



## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### **Statement on Anti-Asian Racism and Violence**

Rochester Area Community Foundation works for equity on behalf of every person who has been subject to racism, violence rooted in hate and intolerance, and those whose voices aren't readily heard because they are afraid. Hate has no place in our society.

We stand with other community foundations and regional neighbors in grieving for the victims of the March 16 attack on three Atlanta-area massage parlors that left eight people dead, including six women of Asian descent. The incident has drawn painful but necessary attention to the disturbing trend of escalating anti-Asian racism and violence in our country, with a 150% increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans from 2019 to 2020. The national coalition called Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate (<https://StopAAPIHate.org/>) has received at least 3,795 reports of hate incidents across the country since March 2020.

As we move from grief and processing to action, there is much we can all do to be part of the solution. This [PBS Newshour article](#) is just one resource for guidance on bystander intervention, reporting racist incidents, educating yourself about the history of anti-Asian discrimination, reaching out to elected officials, and donating to nonprofits advancing racial justice for Asian Americans.

If you want to act locally, consider a gift to the [RASE Commission Fund](#), established at the Community Foundation to support the work of Monroe County's [Commission on Racial and Structural Equity](#) (RASE). Or consider getting involved with – or donating to – the Levine Center to End Hate, which is hosting [free webinars](#) in a series called “Asian Matters: Standing with Rochester's Asian American Communities.”

None of us can undo what's been done, but together we can work toward a better, more equitable future by building a community that dismantles racism and recognizes every individual's contribution to our collective well-being and success.

–The Board and Staff of Rochester Area Community Foundation