



Rochester Community Supplemental Burial Fund
c/o Greater Rochester Community of Churches
2 Riverside St.
Rochester NY 14613
(585) 254-2570 Email: grcc1@frontiernet.net

Dear Friend,

We wish to announce that the Greater Rochester Community of Churches (GRCC) is collaborating with Monroe County to inaugurate a **Rochester Community Supplemental Burial Fund** to meet the burial needs of the poor in our community. Our current task is to begin raising money for this supplemental burial fund. As one of our caring faith leaders, we seek your help by asking your congregation for a donation of \$100 or more to establish this important initiative.

An executive decision by Monroe County on March 1, 2006 reduced the county's average contribution for a funeral under its **Burial Assistance Program from \$1,850 to \$1,250**. This amount is enough only for cremation. For some people, cremation is acceptable. For others, it violates their religious beliefs and their cultural and ethnic traditions. Research done by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Rochester states that the **cost for a traditional burial ranges from \$2,600 to over \$6,000**.

Death is an occasion when we all wish to show respect, regardless of a person's resources. *We believe that the Rochester community wants to respect individual and family beliefs and to honor them at the time of death and burial.* This current time of economic hardship is a challenge for us all, but we don't want it to burden those who are in the greatest need, especially at a time when they are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Concerned citizens have been working with our county leaders since 2006 to seek ways of providing for the poorest among us. As a not-for-profit agency, GRCC will serve as the holder of the funds raised for the Supplemental Burial Fund. A Burial Advisory Council will provide oversight. **Monroe County will continue to determine eligibility for assistance and provide a respectful burial for those who qualify.**

We urge you to consider a contribution to the Rochester Community Supplemental Burial Fund, as suggested above or in any amount you feel appropriate. You can send your check to the GRCC office at the address above, or use the **Paypal** link at the bottom of our website. *All donations are tax deductible.*

If you are pastor of a church, temple, organization or company and would like to donate on behalf of your group, we would be willing to help you think about creative ways to fundraise for this necessary initiative. Call or email if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Gibson, Executive Director
Greater Rochester Community of Churches
On behalf of the Burial Advisory Council