



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Max Evans  
Telephone: (507) 282-0203  
Email: Max@rochesterarea.org

## **ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY**

The National Council on Foundations announced that the Rochester Area Foundation was recertified for continuing to meet the 43 exemplary compliance standards for community foundations.

The recognition is an accreditation program that confirms community foundations are in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™. You could say it's a Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations—a testimony to the Rochester Area Foundation's commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability. The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations documents the foundation's policies for donor services, investments, grant-making, governance and administration.

"This is the highest level of recognition and it is a great benchmark," foundation president JoAnn Stormer said of the national honor. "It makes a sound statement to the community that goes a long way in placing a stamp of confidence on the work of the foundation. The National Standards Seal also confirms our history of honoring donors' wishes—to support the arts and education, cultivate gardens, create affordable housing, cure illness, expand early childhood education, feed the hungry—and support countless other important causes."

The Foundation first received national accreditation in 2006 and the bar is raised higher each year. The latest standards, according to the Council on Foundations, are the most rigorous to date.

Board Chair, John Benike said, "We believe this form of accreditation tells donors their money is in good hands when entrusted to the Rochester Area Foundation. We also believe it provides reassurance to the Foundation's many recipients that they can look ahead to continued assistance."

"When people establish a fund, make a charitable bequest or set up an annuity, they are putting their trust in us," Stormer said. "They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely and honor their charitable wishes."

Philanthropy is the core of the Rochester Area Foundation's work. And wherever you are in your personal philanthropic journey, our staff and volunteers are prepared to help you to make an

impact on the causes that matter to you. Your generosity can flow forward to benefit future generations, continuing to make a difference for years and years to come.

**About the Rochester Area Foundation.** For more than 68 years, the Rochester Area Foundation has partnered with donors to improve the quality of life, promote greater equality of opportunities, and develop effective methods to assist those in need in the greater Rochester area. To find out how the Foundation can connect you with the causes you care about most; call (507) 282-0203 or visit online at [www.rochesterarea.org](http://www.rochesterarea.org)

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