

919 Winton Road South, Rochester, NY 14618-1633
ph: 585.232.2380 fax: 585.232.8413

DATE: September 8, 2008
RELEASE: For Immediate Release
CONTACT: Liz Wilder, Executive Director
585.232.2380
liz.wilder@grantmakers.org
www.grantmakers.org

Grantmakers Association Celebrates 20 Years of Giving in Upstate New York

Rochester, NY. Foundations and businesses from around the state will gather on September 9 at Oak Hill Country Club to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Grantmakers Forum of New York. Incorporated in Rochester in 1988 as Rochester Grantmakers Forum, the organization has grown to include funders from every part of Upstate New York.

Among those honored as founders are Mary Ellen Burris, Wegmans Food Markets; Ruth Fleischmann-Colgan, Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation; Barbara Kelley (then with Frontier Telephone); Linda S. Weinstein, former head of the Rochester Area Community Foundation; and Stanley Wright (Eastman Kodak Company retired). Also remembered are Pearl Rubin, Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation and Cal Mayne, Democrat and Chronicle/Gannett Foundation.

Speaking at the luncheon celebration will be Beth Bruner of Pittsford, chair of the national Grantmakers for Effective Organizations and Susan Raymond, executive vice president of Changing Our World. Prior to joining that organization, Raymond was a project officer at the World Bank and a senior consultant to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Carnegie Corporation. Author of several books on philanthropy, she is a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Global Prosperity in Washington, D.C., and an Associate Research Scientist at the Institute of Human Nutrition at Columbia University.

Philanthropy means love of (hu)mankind, according to Merriam-Webster's dictionary. And grantmakers in upstate New York embody this definition by generously giving of their resources to benefit our communities. Funders in 52 counties of Upstate New York distributed over \$683 million in 2007, much of which stayed in our region.

Grantmakers Forum of New York is a regional association of foundations, corporations, and other philanthropic organizations, and a voice for Upstate New York philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Through Grantmakers Forum, grantmakers of diverse backgrounds and experience connect to share and increase their knowledge, improve their practice, and address philanthropic opportunities that make a positive social, economic and environmental impact.