

Exchanging Ideas. Exploring Issues.

A Community Service
of St. Mary's Church,
at St. Mary's Place



**Tuesday,
November 18, 2003
7:00 – 8:30 PM**

There is no charge for this program.

The Dugan Center

15 St. Mary's Place
Rochester, NY 14607-1798
(585) 232-7168

www.dcfrochester.org

Parking: There is free parking in front of St. Mary's Church and in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield garage.



Since 1985, the Downtown Community Forum (DCF) has offered an open exchange of ideas along with opportunities to explore important issues in gathering that are ecumenical, nonpartisan, democratic and value-centered. DCF encourages a better-informed citizenry by showcasing the diversity of the Rochester community. Support for these programs comes from the people of St. Mary's Church as well as individuals, corporations and the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Lead Poisoning — A Rochester Epidemic

Panelists:

Dr. Richard Kennedy, Director, Orchard Street Community Health Center
Marion Walker, President, Jay and Orchard Street Area Neighborhood Association (JOSANA)

Parent Perspective – Special guest to be announced.

Bryan Hetherington, Chief Council, Public Interest Law Office of Rochester (PILOR)

Rochester has a big lead problem and it's poisoning our kids!

- In 1995, 37.5% of Rochester kids tested had lead levels over 10 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl) — a level at which brain development is permanently impaired.
- In some communities up to 50% of kids tested had elevated lead levels.
- NY State law mandates testing of all children ages 12-24 months, yet only about half are actually being tested.

Exposure to lead, even in extremely small amounts and for short periods of time, affects children's brain development and causes serious, lifelong problems including lower IQs, decreased attention spans, learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Longer exposure results in permanent brain damage along with anemia, hearing loss, osteoporosis, kidney failure and other health problems.

Lead poisoning's devastating effects on our children is a real tragedy and it doesn't stop there. Lead poisoning also impacts Rochester as a community. The City School District spends huge amounts of money on special education and remedial services for lead poisoned kids—money that would be better spent

preventing lead poisoning in the first place. Lead poisoned kids have higher rates of school drop out and juvenile delinquency, resulting in the need for more public assistance and burdening our law enforcement and court systems.

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable if we join together as a community and take action to protect our children.

Everyone has a role, from parents and educators, to government officials, to housing industry workers and health care providers.

Help get the lead out of Rochester! The Rochester Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning has set an aggressive goal—end lead poisoning by 2010. Join us as Bryan Hetherington discusses how this can be achieved. Dr. Robert Kennedy will present lead poisoning from a medical perspective and Marion Walker will talk about its impact on our community. A parent's perspective will be provided by a special guest who will discuss coping with a child affected by lead poisoning.

For more information about Rochester's lead problem visit the Rochester Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning web site at www.leadfreerochester.org