

2025
**Annual
Report**

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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 have 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 where you can learn more about donors, funds, and gifts that make our mission possible.

Thank you!

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DEAR
FRIENDS

The theme of this year’s annual report is *best day ever*. It does not refer to a specific date, or a milestone, or a holiday. Not a headline moment, or a special anniversary.

At the Foundation, we don’t wait for special occasions to make an impact, and neither do our donors and partners who make transformational and meaningful work possible.

Every day, someone chooses to give. Whether a gift was made yesterday or decades ago, it is perpetually at work: supporting a student, strengthening a nonprofit, or responding to an urgent community need. Because of you, Erie moves forward making seemingly random days, the *best days*.

At the heart of this work are the people, like you, who believe in Erie.

The Foundation harnesses this belief and helps people create their *best day* when they realize their philanthropic vision. That, in turn, creates many *best days* for Erie nonprofits who benefit from their generosity, now and in the future. This report highlights a few of these donors, such as the lucky lottery winner who turned his *best day ever* into a fund to honor his parents, the William and Ethel Hovis Fund. The stories of Shawn and Lisa Gross and the Bindseil Family demonstrate how giving can be carried forward through generations.

Many of our donors recognize the Foundation’s deep relationships and unique perspectives on community needs and deep relationships that help the Foundation serve as a partner, leader and convener to address long-standing challenges and be responsive to changing needs. Their support for our Community Impact Funds ensures that the Foundation will continue to harness philanthropy for lasting impact.

The Foundation harnesses the power of collective giving through Erie Gives, the Erie Women’s Fund, the LGBT Fund, and the Emerging Erie Fund. Each of these efforts inspires giving and demonstrates how impact is amplified when people a come together to support shared interests.

We hope these stories of *best days inspire, engage, and empower* continued philanthropic engagement, today and for generations to come.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Bielowith".

KAREN L. BILOWITH
President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas A. Tupitza".

THOMAS A. TUPITZA, ESQ.
Board of Trustees Chair



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Karinna Veranza".

KARINNA VERNAZA, PH.D
Board of Trustees Vice Chair

EMPOWERING GRANT STORIES

ASBURY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BRIGHT FUTURES PROJECT

EDINBORO MARKET

STEM LAB AT THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON CENTER

THE RAPID RESPONSE FUND

THE MERCYHURST MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY

GANNON UNIVERSITY I-HACK

GROUNDWORK ERIE

BIRTHROOT

ERIE CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ECAT)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

THE POWER OF LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

Some of the most meaningful *best days* in philanthropy don't just happen on the day a grant is awarded, but as the impact of that investment continues to grow in the years that follow.

At The Erie Community Foundation, we believe in the long game. Today, our Trustees and staff are leaning into that belief with greater intention than ever before. Using data driven tools, the Foundation is investing in bold ideas and tracking how those investments grow, evolve, and continue to serve our community over time.

This is the heart of our "Where Are They Now?" stories.

By revisiting grants made over the last five years, we're uncovering the true return on our donors' investments. The results are more than numbers on a spreadsheet. They are safer neighborhoods, stronger workforces, and more connected communities.

They are partnerships that leverage additional resources, multiplying the impact of every dollar entrusted to us.

Behind the scenes, our Community Impact team is building the infrastructure to measure and share these outcomes more clearly than ever before to showcase the powerful ecosystem and connections in our community. Our enhanced tools, deeper collaboration with community partners, and three-tiered grantmaking process pinpoint our due diligence.

Based on our strategic plan, our five priority areas are: education, economic impact, health, neighborhood and community development, and regional vitality and quality of life. Through this process, we are strengthening both accountability and impact, ensuring that every grant continues to *inspire*, *engage*, and *empower* long after a grant is awarded.

Read the stories.
Learn the impact. Be a
part of this work. Our
Philanthropic Services
team can connect you
to the causes that
matter to you.

THE BEST DAY ISN'T A MOMENT – IT'S WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

ASBURY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BRIGHT FUTURES PROJECT



When the Asbury Child Development Center Bright Futures Project was approved, it was measured in numbers: classrooms created, staff hired, and children and families served.

But the real impact goes beyond the numbers — it's seen each morning when the doors open and the building fills with the steady rhythm of children, families, and a system working better for the community. That is the *best day*, when an essential service like childcare is stabilized, supporting working families.

Inside the center, once-unused space now holds 126 additional children—learning, playing,

ECONOMIC
GROWTH

HEALTH

EDUCATION

laughing, and growing. Twenty-five new staff members are building relationships with them each day, creating consistency, structure, and early learning experiences that will stay with them long after they leave the Center.

Beyond the building, something broader is taking shape. Employers are seeing steadier attendance. Families are returning to work or training. Neighborhoods that once felt constrained by a lack of childcare are finding new momentum. That's real impact—steady progress that builds stability and creates opportunity over time.

And that is where the story shifts from grant to legacy. This \$50,000 Helping Today grant's impact doesn't end when the project is complete. Every day a child is *inspired* to learn, a parent is *engaged* at work, and a family is *empowered* to have a *best day* ever.

EDINBORO MARKET FINDS NEW MOMENTUM

EDINBORO MARKET'S EXPANSION



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VITALITY

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OF LIFE

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NEIGHBORHOOD
& COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Since 2023, The Erie Community Foundation has supported the evolution of the Edinboro Market, the only local fresh food market and café.

At the Edinboro Market, the *best day* might look surprisingly ordinary. Vendors and customers greet each other by name and offer a one-of-a-kind shopping experience. Cooking classes are full as neighbors prep meals together. Healthy food options are encouraged.

With a \$127,000 Shaping Tomorrow grant, the Foundation helped expand the Market to its current location on Mill Street, supporting planning and design to bring the project forward. Since opening in March 2025, it has become a hub for connection, learning, and local food access.

In 2025, the Market hosted 18 food and gardening classes with more than 200 participants, alongside business training and partnerships with groups like CRAFT and Erie's Farm to School network, helping people turn ideas into sustainable ventures.

Its Seed to Market Summer Camps introduces students to the local food system through hands-on learning. With expanded retail space supporting nearly 100 local producers and a growing staff, the Market continues to strengthen connections between farmers, artists, and the community. The Edinboro Market *inspires, engages, and empowers* the community by expanding access to agricultural resources and locally grown, fresh food.

"This space was always meant to be more than a store, it's a place where people can learn, connect, and see new possibilities for themselves and their families."

— Marti Martz,
Executive Director of
Edinboro Market



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS

STEM LAB AT THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON CENTER

For a young girl who has never pictured herself as an engineer, scientist, or inventor, the *best day* may come when she first thinks, “I can do this too.” At the Booker T. Washington Center, that moment is becoming more common through a STEM Lab supported by The Erie Community Foundation.

Through hands-on activities like robotics, coding, and engineering challenges, students learn in a collaborative environment. The program continues to expand with plans for new learning spaces and advanced offerings aimed at building confidence and opening pathways to STEM careers. Its impact is reflected in the moment a student solves a problem on her own and realizes she belongs in spaces of innovation and discovery.

By *inspiring* curiosity, *engaging* young minds, and *empowering*, the STEM Lab Initiative is creating *best days* for future scientists, engineers, and leaders.

EDUCATION

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

THE RAPID RESPONSE FUND

You can’t always anticipate when a need will arise, but when it does, Erie has a community foundation ready to respond. In 2025, federal funding cuts to refugee resettlement and community services created major instability across local nonprofits, resulting in over \$13.5 million in lost funding. These dollars supported essential services, including housing, employment, education, legal assistance, and more.

In response, The Erie Community Foundation reestablished its Rapid Response Fund to support organizations facing urgent disruptions. Early grants to Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants helped restore critical services and ensure continued support for families.

Recognizing that funding disruptions were still creating dire needs, the Foundation Board approved an additional round of Rapid Response funding to the Multicultural Community Resource Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Syrian Community Center, Inc., the Greater Erie Community Action Committee, and the New American Academy.

Our team mobilized donors by sharing stories of families facing sudden hardship, and donors responded quickly. The Erie Community Foundation helped nonprofits continue their work, recognizing that when one organization scales back, demand doesn’t disappear—it shifts, creating a ripple effect across the community safety net.

Through moments like these, the Foundation stays rooted in its mission—to *inspire*, *engage*, and *empower* donors and communities across the region, today and tomorrow.

REGIONAL
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NEIGHBORHOOD
& COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



A CALL TO SERVE, A COMMUNITY PROJECT

THE MERCYHURST MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY

Miranda Schafer’s *best day* began during a car ride with her father, a police officer, when she watched him stop to help a young girl in need and decided she wanted to do the same. Today, she is the youngest female graduate of the Mercyhurst Municipal Police Officer Training Academy.

Through a Shaping Tomorrow grant, The Erie Community Foundation supported Mercyhurst University’s ARRIVE initiative, expanding recruitment, improving access, and helping prepare more cadets for careers in law enforcement.

Duc Pham’s path took a different turn. After beginning a degree in mechanical engineering, he found his calling at the academy. As the first Vietnamese officer in department history, his achievement represents a milestone in service and representation.

Hamid Mobin arrived from Iran determined to rebuild his life. Learning his fourth language, he faced challenges from the entrance exam to the demands of training. With support from instructors, classmates, and his family, he persevered and now brings that perspective into his work building trust within the community.

The sense of connection formed in training extends beyond the academy. At East Middle School, students recognize officers and engage them with curiosity and excitement, building early trust between youth and public safety.

The initiative’s impact has another, often unseen impact. With Foundation support, the Academy incorporates confidential peer support and a focus on mental health, helping officers process the demands of the profession and stay grounded in their work.

Through this investment, the Foundation *inspires, engages,* and *empowers* solutions to strengthen public safety and build a more connected Erie. Today, these officers bring the *best days* to neighborhoods throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania.

ECONOMIC
GROWTH

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& COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

“The connections you build in the academy are everything. If you don’t come in with a support system, I promise you leave with one.”

— Katrina Marino,
Graduate



HOPE CREATES THE BEST DAY

THE INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CYBER KNOWLEDGE (I-HACK) AT GANNON UNIVERSITY

For someone facing cancer, the *best day* ever is the moment they hear the words, “You are officially cancer-free.” It’s a moment of relief and hope after a difficult journey.

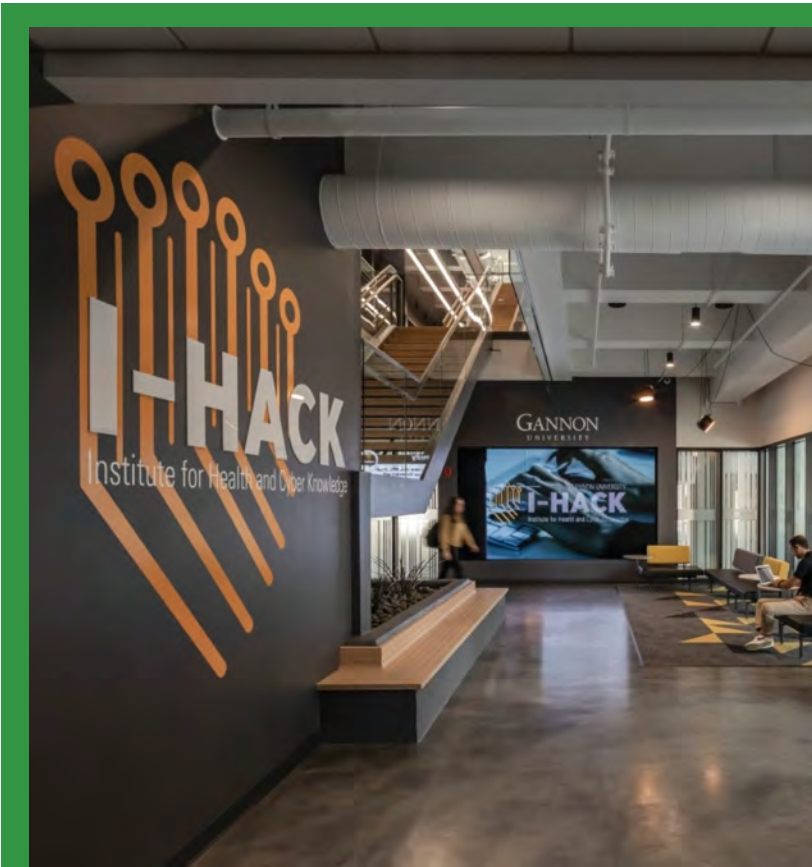
For students pursuing careers in healthcare, the *best day* ever can be the first time they step into a lab. That shared sense of possibility is at the heart of the vision for the Institute for Health and Cyber Knowledge (I-HACK). With support from a \$500,000 Transformational grant from The Erie Community Foundation, Gannon University is expanding I-HACK into a biomedical research and workforce innovation hub.

At I-HACK, students gain hands on experience alongside researchers and healthcare professionals working on emerging innovations in cancer treatment, biomedical science, and cybersecurity. The expansion will create medical laboratories designed to support advanced biomedical research and workforce training programs.

The project will bring together Gannon University, Allegheny Health Network’s Saint Vincent Hospital, and First Ascent Biomedical, a company focused on advancing cancer research and treatment.

Once complete, the project will support more than 100 new jobs, and the laboratories will attract additional federal and private research funding for the development of new cancer treatment technologies.

This expansion *inspires* students, *engages* partnerships, and *empowers* researchers to advance cancer cures. Together, they are building something greater than a facility, but many *best days* for students and patients.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

HEALTH

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THE BEST DAY STARTS WITH A SHOVEL

GROUNDWORK ERIE

For a young girl, the *best day* might start with a shovel, work gloves, and a first paycheck—realizing her work matters and she can contribute to her neighborhood. Through Groundwork Erie, a nonprofit founded in 2021 focused on environmental justice and urban agriculture, that opportunity is becoming real through youth workforce development.

With support from The Erie Community Foundation, Groundwork Erie expanded its Green Team program, providing 150 hours of paid, hands-on training for youth ages 14–18 in community forestry, urban agriculture, neighborhood cleanups, and beautification projects. The program builds job skills while preparing young people to lead in their communities.

The impact is real and practical. Teenagers plant their first tree, which makes their neighborhood cooler, cleaner, and more beautiful. Another student brings home a paycheck that helps cover groceries for their family. A group of students harvest vegetables on their own and then share them with neighbors who need fresh food.

When funding challenges threatened to slow progress, Groundwork Erie shifted its focus toward long-term sustainability, developing social enterprises in landscaping, composting, tree planting, and urban agriculture.

By *inspiring* young people, *engaging* neighborhoods, and *empowering* future leaders, Groundwork Erie is helping create a greener and stronger Erie – one shovel, one garden, and one student at a time.



REGIONAL VITALITY

QUALITY OF LIFE

ECONOMIC GROWTH

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THE BEST DAY STARTS WITH A RIDE

BIRTHROOT

"I'm so grateful for BirthRoot Community Doula. As a new mom, they supported me every step of the way, answered my questions, and helped me feel confident caring for my newborn. My doula stayed with me through labor and was incredibly encouraging."

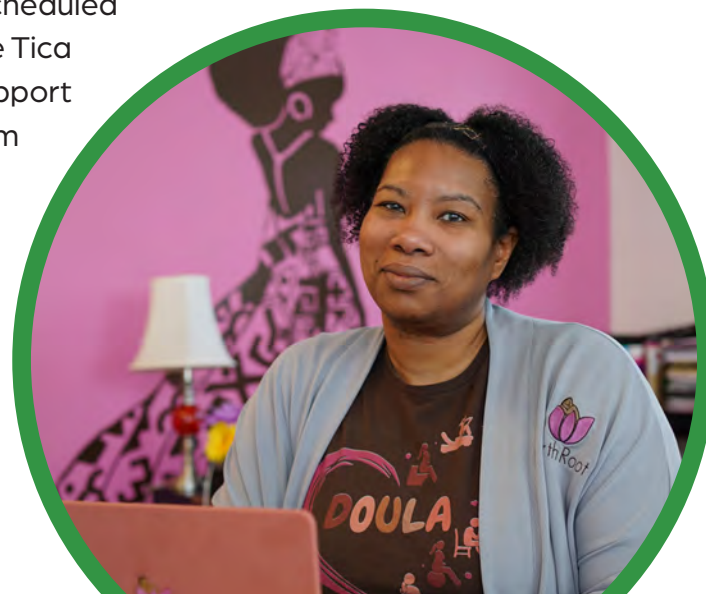
— BirthRoot Client

The expectant mother checks the time again. Her appointment is in 20 minutes, but the bus is late and there's no one to call. In that moment, care she intended to receive slips out of reach. For too many mothers in Erie, the barrier is transportation.

Since 2021, The Erie Community Foundation has supported BirthRoot, a community doula alliance providing emotional and physical support to pregnant mothers in underserved circumstances, primarily in the 16503 ZIP code, where poverty and transportation barriers are significant.

With continued support from a Helping Today grant, BirthRoot created BirthSTOP, which provides free transportation to prenatal visits and community resources for expectant mothers. Within 12 months, BirthSTOP provided 500 rides and increased client attendance at BirthRoot's community programs by 30%.

Through BirthSTOP, rides are scheduled so care is accessible. Doulas like Tica Nickson, owner of BirthRoot, support expectant mothers, helping them advocate for themselves and build confidence that extends beyond a single visit. For many families, those moments of support help create the best day: welcoming a healthy baby into the world.



SPACE REIMAGINED, A COMMUNITY RECONNECTED

ERIE CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY (ECAT)

For the Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT), the *best day* took shape over time through vision, persistence, and a commitment to what Erie's East Side could become.

Since 2022, The Erie Community Foundation has supported the work and growth of ECAT. Through a \$125,000 Shaping Tomorrow grant, ECAT completed the final phase of the Wayne Opportunity Center, transforming 4,200 square feet of former medical office space into a shared home for nonprofit organizations serving the community. What was once an underutilized space at 650 East Ave is now something far more powerful. ECAT provides access to opportunities and economic upward mobility.

By creating dedicated space for organizations like the Blue Coats, Emma's Footprints, the BirthRoot initiative, and United Way, ECAT expanded access to critical services in a neighborhood where nearly 40 percent of the residents live in poverty. The ECAT team strengthened outreach efforts and deepened community connections among the diverse community, with many New Americans and longtime residents.

Opportunities to learn workforce skills are housed at ECAT Wayne Opportunity Center. The Jameson School of Nursing offers an accelerated 16-month diploma program for nursing. The nonprofit BUILD, which is a subsidiary nonprofit of Hamot Health Foundation, provides a Construction Trades Training Program at ECAT Wayne. The program is twofold by teaching construction trades to those seeking a higher income career path and by creating a pipeline for skilled tradespeople to work in construction. Students receive certifications in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and masonry from the course.

ECAT's Wayne Opportunity Center reflects long term investment in Erie's future. Once a building that symbolized decline was thoughtfully reimaged into a center where education, healthcare, and social services are now accessible to all.

It is not just about a building being complete. It is about what happens inside. That is what makes every day at ECAT's Wayne Opportunity Center the *best day* for many.

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INSPIRING DONOR STORIES

SUSAN & SCOTT HICKS DONOR ADVISED FUND

THE BEN FRANKLIN TRUST

SHAWN & LISA GROSS DONOR ADVISED FUND

THE BINDSEIL FAMILY FUND

THE WILLIAM & ETHEL HOVIS FUND

SAVE-AN-EYE BOB SENSOR

THE BEST DAY EVER

Every day, someone decides to give. Every day, a dollar placed in trust years or even decades ago continues to create opportunities that a donor may never personally witness. Every day, a student earns a scholarship, a family receives support during a difficult season, or a nonprofit gains the resources to serve more people. That is the *best day ever*.

At The Erie Community Foundation, philanthropy is deeply personal. Every fund begins with a story, a family, a memory, a value, or a vision for what someone hopes Erie can become. Some donors give in honor of loved ones. Others invest in causes *inspired* by their

life experiences, their professions, or the communities that helped shape them. Many simply want to know that, long after they are gone, their generosity will continue creating meaningful moments for others.

The stories in this section reflect the many ways philanthropy takes shape across our region. Some donors establish funds designed to respond to immediate community needs, while others build long-term legacies that will continue growing for generations. Together, they demonstrate the power of collective giving and the lasting impact that happens when individuals choose to invest in Erie's future.

Each act of generosity creates a ripple effect. A donor's best day becomes someone else's opportunity, stability, healing, education, or hope. Through these partnerships between donors, nonprofits, and community members, philanthropy continues to *inspire, engage,* and *empower* our region, today and tomorrow.

SUSAN & SCOTT HICKS

DONOR ADVISED FUND

Susan and Scott Hicks know that meaningful lives are built quietly, through hard work, faith, and a willingness to serve others along the way.

After experiencing the power of collective giving through Erie Gives, the couple established two funds at The Erie Community Foundation. One fund focuses on food insecurity, homelessness, environmental stewardship, and education for underserved youth. The second supports the Foundation's Community Impact work. Together, the funds reflect their gratitude and belief in investing in people.

Their journey began modestly, shaped by discipline and perspective. "We didn't have two dimes to rub together," they recalled. Early lessons about saving and living within their means became habits that grew through time and discipline. Today, they see their success as a responsibility to give back.

Sue's 35-year career spanned hospitality, higher education, and program leadership, where she helped expand opportunities for students. Scott built a 35-year career in sales and business development, advancing into leadership through curiosity and hard work.

Service remains central to their lives. They volunteer at coat and food drives and serve at Third Saturday Suppers, where Scott once recognized a man he had previously served. When he stopped to say hello and thank him, the man's gratitude left a lasting impression.

When asked about the *best day* ever, they point not to a single moment, but to a way of living. The Hicks reflected on a Peanuts comic strip: "We only die once. We live every day."

For Susan and Scott Hicks, the *best day* is not one extraordinary moment. It's the opportunity to inspire, engage, and empower others through lives rooted in service, generosity, and compassion.



THE BEN FRANKLIN TRUST

INSPIRING A BEST DAY THAT LASTS FOR GENERATIONS

More than two centuries ago, founding father Benjamin Franklin answered that very question. In his will, Franklin expressed a simple but powerful hope for the wealth he would leave behind: that it would "remain useful long after my lifetime."

To make that vision possible, Franklin left 1,000 pounds sterling to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a bold directive that the funds remain invested for 200 years. By 1991, his gift grew to more than \$2 million.

Recognizing the importance of local stewardship, the Commonwealth entrusted local community foundations to carry Franklin's legacy forward. In 1993, The Erie Community Foundation received its allocation and established the Ben Franklin Trust with an initial gift of \$67,359.

Today, that fund is still at work, now valued at \$157,366. Each year, grants from his trust support institutions Franklin believed were essential, including public libraries and volunteer fire departments.

The Ben Franklin Trust is just one of over 900 funds at The Erie Community Foundation. Some donors choose to open a scholarship fund for students, while others establish donors designated to support a nonprofit. Some may decide to donate unrestricted dollars that will response to community needs, or establish a legacy fund to grow far past their generation and into the next.

While we don't know the needs of the future, we do know this: there will always be a need for a community foundation. That's why our mission is to **inspire, engage, and empower** donors and communities across the region, today and tomorrow.

SHAWN & LISA GROSS DONOR ADVISED FUND



Some people wait until later in life to think about philanthropy. Shawn and Lisa Gross decided that now is the right time to help others have their *best day*.

The couple recently established a donor-advised fund at The Union City Community Foundation, a regional affiliate of The Erie Community Foundation, planting the seeds for lasting impact in their community and for the nonprofits that serve it.

“Our faith has shaped how we view what we have,” Shawn Gross said. “We are stewards, not owners. We are here for a short amount of time and can use the blessings in our lives to do something bigger than ourselves.”

That perspective inspired Shawn and Lisa to establish their fund now. “Too many people have the capacity to give but feel like they should wait,” Shawn said. “But with compounding interest, the earlier you start, the more you can build your fund.”

Shawn believes that leadership comes with responsibility, not only in business but in the community. That belief was shaped early in life, as he watched his parents run their own businesses and care for the people around them.

“We want to see our communities thrive so our children, and other young people, feel they can build their lives here,” Shawn explained. They hope the fund becomes a way to teach their children about stewardship and generosity. “Lisa and I have talked about giving with them since they were young,” Shawn said. “Our children, Ian and Claudia, have learned about the power of giving and participated in giving opportunities, including Erie Gives.”

Over time, he hopes they will come to understand both the needs of their community and the role they can play in meeting them. “We want them to engage in understanding the issues and to have a mechanism to be part of the solution.”

Shawn believes philanthropy is not just about the impact one fund can make—it’s about inspiring others.

Through their fund, the Gross family supports causes that strengthen opportunity, particularly in education and community development. Shawn and Lisa hope their gift will inspire generosity, engage the next generation, and empower small, hometown communities to thrive.

“If our fund encourages others to do the same, that’s success. Instead of planting just one tree, maybe together we can plant a forest.”
— Shawn Gross



THE BINDSEIL FAMILY FUND

ERIE IS HOME

Seven siblings are spread across the country, from Colorado to California, from Pittsburgh to Buffalo, but they share an enduring sense of home shaped by their parents, Ed and Dolores Bindseil. New opportunities may have carried the Bindseil siblings far from the city where they were raised, but ask any of them where “home” is, and the answer comes without hesitation: Erie.

Ed and Dolores’s love story began on the dance floor at Gannon University’s famed 8 Ball Dance and grew into a 54-year marriage rooted in faith, service, and a deep devotion to Erie. Married on August 29, 1959, at Saint Joseph Parish, Ed and Dolores built a busy household, welcoming eight children in just nine years. In a house overflowing with children, life was full. Even the ordinary days felt like the *best days*, with the comfort of always having someone there.

“Being part of a big family was a gift,” Barb Bindseil recalled. “There was always laughter in the house, someone to play with, someone to help with homework, and someone standing quietly in your corner. You were never alone.”

Joy and sorrow lived side by side. In October 1976, tragedy struck when the Bindseil’s eldest child, Marie “Mimi” Cecilia, was tragically killed in a car accident during her junior year at Villa Maria Academy. The loss forever changed the family, strengthening their faith and deepening their compassion. Father Kriegel of Saint Jude Parish walked closely with them during that time, offering meaningful and long-lasting comfort.

Even through adversity, service defined Ed and Dolores’s lives. Born and raised in Erie, Dolores attend Saint Vincent Nursing School after graduating from Villa Maria Academy. She worked as an X-ray technician at Saint Vincent Hospital until the birth of their daughter, Mimi, in 1960. A natural “people person,” she cared deeply about her family, friends, and neighbors.



Ed, a Cathedral Preparatory School graduate, attended Gannon University and went on to earn his master’s degree from Harvard before spending 32 years at AMSCO. He served on the boards of Saint Vincent Hospital, Spectrum, and Gannon University, and was among the founding board members of Erie Cancer Wellness Center. Through it all, Erie remained at the center of his life and service.

For the Bindseils, summer meant enjoying Presque Isle beaches, boating on Lake Erie, and swimming at Lake Shore. The family spent winters on the slopes at Peek’n Peak, where Ed taught all eight children to ski, passing skis from one sibling to the next. Wherever they went, people would smile and say,

“You’re a Bindseil.”



Eventually, the Bindseil children followed their own paths into the world. But what their parents gave them went with them: a sense of responsibility, gratitude, and connection to the place where they were raised as a tight-knit family.

These values inspire the Bindseil Family Fund at The Erie Community Foundation, helping create many *best days*. Whether it’s a warm meal, a child’s first book, or care during a difficult time, each grant carries forward the spirit of Ed and Dolores.

Today, each sibling supports causes shaped by personal experience. Bob, a contractor in Aspen, supports Habitat for Humanity. Caroline, a teacher near Pittsburgh, champions Erie Hooked on Books for Kids. Eric, a Penn State graduate who spent years as a park ranger throughout the West, supports Asbury Woods and the care of the Presque Isle Lighthouses, honoring both environmental stewardship and Dolores’s love of Presque Isle’s lighthouse.

John, who works in insurance in Chicago, wanted to honor what

mattered most to his mother: making sure no one went hungry. She always made sure everyone around her had a warm meal, and that simple act of care stayed with him. He chose to support the Emmaus Ministries Soup Kitchen and the Second Harvest Food Bank. In 2025, Bill of San Diego made a grant to Parkinson Partners of Northwestern Pennsylvania in honor of Jim and Audrée Parr, the parents of Michael Parr, an Erie childhood friend.

Family relationships further guide their philanthropy. Caroline’s husband, Vinnie DiNicola, supports Cathedral Prep, recognizing the school that stood by him during difficult times. Richard and his wife Debbie give to the Erie Cancer Wellness Center in memory of Debbie’s mother, Janet Doleski.

Ed and Dolores Bindseil taught their children that home is not just where you live, it’s what you carry with you. Their legacy continues to create the *best day* for generations. Erie continues to benefit from the generosity and lasting presence of the Bindseil family. No matter where life has taken them, Erie remains home.

THE WILLIAM & ETHEL HOVIS FUND

FROM A WINNING TICKET TO A LIFETIME OF BEST DAYS

For children across Erie County, the *best day* might look like a campfire, a canoe ride, or a first taste of independence at summer camp. For local seniors, it may be a warm meal, companionship during the winter months, or simply the chance to stay active.

Through the William and Ethel Hovis Fund at The Erie Community Foundation, those moments happen every year. Established in 2018, the fund supports programs that *inspire* joy, *engage* community, and *empower* both the youngest and oldest members of our region.



For the son of William and Ethel Hovis, one unexpected moment changed everything: a winning lottery ticket. But what he chose to do afterward is what truly defines this legacy. He created a lasting tribute to his parents, one that transformed that extraordinary day into endless meaningful moments for others.

In 2025, the Hovis Fund awarded nearly \$100,000 to 25 nonprofits, helping more than 525 children experience simple joys through camp programs across the community. For many, it was their first time away from home. These experiences help young people develop skills, independence, and a sense of belonging that can shape them for years to come.

The fund also extends care to older adults by supporting programs that help seniors remain *engaged* and connected.

Sometimes, the *best day* isn't the day something wonderful happens to you. It's the day you choose to make that feeling possible for someone else. Thanks to the Hovis family, those moments happen all across Erie County.



SAVING SIGHT
AND LEVERAGING LEGACY

Since 1938, the Erie Lions Club’s Save-An-Eye Game has represented generational, community impact. What began as a showcase of local athletic talent has become a longstanding tradition supporting vision care through a partnership with the Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania.

» **“Save-An-Eye creates a best day ever for everyone involved, both on and off the field.”**

For student-athletes, the game is an honor and a chance to be part of something bigger than themselves. For families, coaches, donors, and fans, it’s a shared moment of pride and purpose that continues to unite the community year after year.

“It’s about understanding your child is playing for an absolutely great cause,” said Bob Sensor, President of the Erie Lions Club, former Save-An-Eye coach, and newly inducted member of The Erie Sports Hall of Fame.

With crowds of nearly 2,000 attendees and strong support from local sponsors, families, and businesses, the game continues to evolve.

To strengthen its mission for future generations, the Erie Lions Club recently established an agency fund with The Erie Community Foundation, creating a permanent source of support for the vision care initiatives they have championed for decades.



**From Players to
Philanthropy**

Did You Know

Foundation team members Ric Giles and Patrick Herr are both former Save-An-Eye players.



THE 2026 SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

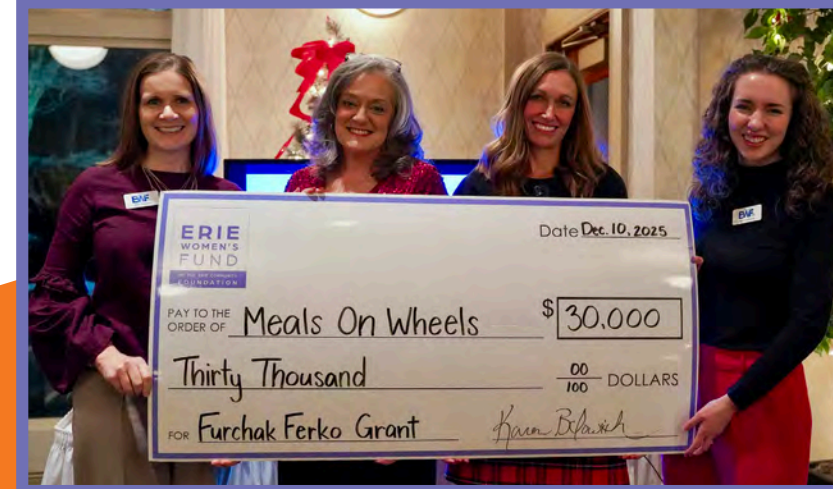
THE ERIE WOMEN'S FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD,
LINDA CORSO

THE EMERGING ERIE FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD,
NICK CIANCI

THE LGBT FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD,
SHEILA ARDERY

THE SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

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, benefitting both the work of the Foundation and the greater Erie region. The Spirit of Philanthropy Honorees inspire others to engage in our community and empower nonprofits.



THE ERIE WOMEN'S FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD LINDA CORSO

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 the 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 that support women and families.

Congratulations to Linda Corso!

HISTORY OF THE ERIE WOMEN'S FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY HONOR

2026 Linda Corso

2025 Lauren Bauder CIMA, CPFA

2024 Robin Scheppner

For Linda Corso, philanthropy begins with listening. It means creating systems where every voice is valued.

Since joining the Erie Women's Fund, Linda has helped shape the organization's grantmaking process with intention and care. After serving as Grants Vice Chair in 2023, she stepped into the role of Grants Committee Chair from 2024 through 2025, where she became a driving force behind a major overhaul of the Erie Women's Fund's grantmaking structure.

In partnership with a committee of Erie Women's Fund leadership, Linda helped to lead the redesign of the Erie Women's Fund grant process, prioritizing accessibility, transparency, and clear communication with nonprofit partners. She also engaged directly with applicants to improve the process.

Her passion for supporting women, children, and families is reflected in initiatives she championed, including support for Dafmark and United

Way. Beyond the Erie Women's Fund, she has contributed her time and expertise to organizations such as Mercy Center for Women, Women United, and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), volunteer work supporting refugee resettlement during periods of funding instability.

Those who work alongside Linda describe her as thoughtful, principled, collaborative, and deeply mission-driven. Through her leadership, more organizations can create transformative opportunities for women and families across Erie.

We thank Linda for *inspiring* more thoughtful philanthropy, *engaging* community voices, and *empowering* nonprofits to create lasting opportunities for women and families across Erie. We thank Linda for helping create moments that, for so many, become their own version of the *best day ever*. Through her work, Linda has created the best day ever many times over for those whose lives she has touched.



THE LGBT FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD SHEILA ARDERY

ERIE
LGBT
FUND

OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

The LGBT Fund Spirit of Philanthropy Award honors an individual who has demonstrated a strong and sustained commitment to advancing the mission of the LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation. Established in 2014 through a generous grant from the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, the Fund plays a vital role in supporting and uplifting LGBTQ+ individuals and allies across the Erie region.

Congratulations to Sheila Ardery!



HISTORY OF THE LGBT FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY HONOR

2026 Sheila Ardery

2025 Blane Dessy

2024 Dr. Rich McCarthy

Sheila Ardery's lifelong commitment to advocacy and service reflects the kind of philanthropy that leaves a lasting imprint on both people and community.

An Erie native and longtime nonprofit leader, Sheila has dedicated decades to housing, crisis response, and advocacy through her community work. Early in her career, she served as Executive Director of Hospitality House for Women, helping guide the organization during its formative years in domestic violence services.

At a time when resources for women and children facing crisis were extremely limited, Sheila helped expand shelter operations, strengthen community partnerships, and contribute to statewide advocacy efforts. Her leadership was also connected to the early development of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which later became a national model for advocacy and support services.

Years later, Sheila brought that same passion and nonprofit expertise to the LGBT Fund after being invited to join the advisory board. Though she initially planned to serve for only a short time, her involvement grew into years of dedicated leadership and continued advocacy for Erie's LGBTQ+ community.

Even when living out of state, Sheila remained deeply connected to Erie. She continues to leverage relationships and networks in both Erie and Boston to support Erie Gives fundraising efforts and expand awareness of the LGBT Fund's mission.

Those who know Sheila describe her as thoughtful, mission-driven, and deeply community-minded.

Through decades of advocacy, generosity, and leadership, Sheila has helped countless individuals feel seen, supported, and valued. We thank Sheila for *inspiring* advocacy, *engaging* communities across generations, and *empowering* individuals in her community.



THE EMERGING ERIE FUND SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY AWARD
NICK CIANCI

EMERGING
ERIE
FUND

OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

The Emerging Erie Fund Spirit of Philanthropy Award recognizes a dynamic leader who is making a meaningful impact on the Erie region through philanthropy and community engagement. 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. This award celebrates individuals who are helping to shape the next generation of philanthropic leadership in Erie.

Congratulations to Nick Cianci!



HISTORY OF THE EMERGING ERIE FUND
SPIRIT OF PHILANTHROPY HONOR

2026 Nick Cianci

2025 Beth McCormick Rajakovich

2024 Alec Zaphris

Nick Cianci represents the energy, optimism, and collaborative spirit that continues to shape the future of philanthropy in Erie. As one of the earliest members of the Emerging Erie Fund following its 2020 relaunch, Nick has helped guide the EEF from a small giving circle into one of Erie’s most impactful philanthropic groups.

After stepping into leadership roles as Vice Chair in 2022 and later Board Chair from 2024 through 2025, Nick became instrumental in shaping the organization’s long-term structure and sustainability. He played a central role in developing the sponsorship and matching gift model that helped dramatically expand the Fund’s impact, allowing young philanthropists to amplify their giving alongside support from community and corporate partners.

Under the leadership structure Nick helped establish, the Emerging Erie Fund grew from approximately 15 members awarding a \$5,000 grant to more than 125 members collectively awarding a \$100,000 annual grant. Beyond fundraising growth, Nick also helped develop governance documents, committee systems, board structures, and organizational policies that continue to support the Fund today.

Professionally, Nick serves as Director of Investments at Hoffman United and previously worked in major gift philanthropy at Hamot Health Foundation. Across every role, he has remained committed to relationship-building, civic engagement, and helping others see their ability to make a meaningful difference in the community.

Peers describe Nick as calm, collaborative, solutions-oriented, and deeply invested in Erie’s future. His leadership reflects a belief that philanthropy is not reserved for one generation or one stage of life. It grows when people choose to show up, work together, and invest in their community. Through his vision and dedication, Nick continues to **inspire** others to **engage** in collective giving and create lasting impact.

We thank Nick for **inspiring** the next generation of philanthropists to **engage** with their community and **empower** meaningful change through collective giving. By inspiring rising leaders to invest in Erie’s future, Nick continues to show how one decision to get involved can help create someone else’s *best day*. Nick continues to show how the *best day* ever can start the day you decide to get involved.



THE EDWARD C. DOLL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

THE EDWARD C. DOLL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

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

2025 The Rev. Dr. Donald L. Baxter, Jr.

2024 Deborah & Douglas Murphy

2023 The Founding Members of The Erie
Women's Fund

2022 The Kern Family

2021 Robert G. "Bob" Dwyer, Esquire

2020 Clemont R. Austin, III

2019 Peggy & Al Richardson

2018 Thomas B. Hagen

2017 Mother Mary Beth "Betty" Kennedy

2016 Mary Alice & Thomas L. Doolin

2015 Joan Chittister, OSB

2014 Dr. M. Peter & Eleanor Scibetta

2013 M. Fletcher Gornal, Esquire

2012 Edward P. "Ted" Junker, III

2011 Jim & Maggie Stolley

2010 William M. Hilbert, Sr.

2009 Susan Hirt Hagen

2008 Ray McGarvey, Ph.D.

2007 Donald S. Leslie, Jr.

2006 James B. Spiegel

2005 F. Brady Louis

2004 Al Duval

2003 Tom & Cheryl Vicary

2002 Dr. George D'Angeloa

2001 Del. A. Caryl

2000 Charles H. Bracken

1999 Dr. Vincent Jenco

1998 Bonney, Kathleen, and Constance
(Peep) Cochran

1997 William A. Schuster

1996 William C. Bloomstine

1995 William F. Grant

1994 Virginia McGarvey

1993 Jack Quinn

1992 Laura Wallerstein

EDWARD C. DOLL

THE ARCHITECT OF TRUST



Community foundations are built not only through legal documents, but through leadership, stewardship, and trust. At The Erie Community Foundation, few individuals reflected those values more fully than Edward C. Doll (1903–1991), who played a significant role in shaping the Foundation.

While Elisha H. Mack established the legal framework for the Erie Endowment, Doll's steady volunteer leadership ensured Mack's vision matured into the trusted community institution the Foundation is today.

As an Erie attorney and businessman, Doll earned respect in the workplace and in the community for his financial discipline, sound judgement, and ethical leadership. During his tenures as president and then Board Chair of the Foundation, he focused on building donor confidence by knocking on the doors of businesses up and down State Street. He knew the Erie community; he guided the Foundation through periods of growth with quiet and consistent leadership.

A poem written by Henry Doll, Ed's son, describes a man who found joy in nature. Henry describes his dad as a "naturalist," a man who spoke to cardinals and routinely fed birds. He even joked that Ed wished to be buried in his compost pile with Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony playing softly in the background. Through this glimpse into his personal world, it is clear that Ed valued Erie as a place to nurture and sustain for future generations.

That spirit continues today through the annual Edward C. Doll Community Service Award. The award celebrates those who *inspire* others through leadership, *engage* in community life and *empower* positive change through their actions.

We can't predict community needs of the future, but we know we will always need a to create the *best day ever*. The early work of Edward C. Doll helped make that future possible.



A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

A LEGACY OF IMPACT

One of the *best days* ever at The Erie Community Foundation was when the Rev. Dr. Donald L. Baxter, Jr., joined the Foundation's Board of Trustees and ultimately became board chair. Under his guidance, the Foundation strengthened its commitment to the community and grew its impact across the Erie region.

For Don, though, his *best days* are not defined by a single moment or milestone. They're found in a lifetime of showing up for others in ways that are often quiet, always meaningful, and deeply felt.

From his early service as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps to his decades of care as a dermatologist, Don has dedicated his life to helping people. For his patients, that care means relief in a diagnosis, comfort in trusted guidance, and confidence in healing—moments that can be life-changing to those experiencing them.

His calling extended beyond medicine into faith, where he spent years walking alongside individuals and families through life's most significant moments as an Episcopal priest. In times of joy, loss, uncertainty, and celebration, Don has been a steady, compassionate presence—helping many feel supported and understood when it mattered most.

As former Chair of the Board, Don guided the Foundation through a pivotal leadership transition in 2021, helping ensure its mission remained strong. Beyond the Foundation,



he has served the community through organizations including the Erie Playhouse, Erie Philharmonic, and expERIENCE Children's Museum, supporting spaces where creativity and culture thrive.

While Don's charitable impact is significant, his devotion to family stands above all else. He and his wife, Judge Susan Paradise Baxter, are the proud parents of Emily and Eddie and grandparents of Scott and Elizabeth. His family brings him great joy.

For the nonprofits that Don has **engaged** and **empowered**, the donors he has **inspired**, and the lives he has touched, Don Baxter has helped make ordinary days into the *best day* ever.

At The Erie Community Foundation, we know the *best day* isn't just one day. It's the result of a lifetime of service that transforms lives.



***Thank you, Dr. Don,
for all you do for
our community!***

ENGAGING THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE GIVING

REGIONAL AFFILIATES

ERIE GIVES



OUR REGIONAL AFFILIATES

THE CORRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Through The Corry Community Foundation, the power of collective giving is both visible and deeply felt. The Foundation serves as a steady and trusted steward of local generosity, connecting donors to the causes that matter most in their community. This support shows up in schools and classrooms. It strengthens access to care. It also reaches into neighborhoods, where long-term investment helps create stability and opportunity over time.

What sets Corry apart is its responsiveness. The Foundation pays close attention to what the community needs in the moment, while still keeping an eye on the future. By building permanent charitable endowments and supporting thoughtful solutions, it continues to shape a community where people are supported and progress feels shared.



- Pat Goodsel, *Chair*
- Scott Fogle, *Vice-Chair*
- Jill Gibson, *Treasurer*
- Marne Roche, *Secretary*
- Kimberly Hawkes
- Jason Halfast
- Jen Heiser
- Wendy Neckers
- Rick Peterson
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- John T. "Chip" Colwell, *Emeritus Member*
- Bill Nichols, *Emeritus Member*
- William Roche, *Emeritus Member*
- Mamie Sprandel, *Emeritus Member*
- Shelby Scouten, *Executive Assistant*

OUR REGIONAL AFFILIATES

THE FINDLEY LAKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



At The Findley Lake Community Foundation (a component fund of The Erie Community Foundation), collective giving begins with a deep respect for place. There is a strong desire to protect what makes the community special, paired with a clear understanding that growth still matters. That balance guides the Fund's work and the partnerships it builds along the way.

Support flows into efforts that enhance everyday life. Some initiatives focus on access and infrastructure, helping residents stay connected and supported. Others reflect a commitment to environmental care and the long-term vitality of the area. There is also a quiet but meaningful investment in the heart of the community, where small improvements can have a lasting impact. Over time, this approach helps ensure Findley Lake remains not only beautiful, but livable and full of possibility.

Note: The Findley Lake Community Foundation (FLCF) is established as a component fund of The Erie Community Foundation.



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- Larry Gross, *Vice-President*
- Terry Maloney, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Roche, *Secretary*
- Rebecca Brumagin
- Mike Fitzgibbon
- Susannah Weis Frigon
- Jeff Ireland
- Chuck Schneider

OUR REGIONAL AFFILIATES

THE NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The North East Community Foundation brings people together around a shared vision for what their community can become. Through philanthropy, it creates space for ideas to grow and for local priorities to take shape in meaningful ways. The work touches many aspects of community life, from education to cultural experiences that bring people together and enrich daily living.

At the same time, there is a clear focus on strengthening the foundation of the community itself. Support extends into projects that improve quality of life and expand access to essential resources. That combination of care and forward thinking continues to open doors. It builds connections. It creates opportunities that will carry forward for generations.



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Melissa Fisher, *Executive Assistant*
Dan Adamus
Jim Gorzynski
Kathleen Johnson
Dave Meehl
Chris Miller
Kelly Montefiori
Jennifer Smith

OUR REGIONAL AFFILIATES

THE UNION CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



In Union City, collective giving is rooted in both action and intention. The Union City Community Foundation brings together individuals who care deeply about where they live and what it can become. Their support is practical. It helps move projects forward, strengthen shared spaces, and expand opportunities for residents in ways that feel tangible.

There is also a longer view at play. Some efforts respond to immediate needs, while others are designed to shape the future of the community. That balance creates a sense of momentum that continues to build. It supports economic growth. It reinforces community pride. Most importantly, it helps ensure Union City remains a place where people feel connected and able to build their lives with confidence.



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Shawn Gross, *Vice Chairman & Treasurer*
Diane Bowes, *Secretary*
Jim Shreve, *Project Development Manager*
Rogelio Allanigue, MD
Matt Bennett
Pat Burgess
Christopher C. Clark, DO, MHA
Jerry Dougherty
Ronald O. Jones
Larry Obert
Karen Surkala
Mark Webb
Cindy Wells
Natalie Wilmoth
Darrell Cooper, *Emeritus Status*
Norm Troyer, *Emeritus Status*
Kaylynn Ostergard, *Administrative Assistant*
Steve Bishop, *Project Coordinator*



We can see the *best day* could take hundreds of forms. In theory, these moments happen individually and connect when their time is right. But what if it was thousands of moments happening at the exact same time? Not a pipeline, but a rush of momentum held together by the hands of every resident of Erie.

That is Erie Gives. For one extraordinary day each year, Erie stops asking “What can someone else do?” and starts asking, “What can we do together?” And year after year, the answer has been staggering. Since 2011, Erie Gives has raised more than \$77.7 million for local nonprofits across our region. In 2025 alone, more than 12,000 donors made nearly 40,000 gifts, helping raise a record-breaking \$11.3 million for 536 nonprofits in just 24 hours. But Erie Gives was never just about the number. It’s about what happens when generosity becomes contagious.

One person gives. Then another. Then a family. Then a business. Then an entire city begins moving together with purpose. A donation becomes a meal. A meal becomes stability. Stability becomes hope. Hope becomes possibility. That is the power of collective giving.

For one day, barriers disappear. Competing missions become one united movement. Small nonprofits stand beside large institutions. First-time donors stand beside lifelong philanthropists. Retirees, students, business owners, teachers, nurses, parents, and neighbors all become part of the same story. A story that says Erie shows up for each other.

At The Erie Community Foundation, our mission is to **inspire, engage, and empower** our community. Erie Gives is that mission brought to life in real time. It inspires generosity by reminding people that philanthropy does not belong to the wealthy. It belongs to anyone willing to care. It engages our region by bringing together hundreds of nonprofits, thousands of donors, local businesses, volunteers, media partners, and community leaders in a shared act of purpose. And it empowers organizations doing



the work every single day. The shelters. The food pantries. The arts groups. The youth programs. The organizations protecting animals, supporting families, strengthening neighborhoods, and creating opportunities that change lives long after Erie Gives ends.

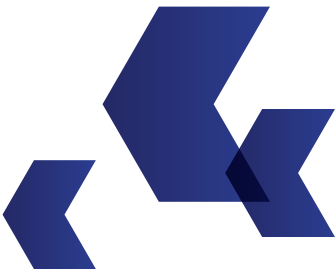
The truth is, Erie Gives is not really about money. It’s about belief. Belief that a community can still come together, after spending years behind screens and constant responsibility. Belief that generosity still matters. Belief that ordinary people, giving what they can together, can create extraordinary change.

For 24 hours, Erie becomes proof that hope is not abstract. It’s measurable. It’s visible. It’s shared between neighbors. It moves through phone calls, online gifts, mailed checks, volunteer shifts, social posts, conversations, and quiet acts of kindness that ripple farther than anyone will ever fully know. And somewhere in the middle of it, someone experiences a moment that changes everything. Not because of one person.

BECAUSE OF ALL OF US.



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
2025	536	12,604	\$11,357,387

OUR FINANCIALS

2025 AT-A-GLANCE
2025 GRANTS BY TYPE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2025 AT A GLANCE

» The Foundation is home to 992 funds, including 43 new funds in 2025



» 619 scholarships awarded, worth \$1,009,652, benefiting over 600 students



» 2,900 grants awarded, totaling \$ 33,279,282 including scholarships



» 1,942 gifts totaling \$70,572,334, which includes \$11,357,387 raised for Erie Gives



2025

GRANTS BY TYPE

2,900 GRANTS
TOTALING \$33,279,282

43 NEW
FUNDS

AGENCY ENDOWMENT	5,637,657
COMMUNITY IMPACT*	14,701,760
DONOR ADVISED	7,834,082
DONOR DESIGNATED	3,003,055
FIELD OF INTEREST	1,048,115
GEOGRAPHIC	44,961
SCHOLARSHIP	1,009,652
GRAND TOTAL	33,279,282

*INCLUDES ERIE GIVES

2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2025	2024
Revenues		
Contributions and Other Revenue	\$71,368,451	\$25,372,519
Investment Income, Net of Expenses	\$51,316,388	\$33,844,417
Total Revenues	\$122,684,839	\$59,216,936
Expenses		
Grants	\$33,279,282	\$24,332,975
Other Expenses	\$7,819,864	\$5,147,025
Total Expenses	\$37,767,143	\$29,480,000
Change in Net Assets	\$84,917,702	\$29,736,936
Assets		
Cash and Other Assets	\$46,846,908	\$59,380,047
Investments	\$488,491,793	\$392,821,000
Total Assets	\$535,338,702	\$452,201,047
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Grants Payable, Accounts Payable & Other	\$3,196,639	\$4,976,823
Agency Funds	\$79,464,711	\$75,404,204
Total Liabilities	\$82,661,350	\$80,381,027
Net Assets	\$452,677,351	\$371,820,020
Total Liabilities	\$535,338,702	\$452,201,047

*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 or contact our Finance Department at 814.454.0843.

TRUSTEES AND STAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF

THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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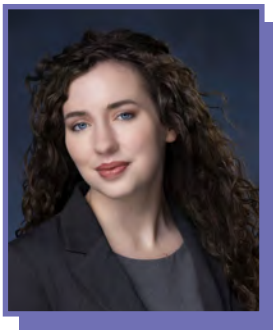


**GWENDOLYN
WHITE**

THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
STAFF



KAREN L. BILOWITH
President & CEO



OLIVIA BURGESS
Director of Collective Giving



RACHEL CACCHIONE
Director of Community Impact



ERIN D. FESSLER
Vice President, External Relations



RIC GILES
Director of Philanthropic Services



NATALIE MILLER
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CHLOE MONROE
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Executive Coordinator



MEGHAN O'BRIEN
Director of Grants & Administration



KELLY PATTERSON
Community Impact Associate



SUZANNE HAUBER
Chief Financial Officer



PATRICK HERR, M.S.W.
Vice President of Community Impact



AMANDA HEUBEL
Scholarship and Operations Coordinator



JOSH JAEGER
Information Services Manager



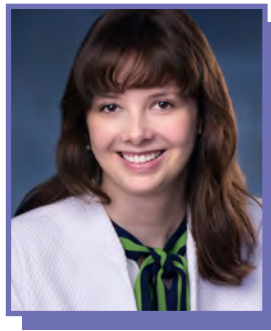
AMANDA LINCOLN
Controller and Benefits Manager



CHRISTINE SNIPPET
Staff Accountant



NATALEE STINEBISER
Philanthropic Services Assistant



MARISSA TAMULONIS
Assistant Director of Philanthropic Services



STEVE WEISER
Vice President of Philanthropic Services



MOLLY WOJCIK
Philanthropic Services Assistant



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