

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

**2024** Annual Report

THE  
**ERIE**  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## OUR **MISSION**

The Erie Community Foundation's mission is to **inspire, engage, and empower** donors and communities across the region, today and tomorrow.

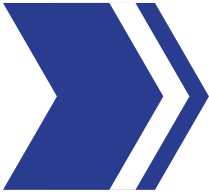
## OUR **VISION**

We envision a united, vibrant, and thriving region for all.

## OUR **BRAND PROMISE**

The Erie Community Foundation is a trustworthy and permanent steward of greater Erie's generosity. Through the power of collective giving, we invest in solutions that transform lives.





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Our 90 years of impact taught us to honor the past while embracing the future. In line with this evolution, we streamlined our annual report and relocated our donor and fund listings to our new website. Please explore [ErieCommunityFoundation.org](https://eriecommunityfoundation.org) where you can learn more about donors, funds, memorials, and recognition gifts that make our mission possible. Thank you!

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Dear Friends,

The year 2025 marks a remarkable milestone: The Erie Community Foundation is celebrating 90 years of inspiring generosity, engaging community conversations, and investing in solutions that transform lives. Since 1935, the Foundation has been a constant presence, connecting donors to the community and the community to its future. While times have changed, we remain steadfast in our commitment to leverage the power of collective giving to create a united, vibrant, and thriving region for all.

As we look ahead to our centennial in 2035, we are proud to announce a visionary challenge: to raise \$100 million for our Community Impact Fund over the next decade. Through these flexible funds, we can meet the moment, responding swiftly and strategically when our community needs us most.

The Foundation has a proven track record of working with nonprofit and community partners to address key issues and meet needs as they arise. The lessons learned over the years have evolved our approach. We are appreciative of the individuals, families, nonprofits, community leaders, and Erie residents who collectively commit their resources, skills, networks, influence, and dollars to foster community change.

Most recently, we established the Rapid Response Fund to accept contributions to help nonprofits address urgent challenges for Erie's refugee community and others affected by federal funding disruptions, just as we did during the COVID-19 pandemic. These moments define who we are: responsive and rooted in community.

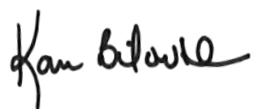
Speaking of impact, 2025 marks another milestone: 15 years of Erie Gives! Since inception, the annual online day of giving raised more than \$66.3 million for local nonprofits, a powerful example of what is possible when we come together. Last year alone, donors gave over \$9.7 million to support more than 513 nonprofits, breaking all previous records of generosity.



That is the power of collective giving. When donors pool their resources, they create transformational change. Whether through Erie Gives or by participating with the Erie Women's Fund, the LGBT Fund, or the Emerging Erie Fund, donors can magnify their impact while building a stronger, more inclusive future for all.

As we celebrate our history, we also lay the groundwork for the next 100, which is most exciting! We invite you on this journey. We never know what the community needs will be in the future, but we do know we will always need a community foundation and donors, like you.

With gratitude,



**KAREN L. BILOWITH**  
President & CEO



**DAVID M. TULLIO**  
Board of Trustees Chair



**THOMAS A. TUPITZA, ESQ.**  
Board of Trustees Vice Chair





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# DONOR **STORIES**

Bruce Raimy  
Dr. Chris Karns  
John R. Stempka  
Virginia "Ginny" Rogers  
Dr. Gary and Helen Howell



## MATCHING GIFT CREATES A LASTING LEGACY FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Earlier this year, a generous pledge from Erie Community Foundation Donor Bruce Raimy, who is also the co-founder and current vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson Educational Society, launched a powerful giving opportunity through the Foundation, where philanthropic possibilities are made possible.

Bruce Raimy pledged to match all donations to the newly created Jefferson Educational Society Endowment Fund, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000. The fund, established in 2023, ensures long-term support for JES's mission to promote civic enlightenment and drive community progress in the Erie region.

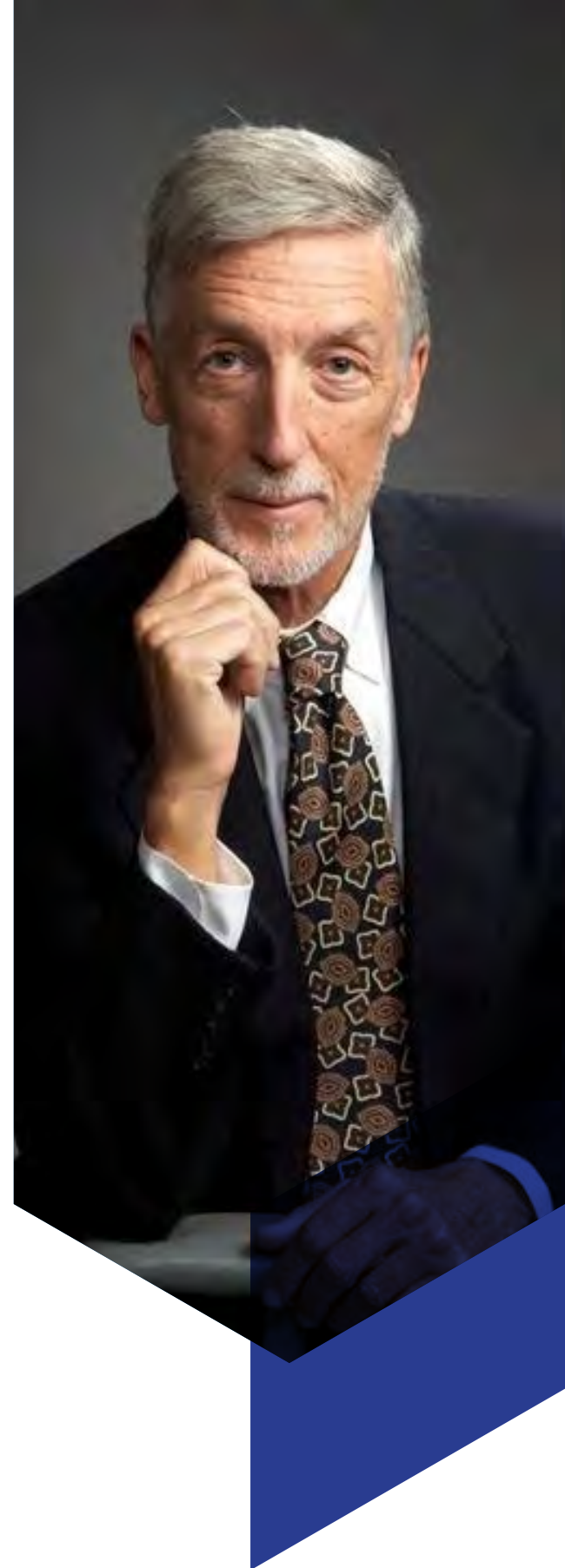
"I created this endowment because I truly believe in the tremendous impact and value of both the Jefferson Educational Society and The Erie Community Foundation," Bruce Raimy said. "This partnership ensures the longevity of JES's mission and the continued civic growth of our region."

Donations of up to \$25,000 qualify for the match, effectively doubling the impact of each gift.

Dr. Ferki Ferati, president of JES, praised Raimy's leadership: "Bruce has been with us since day one. His commitment ensures that our work in civic education, public policy, and community engagement will thrive for decades."

This fund is twofold by securing JES's future and encouraging others to invest in civic education and engagement, values that Bruce Raimy has championed from the start.

**Donors who are interested in contributing can send a check payable to The Erie Community Foundation (459 W. Sixth St., Erie, PA 16507) with "JES Endowment Fund" in the memo line.**





A LIFE OF COMPASSION:

## **THE DR. CHRIS KARNs GOOD CITIZENSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

Dr. Christopher Karns, better known as Chris, lived a life defined by selflessness. Born and raised in Meadville, PA, Chris embodied the Scout Law principles. From earning the rank of Eagle Scout to serving as an emergency room physician, Chris always gave his very best to his family, patients, and community.

Chris met his soulmate, Dawn, through their church youth group when they were both just 15. United by a shared dream of becoming doctors, they attended Allegheny College as biology majors and later Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating in 2012. Amid the rigors of medical school, they married on July 15, 2010.

In 2012, the couple purchased 32 acres of countryside, where they created a haven for their growing family. Their children—Nathan (11), Carter (9), and Alaina (7)—shared their parents' love of the outdoors. Whether hunting, fishing, or just running around or sitting by a campfire, Chris cherished time with his kids. His playful side came out in Nerf battles, silly jokes, and bedtime stories. To his children, he wasn't just "Dad." He was their hero.



Chris loved to travel and to surprise his wife with fabulous vacations and get-aways, especially to the Caribbean.

Professionally, Chris was a devoted emergency physician known for his warm bedside manner. He reminded colleagues to treat every patient, whether unhoused or privileged, with the same dignity. The thank-you notes he received from his patients became treasured reminders of the many lives he impacted. Chris and Dawn purchased Coventina and Medical Spa in 2022 to provide wellness opportunities to their patients.

Tragically, his life was cut short in an unexpected mowing accident in August of 2024, leaving his family and community heartbroken. Hundreds attended his memorial service. Chris planned a family trip prior to his passing, and his family still took the trip and remembered Chris every day.

To honor Chris, his wife and his parents, John and Cindy, established the Good Citizenship Scholarship at The Erie Community Foundation. Inspired by his character, the scholarship supports students who exemplify the qualities of the Scout Law: trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, and bravery—the words that best describe Chris.

Chris and Dawn understood the power of scholarships, having relied on merit scholarships on their own educational journeys. They recognized that civic minded students were often overlooked. The Good Citizenship Scholarship recognizes young people leading with heart.

“Even his last 24 hours were spent doing things for others,” Dawn shared. “That’s how he lived every day. He always put others first.” Chris exemplified a Good Citizen as a loving father, devoted husband, and compassionate doctor. Even in the wake of this tremendous loss, his legacy of kindness and integrity endures.





A HAND UP:

## THE JOHN R. STEMPKA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

John Stempka believed in a “hand up, not a handout.” His family established the John R. Stempka Memorial Scholarship Fund at The Erie Community Foundation to reflect that belief and support students who learn a trade, build a life, and give back.

Raised in Summit Township as the second oldest of seven siblings, John served six years in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Canopus, rising to the rank of petty officer first class. His career as a welding instructor and contract engineer eventually led him to co-found Stempka & Sons Welding, which grew into Advanced Welding Technologies (AWT). In 2020, the American Welding Society honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

John Stempka lived a life rooted in faith, family, and fun. John was a devoted husband to Linda for 46 years and a proud father of three sons. John, Bryan, and David followed in their father’s footsteps as AWS Certified welding inspectors and educators while inheriting his values of hard work, generosity, and integrity.

He was an adoring grandfather to eight beautiful grandchildren. John found joy in every moment. From camping trips, fishing outings, or movie nights, he cherished family time. His grandkids knew him as “Papa,” but also as a partner in adventure who liked to sneak ice cream.

John’s legacy is his servant’s heart. He was a Boy Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, and mission trip volunteer. John held many volunteer positions within the church and was an active member of Gideons and Kairos prison ministry.



John and Linda traveled the world together. The high school sweethearts loved seeing the beauty of God's creation and made many memories from Europe to Alaska to Florida. They enjoyed taking all 15 family members to Disney World, the happiest place on earth, especially with John leading the way.

In retirement, John opened Stempka Cellars with his son David to create a place where people could celebrate life. Though he passed away unexpectedly after back surgery in 2022, his legacy continues.

As Linda said, "Grief is a journey, as unique as a snowflake." John's scholarship helps the family heal knowing that John's generosity continues forever.

## **To Be Given Away by John R. Stempka**

Remember love isn't love  
until you give it away.

So I hope God finds my  
pockets bare and helps  
to fill them up.

To turn around and  
empty them, it's this

I humbly pray.

*An excerpt from John's poem*



## CONNECTING GENERATIONS THROUGH EDUCATION

Virginia “Ginny” Rogers devoted her life to language, learning, and love. Now, through a newly established fund at The Erie Community Foundation, her legacy will continue to inspire generations of students at Erie Day School.

After a courageous five-year battle with ALS, Ginny passed away on April 16, 2024. In her memory, her sons John and Matthew, their spouses Jennifer and Belinda, and Ginny’s precious grandchildren Phineas, Tynan, William, and Louisa, established a fund to support a rising eighth grader at Erie Day School.

The Virginia Rogers Fund at the Foundation will sponsor an annual Virginia Rogers English Language Arts Award, celebrating students who reflect Ginny’s lifelong love of learning. The award will recognize a student who demonstrates exceptional passion for English Language Arts, a commitment to personal growth, and an aptitude that exceeds expectations.

Ginny began her career as a student teacher at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. Her journey took her from St. Luke School to her alma mater, Mercyhurst Prep, and eventually to Erie Day School, where she taught from 1983 until 2021. For 38 years, she poured her heart into teaching English and guided students through the works of Shakespeare, Steinbeck, Sophocles, and Orwell. Her passion extended beyond literature. Ginny’s greatest joy was nurturing every young writer’s curiosity, critical thinking, and compassion.

Her influence wasn’t confined to the classroom. From organizing student trips to Boston, New York, and Canada’s famed Stratford and Shaw Festivals, to producing her popular annual Evening of Shakespeare, to advising Student Council and planning school dances and fundraisers, Ginny’s impact touched every corner of the school community.

In Act II of her life, she co-owned Papermoon Restaurant and co-founded Life Can Be A Trip, a boutique travel company that turned global exploration into lifelong memories. Through traveling, her adventurous spirit opened a new avenue to teach others about the world. Knowing her diagnosis, Ginny even made one final trip to Italy to visit family and say goodbye. Ginny’s impact and vibrant spirit was felt every day as she walked through the halls of Erie Day School. Now, through her fund, her legacy will live on forever in each student who goes out into the world and inspires others, just like Ginny did.





## A LEGACY OF GRIT: **THE STORY BEHIND THE HOWELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TO AIM HIGH**

When Dr. Gary and Helen Howell established the Howell Family Scholarship, they wanted to give more than financial support. They wanted to give students a powerful message of hope and resilience based on their journey.

Each scholarship recipient receives a personal letter from the couple, one that begins with warm congratulations, but quickly moves into something deeper: an honest and heartfelt reflection on what it means to work hard and never give up. "We were young once," they write, "and facing the future with no degree and less than \$300 between us."

Their inspirational words speak the hard truth. The Howells struggled for their education. Gary took summer jobs in steel mills and cleaned warehouses. Helen worked as a waitress, in a bow factory, and eventually as a credit phone approval agent. They stretched every dollar, qualified for food stamps, and lived below the poverty line for years.

But they didn't give up. Eventually Gary earned a dental degree, and Helen became an elementary school teacher. They settled in Erie, started their careers and raised their family. "Erie was kind to us, and we wanted to return some of our good fortune," the letter explains. "We tell you this not to brag, but to remind you that if we could do it, so can you!"

Their desire to help young people led to the Howell Family Scholarship through The Erie Community Foundation. Last year, three students from Cathedral Prep, McDowell High School, and Collegiate Academy each received \$8,000 toward their education.

"Perhaps someday you will be able to help someone else," their letter concludes. "We wish you God's blessings and the will to persevere no matter how hard it seems at the time. Never give up and you will succeed eventually. AIM HIGH."

The Howell Family Scholarship stands as a powerful reminder that humble beginnings do not define the story, but kindness and determination can change lives. Dr. Gary and Helen Howell worked with the Foundation to make their dream come true, which is to help the next generation achieve their dreams by aiming high.





THE EDWARD C.  
DOLL **COMMUNITY**  
**SERVICE AWARD**

The Murphys chose to evenly  
divide the \$14,800 grant  
between the Erie Women's Fund  
and the Erie Philharmonic.



**THE EDWARD C. DOLL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** is the most prestigious community service distinction presented annually at The Erie Community Foundation’s annual meeting. The award recipient(s) is someone whose volunteer experience and personal philanthropy mirrors the work of Edward C. Doll. Mr. Doll, who served as a Foundation trustee in 1949 and president in 1969, was a true advocate for community good. Ed’s son, Henry Doll, established the award in his father’s honor which included the Doll Endowment. Each year the endowment generates interest, which honorees distribute to their preferred nonprofit(s).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBORAH AND DOUGLAS MURPHY!**

**HISTORY OF THE EDWARD C. DOLL  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

|                                                    |                                      |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 Deborah & Douglas Murphy                      | 2014 Dr. M. Peter & Eleanor Scibetta | 2003 Tom & Cheryl Vicary                            |
| 2023 The Founding Members of The Erie Women’s Fund | 2013 M. Fletcher Gornal, Esquire     | 2002 Dr. George D’Angelo                            |
| 2022 The Kern Family                               | 2012 Edward P. “Ted” Junker, III     | 2001 Del A. Caryl                                   |
| 2021 Robert G. “Bob” Dwyer, Esquire                | 2011 Jim & Maggie Stolley            | 2000 Charles H. Bracken                             |
| 2020 Clemont R. Austin, III                        | 2010 William M. Hilbert, Sr.         | 1999 Dr. Vincent Jenco                              |
| 2019 Peggy & Al Richardson                         | 2009 Susan Hirt Hagen                | 1998 Bonney, Kathleen, and Constance (Peep) Cochran |
| 2018 Thomas B. Hagen                               | 2008 Ray McGarvey, Ph.D.             | 1997 William A. Schuster                            |
| 2017 Mother Mary Beth “Betty” Kennedy              | 2007 Donald S. Leslie, Jr.           | 1996 William C. Bloomstine                          |
| 2016 Mary Alice & Thomas L. Doolin                 | 2006 James B. Spiegel                | 1995 William F. Grant                               |
| 2015 Joan Chittister, OSB                          | 2005 F. Brady Louis                  | 1994 Virginia McGarvey                              |
|                                                    | 2004 Al Duval                        | 1993 Jack Quinn                                     |
|                                                    |                                      | 1992 Laura Wallerstein                              |

## ERIE'S TOP VISIONARIES HONORED WITH **THE EDWARD C. DOLL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Deborah and Douglas Murphy are both visionaries. Together, they have shaped Erie not only with bricks and mortar but through their generosity, leadership, and deep love for their hometown.

Doug Murphy, now retired, was one of the founders of Weber Murphy Fox Architects. The firm's influence can be seen across the Erie skyline, in community spaces that were once ideas that are now landmarks, such as the Erie County Library, the Bicentennial Tower, and the Erie Ballpark. Doug's passion in the healthcare field was exhibited by his work on the Hamot Heart Institute, Outpatient Surgery Center, Emergency Department, the Regional Cancer Center, and Springhill Senior Living Community.

Meanwhile, UBS Financial Senior Vice President of Wealth Management Deb Murphy, CFP®, has helped families and individuals for nearly 50 years to realize their dreams. Her approach—grounded in careful strategy and long-term foresight—has earned her deep trust and respect within our community. Deb is particularly proud of the family legacy she has built in the business, with three generations of Murphys active in the partnership, including her son Mark and grandson Nathan.

The Murphys share a love of the arts. Their guidance and support were instrumental in helping the Erie Philharmonic through times of growth. Deb and Doug are the only married couple who have each served as board president of the Erie Phil. "As Erie natives, we want the Philharmonic to endure for many generations, so others may experience the same joy the Phil has brought to us," they shared.



Their civic impact continues to empower and inspire others. In 2018, Deb and Doug established a scholarship fund for students at Erie High School, formerly Strong Vincent, where they both graduated. In 1993, the couple co-chaired First Night Erie, demonstrating their commitment to the community and for this volunteerism, they received the Erie Arts Council Applause Award.

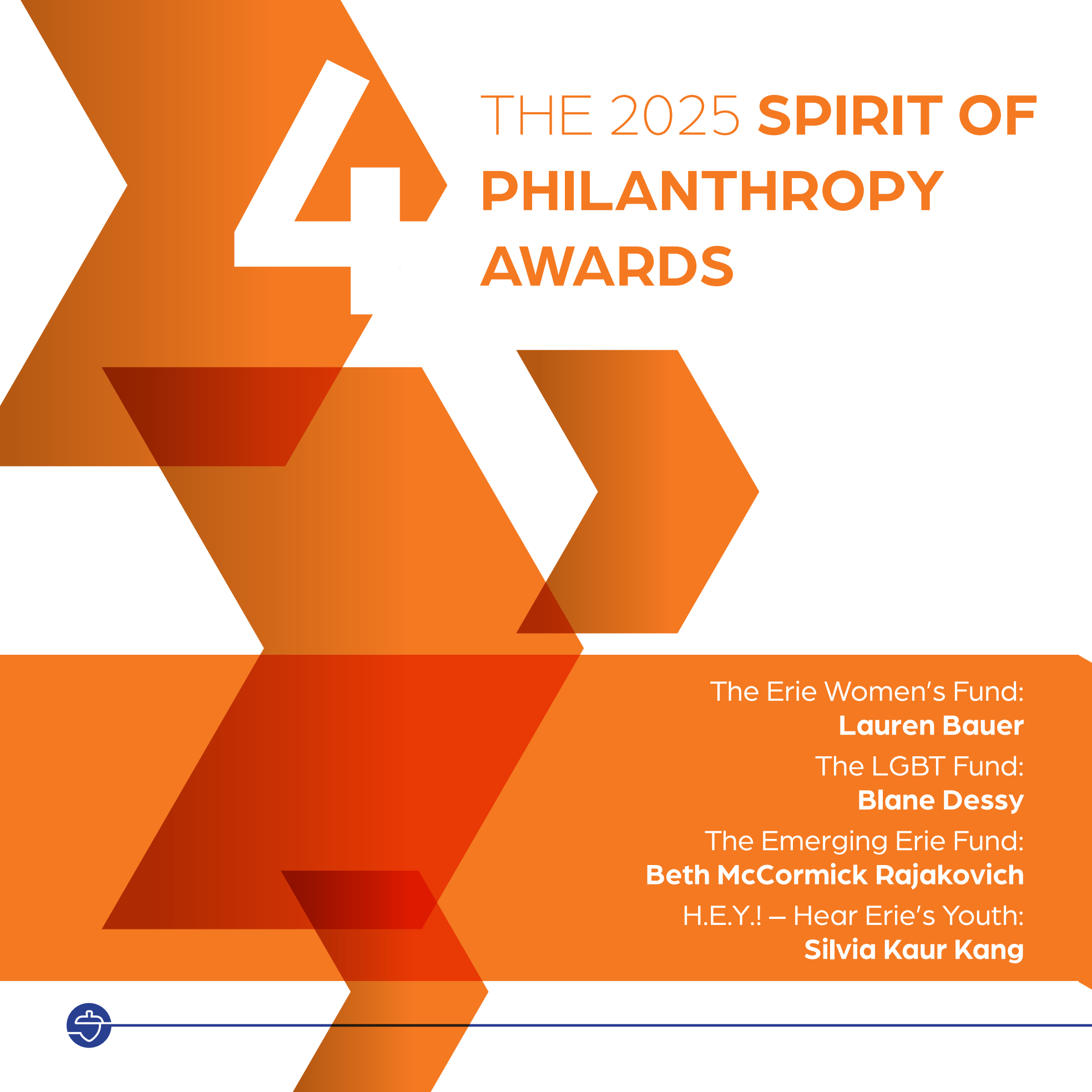
Deb's individual contributions to the community have been equally remarkable. Her volunteer leadership is transformative work. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Magee Women's Health Institute and is an honorary life corporator of the Hamot Health Foundation. She is also a past president of the Estate Planning Council. Her extensive board service includes: The Erie Community Foundation, where she served as both trustee and first female board chair; The Erie Women's Fund as a founding member; WQLN; Hamot Medical Center; The YWCA; the founding member of the Erie Chapter of National Association of Bank Women; United Way of Erie County; and Women United, among many others. For her volunteerism, the community has recognized her with numerous awards.

Doug, too, has left an indelible mark through decades of service. His past roles include board membership with Millcreek Community Hospital, Erie Council of the Arts, Erie County General Authority, the University Club, and the Kahwka Club. Today, Doug serves as the chair of the Warner Theatre Preservation Trust with over 30 years of active service to this landmark project.

Deb and Doug enjoy spending their winters in Hilton Head and especially time with their children, Mark (Leah), Melinda (Reed) and Ryan (April), and their five grandchildren, Nathan (Courtney), Parker (Emma), Caleb, Tatum, and Teagan. They are avid travelers and have shared their love of traveling by taking annual adventures with each grandchild.

The Murphys embody the spirit of the Edward C. Doll Community Service Honor because their legacy is etched in steel, stone, symphony, scholarship, and selfless service.





# THE 2025 **SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARDS**

The Erie Women's Fund:  
**Lauren Bauer**

The LGBT Fund:  
**Blane Dessy**

The Emerging Erie Fund:  
**Beth McCormick Rajakovich**

H.E.Y.! – Hear Erie's Youth:  
**Silvia Kaur Kang**



The Spirit of Philanthropy Awards are The Erie Community Foundation's way of recognizing the outstanding donors and volunteers who are making a difference through the power of collective giving. These awards shine a spotlight on the impactful work of our affinity funds. The individuals honored in each category embody our mission and commitment to excellence. They generously give their time, skills, and resources, benefiting both the work of the Foundation and the greater Erie community. The Spirit of Philanthropy Honorees **inspire** others to **engage** in our community and **empower** nonprofits.

As part of the Spirit of Philanthropy award, honorees can make a \$250 grant to a nonprofit of their choice. Lauren Bauer selected the Children's Advocacy Center in honor of her parents, Dennis and Mary Ranalli; Blane Dessy chose the LGBT Fund; Beth McCormick Rajakovich chose the Emerging Erie Fund; and Silvia Kaur Kang selected H.E.Y.!



# ERIE WOMEN'S FUND

OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**THE ERIE WOMEN'S FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD** celebrates the contributions of a member who exemplifies Erie Women's Fund's mission of empowering women and families. Since its inception in 2007, the Erie Women's Fund has given over \$1.3 million to local nonprofits, equipping them with essential financial resources tailored to benefit women and families. Beyond financial assistance, the Erie Women's Fund facilitates educational forums and engages members through grant receptions, informative meetings, and social events.

*Congratulations to Lauren Bauer!*

## History of the Erie Women's Fund SOP Honor

- 2025 Lauren Bauer CIMA®, CPFA™
- 2024 Robin Scheppner
- 2023 Lynn McBrier, Esq.



Lauren Bauer, CIMA®, CPFA® is a senior vice president, Wealth Management Advisor, Senior Retirement Benefits Consultant with the Pfeffer/Stockard/Cacchione/Bauer Group at Merrill Lynch. She provides strategic guidance when she works with individuals and companies who need assistance with planning and investing to reach retirement and financial goals.

Lauren shares her expertise as a volunteer across numerous boards including The Erie Community Foundation Board of Trustees, the Foundation's Professional Advisor Council, and UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor. She is a member of the United Way's Young Leaders Society and the Erie Pickleball Players Association. In 2023, she served as the Steering Committee chair for The Erie Women's Fund. In 2024, she led the Erie Women's Fund as chair and spearheaded the Above & Beyond Campaign, creating a million-dollar endowment for the Erie Women's Fund when an anonymous donor created a dollar-for-dollar match challenge up to \$250,000.

A graduate of the University of Dayton, she earned her CIMA (Certified Investment Management Analyst) designation through the Investments and Wealth Institute after completing a rigorous program through the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Lauren's achievements are reflected in her recognition on several prestigious lists, including the 2024 Forbes "Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors Best-in-State" list; the Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams" list for 2025, 2024, and 2023; the 2024 "Top Women of Excellence" list published by the National Association of Plan Advisors (NAPA); and Forbes 2025 "Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-In-State" list. Lauren is also a 2025 "Women Making History" honoree from Mercy Center for Women.

Lauren and her husband, Kris, are the proud parents of Will and Annie. Since birth, Annie has been a member of the Erie Women's Fund. Lauren's mom and sisters are all members of the Erie Women's Fund—three generations of giving to empower women and families.



# ERIE LGBT FUND

OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**THE LGBT FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD** recognizes someone who has demonstrated commitment to the LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation. Established in 2014 with a generous grant from the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, these funds play a powerful role in enhancing the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals and propelling the community forward in the Erie region. The LGBT Fund focuses on initiatives such as scholarships, program grants, and grassroots projects.

*Congratulations to Blane Dessy!*

## History of the LGBT Fund SOP Honor

- 2025 Blane Dessy
- 2024 Dr. Rich McCarty
- 2023 Chuck Scalise



Blane Dessy was born and raised in Pittsburgh until he left for college at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). He later attended the University of Pittsburgh where he received his Master of Library Science degree. Blane's career has taken him from Pennsylvania to Oklahoma City, Columbus, OH, Montgomery, AL, finally landing in Washington DC where he was a federal employee, member of the Senior Executive Service, and director of national enterprises at the Library of Congress.

He retired to Erie and soon was the director of the Erie County Public Library followed by interim director of Operations at the newly established Erie County Community College. Retiring again, he now devotes his time to volunteer efforts including the Hagen History Center, board membership at the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, the LGBT Fund at the Erie Community Foundation, and the local poetry community.

Blane also serves as the chair of the Dean's Advancement Council for the College of Humanities, Arts, Media, and Public Affairs at IUP. He received a volunteer recognition award at a ceremony at IUP in April. Blane is particularly proud of his funding of the Dessy-Roffman Myth Center at IUP, an interdisciplinary research center focusing on myth and its impact on all aspects of our lives.



# EMERGING ERIE FUND

OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**THE EMERGING ERIE FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD** honors a dynamic young Erie leader who is committed to improving the Erie region through philanthropy. The Emerging Erie Fund, previously known as the Young Erie Philanthropists, is a field of interest fund housed at The Erie Community Foundation and overseen by a volunteer advisory board. The membership-based fund is supported by generous partners who empower members of the Emerging Erie Fund to make an annual grant to Erie's People and Places. Emerging Erie Fund also offers members the opportunity to attend educational events, engage with nonprofits and take on leadership roles within the Fund.

*Congratulations to Beth McCormick Rajakovich!*

## History of the Emerging Erie Fund SOP Honor

- 2025 Beth McCormick Rajakovich
- 2024 Alec Zaphiris
- 2023 T.J. Richter



Beth McCormick Rajakovich is the vice president of Import/Craft/Specialty Brands at Erie Beer Company. She oversees the distribution and sales of over 55 different suppliers of malt brewed and non-alcoholic beverages and ensures all the brands are available and sampled at local bars, restaurants, distributors, grocery, and convenience stores throughout 13 counties in Northwest Pennsylvania. She also works very closely with Wisconsin Distributors, a family-owned beer wholesaler based in Madison, WI. A 2003 graduate of Villa Maria Academy, Beth earned her bachelor's degree in marketing management from Virginia Tech and her Master's in Business Administration from Gannon University in 2011.

In service to her community, Beth is the co-chair of events for the Emerging Erie Fund. Beth has always been a proud supporter of local nonprofits and businesses in both sponsorships and beer donations.

Beth currently serves in many roles within the beverage world, both at the state and national levels. She serves on the executive leadership team and board of the Pennsylvania Beer Alliance and has served as a board member of the National Business Council and now national chairperson for FIFCO USA. She is also a member of the Next Generation for National Beer Wholesalers Association.

Beth and her husband, Dan, are the proud parents of eight-year-old triplets: Anna, Natalie, and Grant. She is a volunteer coach for the first and second grade St. George basketball team for YMCAs play league. She also volunteers her time for cross country and track.





**HEAR ERIE'S YOUTH SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD** celebrates the achievements of a high school student who actively engages with H.E.Y.! – Hear Erie's Youth. H.E.Y.!, a dynamic program of The Erie Community Foundation governed by local, middle, and high school students. H.E.Y.! empowers youth to learn about community issues and to share their voice and perspective for a more inclusive society. The recipient exemplifies exceptional leadership skills, a passion for their community, and an understanding of collective giving. Selection criteria are based on the duration of the individual's participation in H.E.Y.!, notable accomplishments, leadership roles, and outside volunteerism.

*Congratulations to Silvia Kaur Kang!*

## History of the H.E.Y.! – Here Erie's Youth SOP Honor

2025 Silvia Kaur Kang  
2024 Gianna Stewart  
2023 Genelia Kang



Silvia Kaur Kang, a rising junior at Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy, is proud of her long-term commitment to H.E.Y.!. She was recruited into the organization as early as the sixth grade. She served as secretary for two consecutive years (2022–24) and is presently co-president of H.E.Y.!.

For Silvia, H.E.Y.!. has become a symbol of empowerment. Every time she says "HEY," she likes reminding people that young voices in Erie deserve to be heard, uplifted, and taken seriously. It's the sound of Erie's youth speaking up and a reminder that their voices matter.

Silvia has received numerous scholastic art and writing awards, fueling her passion for the arts and storytelling. She is the winner of the Young Erie Poets Award from Gannon University's National High School Poetry Contest. She is also an energetic host of "Poetry Stop," a live poetry exchange by youth for youth held at Café 7–10. This weekly program is making Downtown Erie "sweeter" through the spoken word and connection.

Silvia is the daughter of Dr. Gurjaipal Kang and Mrs. Simmi Kang and was raised with a strong emphasis on integrity and family values.



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# EMPOWERING **GRANT STORIES**

Bikes for Refugees  
Moms Night Out  
Corry CATCH  
Diversity Loan Program  
Girard Park  
Childcare





## TYPES OF **COMMUNITY IMPACT**



**ECONOMIC  
GROWTH**



**EDUCATION**



**HEALTH**



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
& COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**



**REGIONAL  
VITALITY**

# PEDALING TOWARD AN **EMPOWERED COMMUNITY**

A simple bicycle can be a powerful tool for independence, mobility, and community connection. For generations, newcomers to America have relied on biking as an affordable means of transportation, and today, that need is more pressing than ever.

Thanks to a generous \$22,925 grant from The Erie Community Foundation, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) expanded its transformative bike program, ensuring that Erie's New American and refugee communities have access to reliable transportation.

Since 2017, the SSJNN bike program has filled a crucial gap. With a focus on providing earn-a-bike programs for youth and adults, safety workshops, and repair services, the program has grown beyond expectations—entirely by word of mouth.

In the past four years alone, over 600 bikes have been distributed to area youth. However, demand for bikes has surged. To meet this moment, SSJNN is directly increasing access to bikes for over 250 individuals, particularly New Americans and refugees.

New American Mubin Radmanish from Afghanistan recently received a bike. "I am very pleased with my new bike to help me travel back and forth to work—this is a gift!" Mr. Radmanish is a cook at Mercyhurst University, and he lives in downtown Erie.

SSJNN ensured that newly arrived families were connected to transportation resources by working with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Multicultural Community Resource Center, and Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services. Additional partnerships with Bike Erie, the Erie County Department of Health, Trips for Kids National Organization, Erie Public Library,



## **ECONOMIC GROWTH**



## **HEALTH**



## **NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



and Presque Isle State Park/DNCR further enrich the program through field trips, safety courses, and outreach efforts.

Beyond transportation, SSJNN's bike program serves as a bridge for community engagement and social inclusion. By bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds through repair workshops, community rides, and skills training, the program strengthens community bonds. Plus, the program provides economic empowerment opportunities by equipping participants with skills in bicycle repair and maintenance, potentially leading to employment or entrepreneurial endeavors.

SSJNN's bike initiative is deeply rooted in collaboration for lasting change. With the support from Foundation donors, SSJNN's bike program is not just about getting from point A to point B— but about transforming lives, strengthening neighborhoods, and creating a city where everyone can thrive.

*Garrett Raszmann, Mabin Radmanish of Afghanistan, and Heather May Caspar*





## CONNECTING MOMS CREATES COMMUNITY

A recent advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation*, warns that social disconnection can have the same health impact as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. In Erie, one grassroots organization is proving that connection can be just as powerful a force for healing.

Erie City Moms understands what research now confirms: parenting can be an isolating experience, especially for mothers without support systems. That is why Erie City Moms created Moms Night Out, a welcoming space where women gather each month to share a meal, connect with others, and build community through mentorship and education.

Since its founding in 2016, Erie City Moms has empowered more than 1,000 women, offering free childcare and monthly programming led by guest speakers on topics like mental health, parenting, financial literacy, and homeownership.

With the support of a \$24,000 grant from donors of The Erie Community Foundation, Erie City Moms is expanding Moms Night Out in collaboration with local nonprofits. Each month, around 50 moms and their children are now connected to two key services that build up the whole family:

- **Developmental Assessments for Infants and Preschoolers** provided by Emily Wachter's DreamBuilders and Early Intervention team. To date, 40 children have been screened, five children were referred to life-changing services, and all the moms gained access to developmental experts.
- **STEM Education for Youth brings the ExpERIENCE Children's Museum** to kids ages six to 11 for hands-on learning and fun, sparking curiosity, confidence, and an interest in related fields of study and occupations.

Throughout the month, mentors, community partners—and even other moms—work together to support families who attend Moms Night Out.



### EDUCATION



### NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





Leosha Woodsbey, Lilyauna and Leon Manus

Mentor and Moms Night Out Planning Team member Mary Santiago, mother of four, said, "Erie City Moms has helped me believe in myself and believe that together, we can help other women and encourage and empower them. Whatever a mom is going through, they know they are not alone, and we can navigate it together."

One mother attended Erie City Moms for consistency, safety, and loving guidance after she suffered abuse and trauma. Her children received a free, hot meal and trauma-informed early intervention. The mother was connected with domestic violence resources to help her on the path to healing.

The expanded Moms Night Out program provides a lifeline for mothers navigating the emotional and financial challenges of parenting. Women are finding friends, resources, and their voices. The Foundation's investment in Erie City Moms has a ripple effect starting with one mom, one meal, one conversation that spreads across generations.

**"This group is therapeutic. When you come, you cannot help but fall in love and keep coming back."**

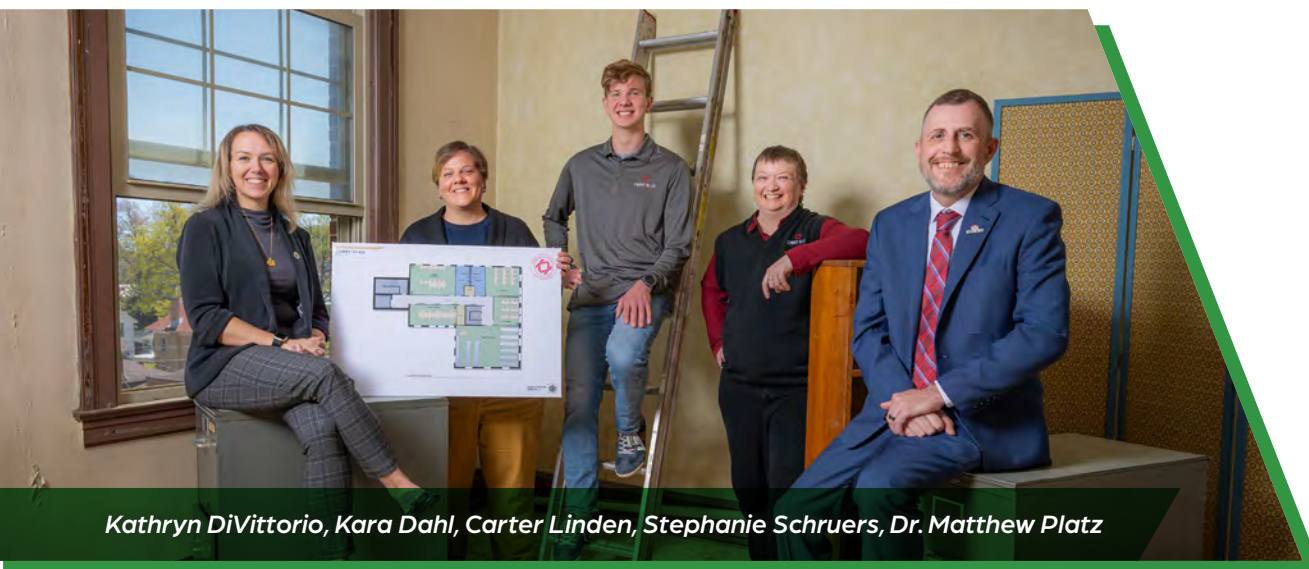
**– Yvette Jennings,  
a mother of seven  
who has attended  
Moms Night Out  
since 2017.**

# CONNECTING CORRY THROUGH CODING

In the heart of Corry, Pennsylvania, an innovative initiative is taking shape, one that has the potential to change lives, fuel economic growth, and prepare a new generation for careers in high-demand industries.

Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from The Erie Community Foundation, the Corry Higher Education Council (CHEC) will be launching a cutting-edge job training and placement program at the Corry Area Technology and Cyber Hub (CATCH). The three-year initiative will provide six specialized curriculum units in cybersecurity and coding, along with aviation and fiber installation. Participants will receive hands-on, practical training that directly aligns with industry needs. Upon completion, graduates will be well-positioned to secure employment with one of 30 regional businesses.

The program is designed for a diverse group of 280 students. Unemployed individuals, veterans, career changers, and high school graduates can earn transferable certificates leading directly to job placement with industry partners or serve as a stepping stone for further education. The goal is to create 100 new jobs in the technology and broadband services industries.



*Kathryn DiVittorio, Kara Dahl, Carter Linden, Stephanie Schruers, Dr. Matthew Platz*



## ECONOMIC GROWTH



## EDUCATION



## NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



“Our goal with this training is to provide skills-based education for low or no-cost certificate programs. Our recent community needs assessment reflected this need and provided us with an opportunity to create classes that met the employment needs of our region and provide pathways to success for our residents,” said Corry Higher Education Council’s Executive Director Dr. Matthew Platz.

With only 18.4% of Corry residents holding a bachelor’s degree, half the national average, this program provides an alternative route to success. For many, this program represents a second chance, a pathway out of economic hardship and into a stable, well-paying career. Wrap-around services will ensure that financial barriers will not stand in the way of success.

With labor shortages in key technical fields, this initiative is the perfect pipeline for skilled professionals. The Corry Higher Education Council, in partnership with EC-Council, Gannon University, Impact Corry, the Northwest PA Regional Planning and Development Commission, and various industry leaders are meeting this challenge head-on in the spirit of collaboration.

The Foundation’s grant is a vote of confidence in Corry’s future. For those stepping through the doors of the Corry Area Technology and Cyber Hub, it’s the start of a brand-new chapter filled with opportunity.





## IGNITING POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATIONS

Dante Alighieri once said, "From a little spark may burst a flame." The Erie Community Foundation's \$125,000 investment in the Diverse Erie Small Business Loan Fund sparked a wave of opportunity for minority-owned businesses across the region.

In 2021, the fund was established through partnerships with The Erie Community Foundation, Diverse Erie, ECGRA (Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority) and the Commonwealth of PA. "Traditional funding can be difficult, if not impossible, for many minority entrepreneurs to access," said ECRDA President & CEO Tina Mengine. "This program breaks down those barriers, offering more than just capital but offering possibilities too."

The \$2 million revolving loan fund has helped 39 minority-owned businesses launch and grow, infusing \$1.77 million in capital into the Erie economy. Loans have ranged from \$10,000 to \$200,000 and have helped a wide range of businesses from childcare centers, retail, manufacturing, and service operations.

Mary Euell was one of the first small businesses to take advantage of the program for the expansion of Barb's Daycare. Originally an in-home daycare, Mary eventually expanded into a new facility that is focused on education, creativity, and helping children find their individual strengths. Mary's business (named in honor of her mother who passed away from cancer in 2017) is exactly why this fund was created – to support and make investments in businesses that otherwise might not secure funding through traditional means.

The diversity loan program has opened doors for many entrepreneurs. In 2023, a \$200,000 loan meant Nadia Shabanza-Pero could open BeBe Design House, an interior design studio named in honor of her mother. A \$300,000 loan to two U.S. Army veterans and business partners, Victor Whitelock and Otis Thomas, helped the entrepreneurs start The Eden Center, LLC to house a new daycare. Proven Strides Learning Center serves 100 children and has ten leasable commercial units. The project represents a total investment of \$1.4 million.



### ECONOMIC GROWTH



### NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### REGIONAL VITALITY



**“Barb’s Childcare Center is a place where little minds learn big things block by block daily.”**

**– Mary Euell, owner of Barb’s Childcare Center.**



Beyond these direct benefits, the program has leveraged additional capital from other funding sources, multiplying its impact throughout Erie County. Because of the structure as a revolving loan fund, money repaid by borrowers is reinvested, allowing one entrepreneur’s success to pave the way for the next.

The power of this initiative is beyond dollars and cents. Now, Erie’s neighborhoods have a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem, where people of all backgrounds are connected to lead, employ, innovate, and most importantly inspire others.

The Diversity Loan Program is lighting the spark for Erie’s next generation of entrepreneurs and turning those sparks into lasting flames of success.

*Tina Mengine, Royce Benjamin, Kaisuan Jones,  
Gary Lee, and Mary Euell*

*Rob Stubenbort, Jeanne Miller, Jim Simonelli,  
Peter Burton, George Drushel, and Erin Fessler*



## FROM VACANT TO VIBRANT

For decades, the heart of downtown Girard was home to the historic Girard Hotel, a landmark that, in its heyday, bustled with travelers and community gatherings. When the building was torn down, the empty lot created a sense of sadness and a lost identity.

With an investment of an \$80,000 grant from donors of The Erie Community Foundation, the Girard Borough will transform the vacant space into a new and vibrant community park. More than just a beautification effort, the park will become a focal point for downtown. The Girard Sign will greet visitors and add a welcoming feeling for the community and businesses. The walkway with lighting and benches will encourage people to sit and enjoy the new tree-lined park.



## ECONOMIC GROWTH



## NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## REGIONAL VITALITY





Longtime Girard resident George Drushel said, “Seeing this space become something beautiful again shows our town is moving forward while still honoring its history.” Residents shared input on the park’s design. Seniors will have a peaceful place to sit and enjoy the outdoors, while families and children will have a safe, accessible space to play.

Beyond its recreational appeal, the park will also serve as a gateway to downtown Girard, encouraging more visitors to explore local shops and restaurants. Shop owners are looking forward to new energy with foot traffic in the downtown area.

The project’s financial plan was structured for long-term success. The \$175,000 construction budget was supported by additional grants and local government funding, including \$5,250 set aside for artist engagement, ensuring the space reflects Girard’s unique culture and heritage.

The Girard Borough believes in community-driven revitalization. With a commitment to ongoing care and maintenance, the borough is ensuring that this investment will remain a lasting asset for generations to enjoy. For so many residents, the park is a symbol of Girard’s resilience, growth, and dedication to creating a space where everyone feels at home.

# ERIE CONVENES TO **TACKLE CHILDCARE SHORTAGES**

Many parents seeking childcare in Erie County are finding only challenges. Classrooms are closing. Waitlists are growing. For thousands of local families, the ripple effects are devastating with lost income, stalled careers, and rising stress.

"I had a job offer I couldn't accept because I had no one to watch my toddler," said Melissa, a single mom from Millcreek. "I don't want a handout—I just need a safe place I can trust to take care of my child so I can work." Melissa's story is not unique. A 2023 survey of over 1,000 childcare programs revealed that 85% of providers are struggling with staffing shortages. In Erie County alone, 29 classrooms have shut down, 90 staff positions remain unfilled, and more than 1,700 children are on waitlists.

The consequences reach beyond families. Erie's businesses are also feeling the pinch. According to the Early Learning Resource Center, 312 families who qualified for assistance couldn't access childcare. Hundreds of capable employees are sidelined by a broken system.

"To date we are at capacity in our classrooms due to having to close a classroom in preparation for our renovation, but once our renovation is completed, we'll begin enrolling children from our waiting list and we are in the process of hiring teachers now," said Coach Tiffany L. LaVette, owner of ABC Child Care.

That's why the Jefferson Educational Society (JES) stepped up. Backed by a \$31,000 grant from donors to The Erie Community Foundation, JES launched the Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative. Written by Court Gould, the six-month data-driven project is designed to move Erie from crisis mode to action.

"We didn't want to just document the problem, we wanted to be part of the solution," said Dr. Ferki Ferati, president of the Jefferson Educational Society. "By bringing providers, parents, policymakers, and employers together, we can design policies that actually work."



## **ECONOMIC GROWTH**



## **EDUCATION**



## **REGIONAL VITALITY**



The initiative benchmarks best practices from across the country, analyzes Erie's specific gaps, and offers an actionable policy roadmap. The goal: make quality childcare more accessible, reliable, and sustainable, so that no child is left without care, no parent is forced to choose between work and family, and no business loses out on talent due to lack of options.



*Front row: Holden, Yeshia, Elijah; Back row: Jacob Bartko, Amir, Tiffany Lavette, Ar'Mani, Patrick Herr*

*Court Gould, Dr. Ferki Ferati*





# POWER OF **COLLECTIVE GIVING**

Regional Affiliates  
Erie Gives



## OUR REGIONAL AFFILIATES

Regional Affiliates in Corry, Findley Lake, North East, and Union City partner with The Erie Community Foundation to benefit from the Foundation's investment expertise, marketing, and administrative support.

### THE CORRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CCF)



Now celebrating 25 years of service, The Corry Community Foundation has been a steady force For Good, For Corry, Forever. The CCF connects generous donors with causes that are close to their hearts and align with their values. Today, CCF manages over \$19 million in individual and agency endowments.

As CCF marks this milestone year, the team is focused on the future with a goal to create five new funds in 2025. These funds grow over time, with earnings that support and empower local nonprofits and inspire lasting change.

Each year, CCF honors those who embody the spirit of giving, people and organizations making Corry a better place for all through the Spirit of Philanthropy Award. Congratulations to this year's honored business—Rossbacher Insurance Group!



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# THE FINDLEY LAKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (FLCF)



The Findley Lake Community Foundation proudly serves the community of Findley Lake, NY, as well as surrounding areas. Findley Lake is named after its first settler, Alexander Findley, who purchased the land in 1811. A few years later, he built a dam at the north end of two adjoining ponds, creating Findley Lake, which features over five miles of breathtaking shoreline.

The Findley Lake Community Foundation was created in 1999 with the goal of supporting the community, helping to keep it strong and vibrant. Since inception, FLCF has made well over \$300,000 in grants to local nonprofits, supporting a wide array of initiatives.

New this year, The Findley Lake Community Foundation board pledged \$5,000 in Bonus Bucks for Findley Lake Community Foundation during the 15th annual Erie Gives on Tuesday, August 12!

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# THE NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (NECF)



For more than 30 years, The North East Community Foundation's mission has been to improve the quality of life in North East by building charitable endowments and philanthropic partnerships that fuel transformative change.

Each year, The North East Community Foundation awards the Lake & Smith Award for excellence in community service. The award was created in 2007 in honor of long-time North East residents Ernest Lake and Gerrie Smith, who were instrumental in the establishment of NECF and served as trustees. The honor is given to an individual or organization that embodies the spirit of giving to the North East community. This year's honoree will be announced at the summer annual meeting.



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## THE UNION CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (UCCF)



The Union City Community Foundation assets are currently worth more than \$7 million. Grants are made to deserving Union City area nonprofits from the income generated by these endowments. Oversight of UCCF is the responsibility of an 18-member board of trustees representing the Union City community. UCCF

prioritizes transformational grants that focus on Main Street, recreation, neighborhoods, image/identity, and government.

The Union City Community Foundation awards the "I Believe" award annually to recognize an individual or organization that goes above and beyond in service to the community. The Union City Community Foundation makes a \$2,000 donation to a nonprofit of the awardee's choice.





## THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE GIVING – **ERIE GIVES!**

On Tuesday, August 12, 2025, Erie Gives will celebrate 15 years of the power of collective giving when everyone gives a little to add up to a lot!

Whether you support the unhoused, feed our hungry, educate our young, help our seniors, shelter lost animals or improve our arts and culture assets, **YOU** can make a difference during Erie Gives

In 2024, an incredible \$9.7 million was raised for 513 nonprofits, thanks to the generosity of donors from around the globe. Since The Erie Community Foundation founded Erie Gives in 2011, the community-spirited event like no other has generated over \$66.3 million to support local nonprofits doing vital work.

Like in past years, all online giving takes place on the day of Erie Gives—Tuesday, August 12—at [ErieGives.org](https://eriegives.org). Donors who wish to give in advance can give by check, stock transfer, or Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA.



Checks should be received by Tuesday, August 5. Stock transfers and RMDs should be initiated prior to Monday, August 11 to ensure they are processed for the day of Erie Gives. Erie Gives donations can be mailed or hand delivered to The Erie Community Foundation at 459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507.

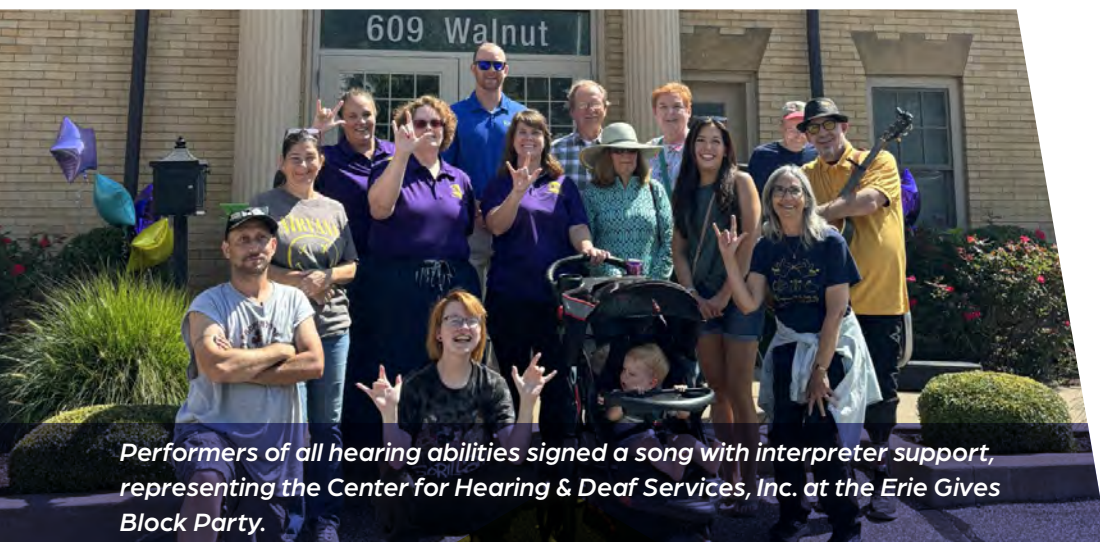
In 2024, the Foundation extended online giving for Erie Gives to a full 24 hours—from midnight to midnight—resulting in an additional \$160,000 in donations! The added 12 hours showed that maximizing every moment of Erie Gives leads to even greater impact. We believe Erie Gives should be a platform where everyone can be a philanthropist—no matter where they are or when they're available. That's why we're thrilled to once again keep the Erie Gives website open for a full 24 hours! This extended window offers greater flexibility for those working second or third shifts, as well as donors living in different time zones—making it easier than ever to give when it's most convenient for donors like you!

For those wishing to make a gift over the phone, our staff will be available on Tuesday, August 12, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



*New this year!*

**No Fees! The Erie Community Foundation and our community partners will cover the fees for online gifts. Plus, the remaining Bonus Bucks will be distributed among nonprofits as an extra incentive.**



*Performers of all hearing abilities signed a song with interpreter support, representing the Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc. at the Erie Gives Block Party.*





## HISTORY OF ERIE GIVES

To add to the excitement, the North East, Corry, Union City, and Findley Lake Community Foundations will provide extra Bonus Bucks to nonprofits in their communities totaling \$30,000, \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$5,000 respectively! Findley Lake Community Foundation is new to the Bonus Bucks this year, and Union City increased their Bonus Bucks.

Erie Gives is an important part of The Erie Community Foundation's mission to **inspire, engage, and empower** thousands of donors in the great work of our region's nonprofits – all leading to a healthier, more economically vibrant, and culturally rich community. To learn more, visit [ErieGives.org](http://ErieGives.org).

| Year | Nonprofits | Donors | Amount Raised |
|------|------------|--------|---------------|
| 2011 | 212        | 2,770  | \$776,435     |
| 2012 | 257        | 3,843  | \$1,233,888   |
| 2013 | 301        | 4,613  | \$1,738,236   |
| 2014 | 313        | 5,465  | \$2,271,693   |
| 2015 | 336        | 6,466  | \$2,843,371   |
| 2016 | 354        | 7,395  | \$3,451,087   |
| 2017 | 374        | 7,685  | \$4,427,877   |
| 2018 | 386        | 7,945  | \$4,471,123   |
| 2019 | 393        | 8,976  | \$5,569,161   |
| 2020 | 422        | 11,482 | \$6,358,146   |
| 2021 | 438        | 10,808 | \$7,057,176   |
| 2022 | 467        | 11,234 | \$8,178,207   |
| 2023 | 492        | 10,234 | \$8,269,362   |
| 2024 | 513        | 10,914 | \$9,709,602   |

## WHAT WILL BE THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE GIVING IN 2025?....



# OUR FINANCIALS

Grant by Type  
Financial Statements



THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CELEBRATES  
**90 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
IN 2025.

2024 **AT-A-GLANCE**

**36,084 GIFTS**  
TOTALING  
**\$28,044,849**  
OF THAT  
**\$9,709,602**  
WAS RAISED FOR  
**ERIE GIVES.**

THE FOUNDATION  
IS HOME TO  
**959 FUNDS,**  
INCLUDING  
**31 NEW FUNDS**  
IN 2024.

**2,407 GRANTS**  
AWARDED  
TO NONPROFITS  
TOTALING OVER  
**\$26.5 MILLION**

**\$446.9 MILLION**  
BENEFITING OUR  
COMMUNITY  
FOREVER.

**152 SCHOLARSHIPS**  
VALUED AT OVER  
**\$900,000**  
AWARDED TO  
**550 DESERVING STUDENTS.**

LET US HELP YOU REACH YOUR  
CHARITABLE GIVING GOALS.  
**CONTACT  
US AT  
814.454.0843**



## 2024 GRANTS BY TYPE

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| AGENCY ENDOWMENT  | <b>2,796,758</b>  |
| COMMUNITY IMPACT  | <b>4,107,341</b>  |
| DONOR ADVISED     | <b>6,130,155</b>  |
| DONOR DESIGNATED  | <b>2,741,343</b>  |
| FIELD OF INTEREST | <b>517,299</b>    |
| GEOGRAPHIC        | <b>74,430</b>     |
| PASS THROUGH      | <b>9,590,067</b>  |
| SCHOLARSHIP       | <b>560,312</b>    |
| GRAND TOTAL       | <b>26,517,705</b> |



**2,407 GRANTS TOTALING \$26,517,705**  
**31 NEW FUNDS**



2024

2023

| Revenues                                 |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Contributions and Other Revenue          | \$28,887,736         | \$33,494,677         |
| Investment Income, Net of Expenses       | \$41,764,371         | \$37,862,749         |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                    | <b>\$70,652,107</b>  | <b>\$71,357,426</b>  |
| Expenses                                 |                      |                      |
| Grants                                   | \$26,517,705         | \$23,560,893         |
| Other Expenses                           | \$7,937,506          | \$4,026,572          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                    | <b>\$34,455,211</b>  | <b>\$27,587,465</b>  |
| <b>Change in Net Assets</b>              | <b>\$36,196,896</b>  | <b>\$43,769,961</b>  |
| Assets                                   |                      |                      |
| Cash and Other Assets                    | \$59,459,154         | \$20,831,010         |
| Investments                              | \$393,021,000        | \$396,135,059        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                      | <b>\$452,480,154</b> | <b>\$416,966,069</b> |
| Liabilities and Net Assets               |                      |                      |
| Grants Payable, Accounts Payable & Other | \$4,665,787          | \$5,348,600          |
| Agency Funds                             | \$75,404,204         | \$69,534,385         |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                 | <b>\$80,069,991</b>  | <b>\$74,882,985</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                        | <b>\$372,410,163</b> | <b>\$342,083,084</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>  | <b>\$452,480,154</b> | <b>\$416,966,069</b> |

\*Not Audited;

For a complete copy of the Erie Community Foundation's audited financial statements and tax returns (IRS Form 990), please visit [ErieCommunityFoundation.org](https://eriecommunityfoundation.org) or contact our Finance Department at 814.454.0843.

8

ECF BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES &  
STAFF





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[www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org)

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THE  
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