



### **Rochester Educational Excellence: Is it possible?**

I believe we can make a dramatic improvement in the quality of Rochester city school education. Poverty is an explanation for the current low achievement but we all know it's not an absolute deterrent. My father grew up in Rochester in a poor family. His parents were immigrants and didn't speak English when they arrived in America. My father went to Rochester public schools, studied hard, went to the University of Rochester, and became a successful attorney. How did he do it? Hard work and determination. His parents' poverty and lack of education didn't hold him back.



We can change the current Rochester culture of low expectations to high expectations so family poverty and low adult literacy will not hold the next generation back. The Rochester community is on the tipping point of this change. *I can feel it - can't you?* I founded Friends of Educational Excellence (FREE) Partnerships to help Rochester children stay on the path to success. FREE Partnerships creates a unique bridge that brings school and community together so children in the city realize the power of education.

### **Rochester Educational Excellence: What Does this Mean for Rochester?**

FREE Partnerships mission starts with a vision where all Rochester students master reading, writing, and math; graduate from high school; and get good paying jobs. This will transform the City of Rochester to be a safer, more prosperous place where families of all types will want to live, and businesses will invest and thrive. Rochester will become a source of pride for the entire community and beyond. This is the FREE Partnerships vision.

### **How is FREE Partnerships promoting Educational Excellence in Rochester?**

FREE Partnerships supports community – school partnerships in Rochester schools that provide volunteers who help students succeed in school.

- Tutoring: Volunteers work with students on basic academic skills: reading, writing, and math
- Mentoring: Volunteers are positive, caring role models that help students **WAVE for Success:** Work hard, have a positive Attitude, have a Vision why school is important, and help them Eagerly commit to be successful in school
- Partnering: A vibrant community partnership transforms a school's learning environment

When we change the mindset of our next generation and give them the skills they need to succeed, we will revitalize education quality in the city and transform the Greater Rochester community. That's my dream. That's my vision. I believe we can do this with the support of the Rochester community.

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## FREE Partnerships Overview

### What services does FREE Partnerships provide?

FREE Partnerships helps community – school partnerships be more effective by:

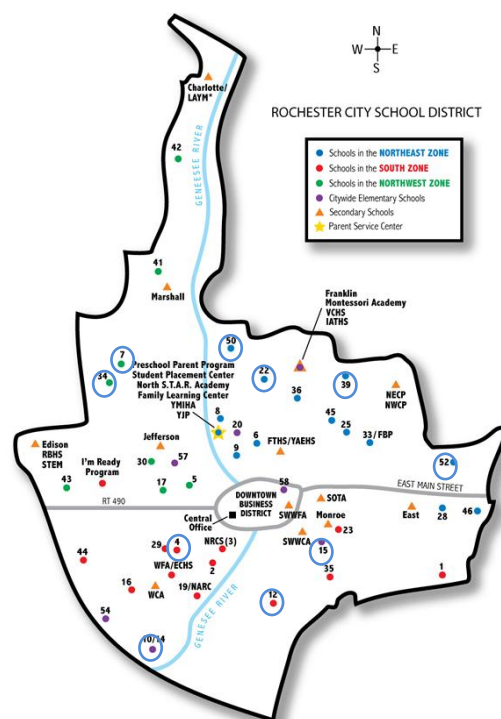
- Recruiting more volunteers so the school partners can help more students
- Helping school partners to use successful practices
- Supporting school partner collaboration for continuous improvement
- Developing new community – school partnerships

FREE Partnerships is a key component of the cradle-to-career services provided to Rochester city children.

### What Schools Does FREE Partnerships Support?

FREE Partnerships has an agreement with the Rochester City School District (RCSD) to support the following community – school partnerships:

- School 4 – St. Monica Church
- School 7 – First Universalist Church
- School 10 – Community Christian Church
- School 12 – Highland Park Neighborhood Association
- School 15 – First Unitarian Church
- School 22 – First Unitarian Church
- School 34 – St. Catherine's Church & Grace Ministries
- School 39 – Church of the Transfiguration
- School 50 – St. Joseph's Church
- School 52 – Temple B'rith Kodesh



### Has FREE Partnerships been Successful?

Yes. FREE Partnerships is helping these school partners recruit more volunteers, innovate, and implement successful practices to be more effective. In-school 1:1 tutoring by a caring adult makes a difference. FREE Partnerships schools had over 500 volunteers in the 2011 – 2012 school year.

School 52 Rankings (out of 38 schools)							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
ELA	8th	5th	5th	4th	2nd	2nd	2nd
Math	23rd	20th	14th	7th	4th	4th	3rd

The FREE Partnerships model works! Using this model, the School 52 rankings for English (ELA) and Math have improved dramatically since 2006 (see table). School 52 is now #2 in ELA and #3 in math out of 38 RCSD elementary schools. The School 52 volunteers are an integral part of the student

learning environment. Students there are on a positive pathway. You can feel it in the school culture.

### FREE Partnerships Needs Your Support

Your tax-exempt donation will enable us to recruit additional volunteer tutors, create new school partnerships, provide volunteer training, and promote FREE mentoring. FREE Partnerships is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization and a United Way donor agency (# 2526).

#### Sustaining Donors: \$1,000 contribution or more

- Klein Steel Service
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Marc Johnson
- Ford Motor Company
- Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust
- Vivian Pollock
- MCPEARL

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