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## **CITY OF MANCHESTER** *Health Department*

December 17, 2009

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Healthy Manchester Leadership Council and its Manchester Sustainable Access Project Executive and Data Committees, we are proud to present to you:

### **Believe in a Healthy Community: The Greater Manchester Community Needs Assessment, 2009.**

*Believe in a Healthy Community* contains a variety of measures of health and well-being. It has numerical data that allows us to compare our community's health to that of the rest of the state and the nation. It also has descriptive information and insight from local leaders and other community members. This report is the culmination of a year-long effort by numerous community members and organizations, all of which are listed inside the front cover on the Acknowledgements page. *Believe in a Healthy Community* is written for all area residents and leaders who believe in the potential of the region and who are striving to make it a better place to come to for work, play, raising families and growing old with friends.

Included in the report are:

- Chapters for each of four broad age groups - young children, school-age youth, adults and older adults,
- Information about access to health care in Manchester and the surrounding area,
- A look at our community's level of preparedness for emergencies,
- An overview of factors that make our community vulnerable, and
- Descriptions of how the local environment and the places people live may be associated with health and well being.

The report also explores priority issues such as socioeconomic well-being, safety and violence, access to social support and enabling services, mental health, substance abuse, housing and homelessness and intentional neighborhood design.

The completion of *Believe in a Healthy Community* is not an endpoint, but a beginning. The information and insight gathered through this assessment are helping to shape a broad, collaborative Community Health Improvement Planning process. We welcome your suggestions and participation.

To access the full report, please visit:

<http://www.manchesternh.gov/website/Departments/Health/DataandReports/tabid/700/Default.aspx>

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Soucy, MPH, REHS  
Public Health Director