

May 2022

NEWS LEAF

Important Dates

JUNE 1 | 9:00–10:00am
Virtual Coffee and Conversation —
Nonprofit Highlights

Join Zoom Meeting:
tinyurl.com/2p8cx99f
Meeting ID: 880 0226 7994
Passcode: 019657

Dial by your location:
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

JULY 6 | 9:00–10:00am
Virtual Coffee and Conversation —
Finances for your high school and
college aged students

Join Zoom Meeting:
(See Zoom details above)

JULY 6
Opening Date for Acceptance of letters
of intent for Fall Grant Applications

JULY 29
Closing Date for Acceptance of letters
of intent for Fall Grant Applications

AUGUST 3 | 9:00–10:00am
Virtual Coffee and Conversation —
Affordable Housing

Join Zoom Meeting:
(See Zoom details above)



Rochester Area
Foundation



President's letter

*"Spring: a lovely reminder of how
beautiful change can truly be."* --Anonymous.

The above thought is a great reminder that change can be a positive catalyst for us all. We are embracing change here at Rochester Area Foundation. Recently our Board of Trustees and staff held a strategic planning retreat. During this engaging session, we committed to four goals that will guide our organization through 2025. Our RAF staff team is working to put structure and tactics behind each of these guiding visions, ensuring that our work is aligned and focused to achieve positive results.

We have also welcomed Emily Neville as First Homes Program Associate. Emily is supporting our Community Land Trust homeowners and our FH team with her expertise in this brand new position. Additionally, JoMarie Morris has agreed to serve as an operational and strategic visioning consultant for the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing. JoMarie will be assisting Coalition partners in determining current and future priorities over the next few months.

We have hosted some great presentations during our monthly virtual Coffee and Conversation over the past few months, and you will see in the upcoming calendar there are several opportunities to learn more about putting philanthropy into action. We hope you will be able to join us and invite you to share this information with others you think would like to learn more.

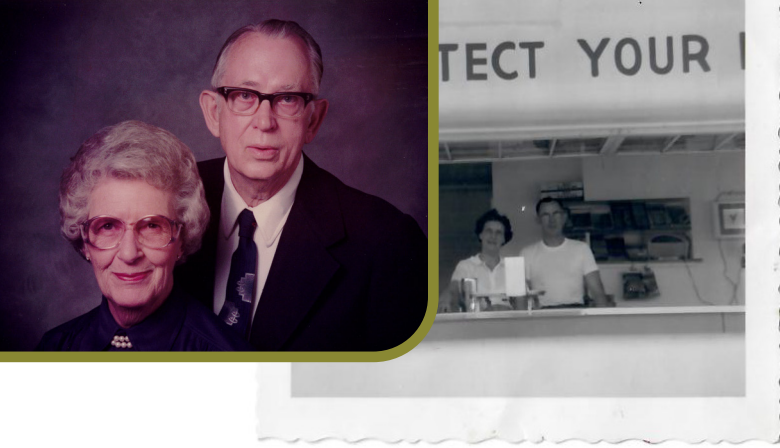
We are definitely looking forward to beautiful change and opportunity in 2022, but we are also taking a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of the last year through the 2021 Rochester Area Foundation Annual Report. Reports have been mailed, and if you did not receive a copy we invite you to please view it on our website via this link:
tinyurl.com/2p8669a5

Thank you for your partnership!

Jennifer Woodford



RAF team spring cleaning



For 31 years, Benny and Eloise saw the positive in the thousands of teenaged kids that came to hang out at the R-tic Root beer stand in Rochester. Dubbed Benny's by most of the area teens, some referred to the iconic spot as a home away from home. Benedict and Eloise Dresbach kept the menu simple, and made the advice and support abundant. Benny extolled this advice in a 1967 article, "If you talk to teenagers like adults, they'll act like adults."

May would be the time of year when Benny and Eloise would be getting the stand ready for business, and word would spread quickly. A 1965 article in the John Marshall Rocket announced that the "summer haven" would be opening soon. However, also reminding the student body that this wasn't the typical high school hang out, there were rules to follow and Benny enforced them. There was no foul language or drinking on the lot allowed, but Benny stated the kids could be as loud as they wanted. These simply stated expectations kept the kids coming back all summer and year after year.

Anne Noser, their niece, said in article that she had written years ago, "They were an understanding friend to any child that needed help." Having no children of their own, the Root Beer stand allowed them to take care of all the kids that came to buy a mexi-burger or a roast beef sandwich, a root beer, and a soft serve ice cream cone with sprinkles every summer.

It made sense to both Ann and Susie McClocklin, also a niece of Benny and Eloise, that when Eloise passed away she made intentional estate gifts to support children in need. This included a gift to Lourdes Foundation to open a scholarship fund that supports tuition assistance, and a gift to Rochester Area Foundation to open an endowed fund that provides financial support annually to two local nonprofits that benefit children in crisis. Bequest gifts like the Dresbach's ensure that a donor's goals and values are honored in perpetuity.

The legacy that the Dresbach's left was not only a financial one, but also one of the lives that they touched serving root beer, ice cream and advice at the little stand on the corner of 6th St and 1st Ave SW.



Warmer weather allows for First Homes to move forward on building projects and adding more affordable housing to the market and to our Community Land Trust.

The photo pictured above is one of the brand new twin homes built as part of our Plainview project. Currently sold, these homes were priced under \$200,000. First Homes is now starting another two units which will be completed before the end of the year.

First Homes also leveraged funding support from Coalition for Rochester Area Housing to renovate three homes in Rochester, one Southeast that is currently for sale, and two Northwest which are in the midst of updates to make them safe and welcoming for a new family.

This spring we will also start construction of a row house project in Southeast Rochester. We were able to purchase two adjoining lots that when completed will include six new row houses. A row house is typically defined as a building with common side walls and forms a continuous group. Each home is individually owned. There will be a mix of 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom homes.



The availability of properties to purchase and renovate has been challenging within Rochester and surrounding communities. It is a unique situation when First Homes has capital available to invest in increasing affordable housing inventory through acquisition and renovation, but we experience the same scarcity as other buyers in the market.