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### **Foundation Commits \$2 Million to Prevent Lead Poisoning**

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation (GRHF) announced today its awards of more than \$2 million over three years to three agencies to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Rochester by 2010 through a competitive bid process. According to GRHF President and CEO, John Urban, "We feel very confident that these three programs will have the impact necessary to help reduce the threat of lead poisoning to our community's children."

The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning will receive \$100,000 to fund broad communications initiatives throughout the community to increase the knowledge of parents, expectant parents, and property owners in high-risk neighborhoods, as well as the community-at-large, about the risks of lead poisoning to young children and how to protect their families.

The City of Rochester Bureau of Housing & Project Development has been awarded \$1.5 million to fund the Lead Safe Homes Program. This program will provide grants to property owners within a targeted area of zip code 14621 to undertake repairs needed to reduce lead paint threats in their homes. "This continues to be a huge priority," said Mayor Robert J. Duffy. "We have to do everything in our power to stay aggressive and combat lead poisoning in Rochester homes to keep our children safe. I want to thank the Greater Rochester Health Foundation and President John Urban and the Foundation's Board of Directors for their ongoing support. This money is going to go a long way to help eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Rochester by 2010."

Action for a Better Community, Inc. has been awarded \$ 380,000 over three years for a Lead Resource Center that will include hands-on support to guide families on how to assess the lead risk in their home and actively help property owners apply for available funding to remediate lead risks. Resource center staff will focus and coordinate their efforts with the City of Rochester's Lead Safe Homes program. "ABC has, through the Get the Lead Out program, established a community model helping families address lead hazards through education, testing, and technical assistance. Thanks to GRHF and its generous funding award, ABC can continue and expand those efforts in the City of Rochester and

Monroe County as part of the ongoing effort to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010," stated James H. Norman, President and CEO.

Children poisoned by lead paint dropped nearly 55% between 2002 and 2005 and further declined in 2006. These results show what can be achieved when community and health organizations, local government, educational institutions, funders and neighborhoods work together," said Urban. "Through this united effort, Monroe County can be lead safe by 2010."

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