

First Homes

Rochester Area Foundation



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NEWS RELEASE

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Mayo donations reflect commitment to community

By Jeff Hansel

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From Rochester Post Bulletin

Mayo Clinic administrators said Friday that the clinic is committed to providing a continuum of care for the Rochester area.

That includes funding, time and services for a variety of nonprofit organizations in the area that depend on donations to operate. To have a healthy community, the clinic maintains, people need access to things like shelter, food and transportation.

In 2004, the clinic contributed \$745,000 to local capital projects for organizations including Ability Center, Rochester Public Library, Ronald McDonald House, Rochester Area Family Y, Quarry Hill and First Homes.

Nearly \$3 million in charity care was provided in Rochester and Olmsted County.

The clinic also made a corporate contribution of \$287,000 to United Way.

The clinic gave \$25,000 each to Ronald McDonald House, Gift of Life Transplant House and Hope Lodge, which serve patients who are living away from home during treatment. The clinic also matched up to \$100,000 in community contributions to expand Ronald McDonald House from a capacity of 24 to 42 families.

In 2004, Mayo also made the final payment of \$1 million to First Homes, for a total of \$3 million in matching dollars. First Homes helped 408 individuals and families buy new homes in 2004.

Such contributions, clinic officials say, help maintain a healthy community.

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The clinic also contributed money to Quarry Hill to maintain educational programs for children.

"At Mayo Clinic, our work is health care, research and education. But giving back to the community is a long-standing tradition," the 2004 Mayo Clinic Report to the Community says.

Areas of priority for Mayo include:

Accessible health care -- sensitive to culture, language and income differences.

Affordable homes.

Education and work force development.

Cultural arts -- theater, music and visual arts.

Diversity.

Opportunities for children -- academic, social and physical.