

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2005

CONTACT: JENNA BACOLOR
(734) 544-2969

Washtenaw County Public Health to Hold Childhood Obesity Forums in Saline and Ypsilanti. The Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan (CFSEM) has awarded funding to the Washtenaw County Public Health Department (WCPH) to spotlight the issue of childhood obesity.

Using CFSEM funding, WCPH will be facilitating two community forums entitled Family Food and Fitness Night. On Monday, May 16 a forum will be held in Saline at Woodland Elementary School from 6-8 pm. On Thursday, May 26, 2005 a forum will be held at West Middle School from 6-8 pm in Ypsilanti. Both of these forums are open to the public. Each forum will include viewing sections of a *Preview Forum* childhood obesity videotape, a guided discussion, and a wealth of health and resource information on childhood obesity and discussion about opportunities for schools, parents and communities to become more involved in this critical health issue. Healthy activities for youth will be offered during the forum so that parents may easily participate and a healthy buffet dinner will be provided at no cost to attendees.

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan, founded in 1984, is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to the future of southeast Michigan. The Foundation works to improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan by supporting a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs. Governed by a board of 47 community leaders, the Foundation makes grants to outstanding charitable projects in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, St. Claire, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. The Foundation has assets of \$400 million and, since its inception, has distributed more than \$195 million in 21,644 grants to nonprofit organizations. The Foundation web site is www.cfsem.org. To receive additional information about the Childhood Obesity Forums in Washtenaw County or to attend, please contact Jenna Bacolor at Washtenaw County Public Health at 544-2969 or bacolorj@ewashtenaw.org.