is to improve the health status of all residents of the Greater Rochester community including people whose unique healthcare needs have not been met because of race, ethnicity or income. The Health Foundation serves Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Yates and Seneca counties.