

Matching Your Generosity with Community Needs

Local nonprofits continue to face the challenges of increased demand for their services and shrinking or now-eliminated contributions from state and federal governments that are wrestling with their own budget crises. As the holiday season approaches, you can be sure that your help is needed to make sure that those vital local services are still available to the individuals and families who are still feeling the effects of our country's economic rollercoaster.

This issue features some of the organizations that have made specific funding needs known to us and shared wish lists that will benefit their clients. If your family is looking for a holiday giving project to do together, these wish lists provide a host of great ideas. You may also consider checking out VolunteerMatch.org to find local volunteer opportunities that are perfect for kids, teens, adults, and groups.

Whether you choose to support children, the arts, health-related issues or *any* of our interest areas, we are likely to have suggestions about how you can help — and therefore help our community. Please call us at (585) 341-4331 anytime; we'd love to talk with you. Learn more about our interest areas at www.racf.org/Grants.

Offering comfort care during a dying person's last days

Isaiah House is a two-bed home for the dying. For 24 years, this home just off East Main Street in Rochester has offered care and compassion to those people with the greatest needs and fewest supports. Two on-call medical doctors and about 80 dedicated volunteers support this small facility, which serves 23 to 25 people and their families every year — free of charge.

Funded entirely by donations and some regular sources of income, Isaiah House's operating expenses are exceeding its income and the home is in danger of closing unless \$50,000 can be raised before the end of the year.

You can donate to this organization, which has served more than 400 people and their families since 1987, by mailing a gift to 71 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14605. Find out more about the comfort care work at Isaiah House at www.theisaiahhouse.org.

If you would like to support this caring, end-of-life home, contact Program Administrator Mary Hartstein at (585) 341-4352 or mhartstein@racf.org.

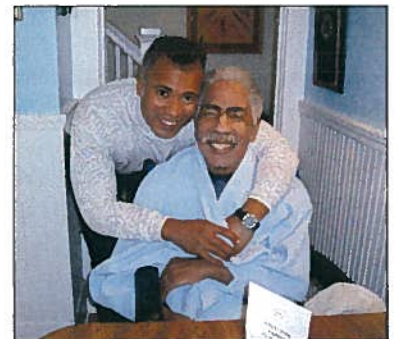


Photo courtesy of Isaiah House

WISH LIST

Liquid Lysol, laundry detergent, liquid soap, bleach, copy paper, postage stamps, paper towels (select-a-size), toilet paper, baby wipes, fleece or flannel sheets, unscented votive candles, gift cards for Wegmans, Lowe's, Home Depot, Target, Kmart, Walmart

Preparing for an emergency with life-saving equipment

WISH LIST
The East House Angel Project seeks cash donations or specific gifts for young children of clients. Call (585) 256-3800 for details or click on "Support Our Clients" at www.easthouse.org.

East House provides rehabilitative services for 1,000 people with serious mental illness or substance abuse each year. Because so many of its clients are also at high risk for physical health problems — including heart disease — East House seeks funds to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for nine of its community residences. Public access to an AED increases the likelihood of someone surviving a sudden cardiac arrest, one of the leading causes of death in the United States. At a cost of \$1,630 each, your support is needed to ensure that East House is prepared to respond quickly to a cardiac emergency — when every minute counts.

For more information on this need, contact Program Officer Pat Campbell at (585) 341-4355 or pcampbell@racf.org.

GIVING opportunities

Restoring peace to Rochester schools, one student at a time



Photo courtesy of M. K. Gandhi
Institute for Nonviolence

WISH LIST

New or gently used laptops,
frequent flyer miles for out-of-town
speakers coming to Rochester,
gardening shed for UR micro-farm

The Restorative Rochester initiative of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence is an effort to reduce the occurrences of violence in the Rochester City School District. Restorative practices seek to give an equal voice to all participants involved in an incident and provide everyone with a safe and respectful environment that builds trust and encourages participants to openly address their concerns. Discussions are held in a Peace Circle and everyone is given the chance to speak and listen without interruptions. Peace Circles build a sense of community and foster respectful relationships.

During its first two years at Monroe High School, disciplinary referrals dropped by 30 percent; long-term suspensions were reduced by 87 percent; and student arrests declined by 40 percent.

If you would like to support this continuing program to counter violence, contact Program Officer Saul Maneiro at (585) 341-4356 or smaneiro@racf.org.

Lending a hand to those without adequate health care

St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center provides comprehensive health care, counseling, adult education, and social work services to individuals and families who lack access or have inadequate access to health care. People who live in poverty are at greater risk for poor health than those with adequate resources. Problems with housing, employment, and transportation often set in motion a series of more challenging life events that can negatively impact health and well-being.

The Emergency Rent Assistance and Utilities Fund provides last-resort, emergency assistance to individuals or families who are at risk of eviction or utility shutoff. The Center reports that \$175 can help clients stabilize their living situations. With winter on the way, more people will struggle with meeting their own basic needs, so the modest assistance this program provides is essential.

For more information on this basic needs request, contact Program Officer Pat Campbell at (585) 341-4355 or pcampbell@racf.org.



WISH LIST

Personal-size hygiene products, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, individually wrapped toothbrushes, lotion and disposable razors, brown paper lunch bags, Wegmans or Tops gift cards, \$10 gas cards, phone cards, 10-ride city bus passes (available at Wegmans or Tops) new or gently-used books and 2012 calendars

Using animals to teach about respect for all living things



Photo courtesy of
Lollypop Farm

WISH LIST

Large-size dog toys, plain wooden blocks, large towels, small litter pans, Q-tips, non-clumping cat litter, blankets, Swiffer-type cleaning products, bleach, skeins of yarn, light jazz, classical music or nature CDs

Learning to Create a Better World is an educational field trip program that helps at-risk youth learn respect for all living things, including themselves and others. About 360 students from the Rochester City School District are transported to Lollypop Farm for:

- ◆ A tour with a trained guide who shares information about Lollypop's history, the shelter, and the animals;
- ◆ A hike on the nature trails;
- ◆ Age-appropriate education on the history of the humane movement; and
- ◆ A hands-on learning experience introducing the students to a veterinary career.

Children will learn how their actions can cause suffering, how to be responsible pet owners, and how to become advocates for animals and others as they identify cruelty and violence for what it is. The Humane Society seeks \$5,000 to subsidize the cost of this program to keep the fee low for student participants.

To learn more about this creative program for children, contact Program Officer Mairéad Hartmann at (585) 341-4350 or mhartmann@racf.org.

GIVING opportunities

Learning essential life skills through drumming and dancing

Bush Mango Drum and Dance immerses people of all ages in the music, movement, culture and community inspired by West African drum and dance. Besides being a performing company and a teaching center, it is also home of the Youth Project, an innovative program that provides city boys and girls, ages 3 to 18, the opportunity to learn and experience drumming and dancing in a supportive and directed way. Participants also learn essential life skills, including confidence, teamwork, discipline, joy, and more. Nearly all of these students rely on scholarships to attend. A contribution of \$1,000 will support a city youth's participation for one year. If you have questions about this program or would be interested in seeing how it changes lives, contact Executive Director Colleen Hendrick (585-820-9213 or Colleen@bushmango.com).

For more details, contact Philanthropic Services Associate Stefanie Griffin at (585) 341-4331 or sgriffin@racf.org.

Providing in-hospital respite for parents of ill children

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester provides a home away from home for families that need to be near their children who are receiving health care in Rochester-area hospitals. This organization seeks \$2,900 for the Ronald McDonald House Coffee Hour at Golisano Children's Hospital. This free coffee hour gives any family with a child in the hospital an opportunity to leave their child's bedside for a short time and meet other families in similar circumstances. In this informal setting, parents can build supportive relationships with other parents.

To find out more or to contribute to this worthwhile initiative, contact Program Officer Mairéad Hartmann at (585) 341-4350 or mhartmann@racf.org.



Photo courtesy of Ronald McDonald House

WISH LIST

Paper towels, disposable coffee cups with lids, individual-sized cereal boxes, snack foods or microwave meals, fruit/cereal bars, Pop Tarts, fresh fruit, condiments, salad dressings

Encouraging giving with a NextGen membership for your young professional

For the holidays, consider giving the gift of philanthropy to the young professionals in your life. NextGen Rochester, a Community Foundation Giving Circle for people ages 21 to 45, offers \$100 gift certificates for a one-year membership. This allows your young professional to attend the group's social events, participate in site visits and learn firsthand how a group can make a real impact on our community.

Gift certificates can be mailed to you or directly to the recipient. For more information on NextGen or to purchase a gift certificate, go to www.racf.org/NextGen or call (585) 271-4100.

A BIG THANK-YOU

Almost 2,000 Rochester City School District school kindergartners received hands-on equipment for the new, developmentally appropriate curriculum, thanks to generous contributions from Community Foundation donors and others in the community. The new curriculum was approved after the district's budget was finalized so money for equipment to support the new curriculum was not available.

A collaborative grassroots fundraising effort garnered \$91,000 to purchase blocks, musical instruments, listening stations, and sand and water tables for 90 classrooms. **Community Foundation donors raised \$30,000 toward this effort.** "We are hearing from kindergarten teachers that children are loving the new curriculum and teachers say that they are off to a great start and the new classroom equipment will make it even better," says Nancy Kaplan of Rochester's Child, who tracked the donations and helped to order the equipment.

SAVE THE DATE

November 2: Join us for our annual briefing with **Michael Miller** on the Community Foundation's investment rationale and strategy for success over long periods of time.

The briefing, which includes hors d'oeuvres and beverages, is from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Strathallan Hotel, 500 East Avenue. Please RSVP

by October 26
to Stefanie Griffin at sgriffin@racf.org or (585) 341-4331.