

ROCHESTER NONPROFIT CONSORTIUM CROSS-SECTOR COVID-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

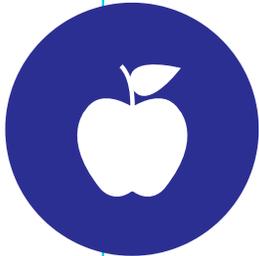
Meeting the needs of the community through partnerships.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & COORDINATION

The Rochester Nonprofit Consortium was created in 2017 by a group of executive directors to increase operational efficiency among nonprofits. In February 2020, the Consortium engaged other sectors through a community Summit called “Strengthening our Human Services Ecosystem” which brought together 80 leaders with the purpose of advancing the Consortium’s five North Stars: commitment to outcomes, capacity for innovation, strategic partnerships, new financial strategies, and regulatory modernization. Today, the Consortium brings together cross-sector, community-wide leaders to address the needs of residents. During the time of COVID-19, with additional financial and in kind support from United Way of Olmsted County and Cradle 2 Career and in partnership with organizations across the community, this group has created systematic approaches to help our community meet essential needs. This document shares some highlights but does not begin to capture the immensity of the work done collaboratively since March 2020.

FOOD SYSTEM



In a partnership across sectors, Channel One became the “food hub” in the COVID response which developed:

- consistent community-wide messaging surrounding food assistance.
- coordinated with restaurants and bars to collect the food they couldn’t use.
- delivered food to home-bound clients.
- distributed emergency food boxes on two separate occasions.
- provided produce, beverages, and snacks to the Salvation Army for distribution to the homeless.
- developed a food needs “decision tree” on Channel One’s website to help individuals find the best resources.

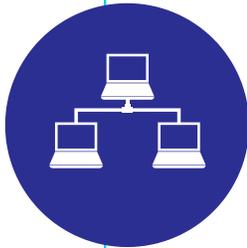
A new “Food Security Project Manager” will continue to coordinate building a new community food security system over the longer term.

RESOURCE COORDINATION

- Resource Brief: Partners created a concise guide with quick references for those in need as well as those wanting to make monetary or non-monetary contributions.
- Incidental Command Center: Family Service Rochester raised over \$30,000 to become the central hub for collecting and distributing non-food essential items.



DIGITAL EQUITY



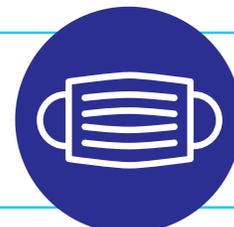
A Consortium-led effort has raised over \$100k to:

- collectively increase access to and effective use of technological devices and programs among communities experiencing barriers;
- fund affordable, reliable internet; and
- provide culturally-appropriate education to support digital literacy.

An initial pilot will focus on immigrant and refugee families with young children and older adults.

FACE MASKS

The Consortium assisted the coordination of the process of sewing, collecting and distributing fabric facemasks



VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

- **Get Connected:** United Way provided additional technical support for individual agencies to update new, COVID-related volunteer needs. For the first time Get Connected was also used to advertise nonprofit donation needs and collection drives.
- **Inter-Agency Exchange:** United Way also created a private channel for Rochester area nonprofit agencies willing to redeploy staff as volunteers for essential services to support other nonprofits seeing increased needs for services.



COMMITMENT TO ACTION

The Consortium worked with partners across the community to create a “Commitment to Action towards Racial Justice” which lists concrete ways for entities in our community to listen, learn, act, and be held accountable in addressing structural and racial bias. As of July 2020, there are over 60 entities signed on to the collective Commitment to Action towards Racial Justice.

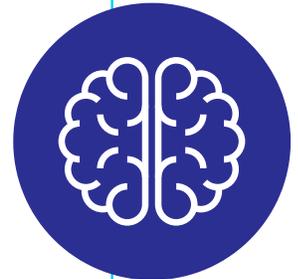


MENTAL HEALTH

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month and the increasingly COVID-19-related negative impacts on mental health, the Consortium supported the creation of virtual forums focused on mental health focused on:

- Stress and Isolation
- Serious Mental Illness and Crisis Management
- Anxiety and Depression

Over 200 participants joined over the course of the virtual forums.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUPPORT

To support nonprofit executive directors during this stressful time, regular networking calls were established to share resources and discuss critical internal issues during the crisis. Topics ranged from financial support available, employment decisions, and plans for reopening safely.



FRONT DOOR PROJECT

The goal of the Front Door Project is to document with photos and narrative, a diverse selection of Rochester, Minnesota, neighbors living through COVID-19. This collaborative photo project hopes to spread kindness and compassion while documenting neighbors, strengthening the fabric of our community through shared experience.



Participating organizations include but are not limited to:

125 Live | Ability Building Center | Adult and Family Education | Boys & Girls Club of Rochester | Channel One | City of Rochester | Cradle 2 Career Crisis Response for South East MN | Diversity Council | Ethiopian Community Group | Families First of MN | Family Service Rochester | IMAA | Living Room Tutors | Mayo Clinic | NAMI SE MN | Olmsted County | OpenBeam | Power Ventures | RNeighbors
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce | Rochester Area Foundation | Rochester Area Youth Tech Foundation | Rochester City Lines
Rochester Downtown Alliance | Rochester Public Library | Rochester Public Schools | SE MN AAA | The Project Hope Movement
Threshold Arts | United Way of Olmsted County | Workforce Development | Zumbro Valley Health Center | Zumbro Valley Medical Society