

Rochester Grantmakers Forum

Community Action Roundtable: Supporting Youth Programs

Thursday, January 29, 2004, 8:30-10:00am

Hosted by the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation

2nd floor conference room, Al Sigl Center 1600 South Avenue, Rochester

Refreshments served.
\$20.00 Members only*



The National Research Council in *From Neurons to Neighborhoods* reports that recent research in the neurobiological, behavioral, and social sciences has led to major advances in understanding the conditions that influence whether children get off to a promising start in life. We now better understand:

- The importance of early life experiences on brain development and human behavior
- The central role of early relationships
- The power of emotions, and essential social skills that develop during the earliest years of life, and
- The capacity to increase the odds of favorable developmental outcomes through planned interventions.

At a time when schools are pressured to demonstrate academic achievement, research on “social and emotional learning” indicates that schools will reach their goals more effectively if students also learn how to manage emotions, cope with conflict, and make good decisions.

Dr. Dirk Hightower, Ph.D. The Children’s Institute, will discuss findings that show the social and emotional development of children is critically necessary for success in daily life and in school, and thus for future adult well being. Providing special remedial academic programs for at-risk or failing children along the way is not enough. What helps children develop fully? What are the important elements of successful early childhood programs?

Dr. Sheryl Ryan, M.D. ACT for Youth, University of Rochester, will talk about the health and well being of adolescents and how positive social development in youth can reduce outcomes such as alcohol, tobacco and drug use; AIDS/HIV; teen pregnancy, school failures and dropout; crime/arrest; and emotional problems, and ensure healthy, productive, successful youth and adults.

Joan Bickweat, Asset Coordinator of the Monroe County Youth Bureau will present county initiatives in the arena of asset-building for youth.

Making communities better places for young people to grow up is the goal of positive youth development programs. These programs focus on the whole youth and therefore, cross-sector collaborations of business, government, and private efforts are suggested. How can funders be part of these efforts?

* Pre-register by completing the form enclosed.

Contact Lisa Dahl: Lisa.dahl@grantmakers.org or 585.232.2380 for more information.