

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2005

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Washtenaw County Public Health to Hold Childhood Obesity Forums at Local Elementary Schools

The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) has awarded funding to the Washtenaw County Public Health Department (WCPH) to spotlight the issue of childhood obesity. Over the past few years, WCPH has worked with numerous middle and high schools in Washtenaw County to address childhood obesity using the "Healthy School Action Tool" among other strategies. WCPH is eager to expand this work with elementary school youth and their families.

Using CFSEM funding, WCPH will select two elementary schools in Washtenaw County to host a forum on childhood obesity during April and/or May, 2005. Each forum will include viewing 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.

Elementary schools that are interested in hosting a forum or working with the Health Department on Healthy School Action Tool activities should contact Melissa Fochesato at (734) 544-3083. Community residents interested in attending a forum may call Sharon P. Sheldon at (734) 544-6781 for dates, times and locations.