



**Media Contact:** Paul Freeman, Director of Development & Marketing  
Erie County Community Foundation  
135 E. Washington Row  
Sandusky, OH 44780  
419.621.9690 / paulf@eriefoundation.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS  
OVER \$228,000 IN GRANTS TO ERIE COUNTY NONPROFITS**

**Sandusky, Ohio, March 25, 2024** — At its March 2024 meeting, Erie County Community Foundation’s Board of Directors awarded \$228,805 in charitable grants to numerous Erie County non-profits, schools, and municipalities. In total, Erie County Community Foundation distributed funds to 29 separate projects in this grant cycle.

Notable among these grants are a number of exciting projects intended to further Erie County’s social and economic impact, including: OHgo’s Traveling Summer Kid Pantry and School Pantries, which will greatly increase the number of children and families they are able to serve; North Point Educational Service Center Erie County Crisis Team; Western Reserve Land Conservancy Quinn Preserve Extension at Kelleys Island permanently conserving 13 acres for public outdoor recreation; Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio providing nutritious meals to Erie County Youth in Vermilion; and Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District ensuring the long-term health of and broad public accessibility to Lake Erie; among others.

Erie County Community Foundation’s Grants Committee, Board of Directors, and staff are proud to grant funds for these and other diverse projects intended to build community and address Erie County’s most pressing needs.

Erie County Community Foundation focuses its efforts on several priority areas, including:

- addressing workforce gaps and creating employment opportunities
- removing barriers to transportation
- addressing hunger and homelessness
- providing high quality food for all
- ensuring a healthy and vibrant Lake Erie, and improving public accessibility to it and its waterways
- broadening access to mental health and addiction services
- supporting seniors and their caregivers
- creating neighborhoods that thrive
- supporting Erie County’s children – from improving access to childcare to providing creative and experiential education opportunities

Erie County Community Foundation offers two community grants rounds each year, with deadlines typically in February and August. For organizations and individuals wishing to create a lasting

impact in Erie County through charitable giving, Erie County Community Foundation will offer another round of grants this fall, with an application deadline of August 1, 2024. For complete application process information, please visit <https://www.eriefoundation.org/community-grants> or call 419.621.9690.

### **Organizations Awarded in the 2024 Round 1 Grants Cycle**

- Animal House Sober Club, Sober Hang Out Spot \$3,000
- Back to the Wild, Inc., Wildlife Orphan Fund \$2,300
- Bellevue Society for the Arts, Purchase the Rights, Scripts and Music for the Play "Beauty and the Beast" \$3,650
- Bowling Green State University FBO McBride Arboretum, McBride Arboretum Accessibility Project \$10,000
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio, Providing Nutritious Meals to Erie County Youth \$15,000
- CityStrong, Stand in the Gap Care \$10,000
- Erie County CASA Program, Website Design and Management \$5,179
- Erie County Economic Development Corp., Firelands Forward - Employer Resource Network (ERN) \$15,000
- Erie County Economic Development Corp., Downtown Sandusky Banner Project \$13,000
- Erie Metro Live Steamers, Track Rebuild Utilizing Non-Wood Ties and Non-Rusting Screws to Insure Safety \$7,500
- Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority, Meals on Wheels Warmer \$2,600
- Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, Reducing Barriers to Conservation on the Farm \$15,000
- Father's Heart Ministry, New Shelving for walk-in cooler and walk-in freezer \$9,871
- Firelands Symphony Orchestra, FSO Tunes for Tuesday & Around Town Tours \$9,000
- First Christian Church FBO Obediah's Hope: An Equine Ministry, Obediah's Hope Equine Riding Arena \$2,000
- Huron Public Library, Entertainment and Education on the Go \$4,500
- Kelley's Island Local School District, KI Field Station - Project Wet Workshop for Educators \$3,164
- Leadership Ohio, Lake Erie Love \$5,000
- Make-A-Wish Foundation of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, Wish Granting in Erie County \$2,000
- Nehemiah Partners of Sandusky, Kids Empowerment Initiative \$9,800
- North Point Educational Service Center, Erie County Crisis Team \$2,150
- OHgo, Traveling Summer Kid Pantry and School Pantries \$20,000
- OhioGuidestone, Bringing Expressive Arts to Therapy Groups in Erie County \$10,000
- Perkins Local Schools, Perkins Pirates Robotics FIRST Robotics Competitions \$5,000
- Perkins Township, Baseball for All \$1,500
- Sandusky Area Maritime Association, Restoring Maritime History: The Restoration of Oscar Lay's 1939 Lyman Custom \$4,000
- Sandusky City Schools, Grandparent Initiative: Supporting Grandparents (age 60+) who are Raising Grandchildren \$10,525
- Vermilion Schools Athletic Boosters, Inc., Field the Future: Sailors Anchor Project \$20,000



## News Release

---

- Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Quinn Preserve Extension at Kelleys Island \$8,066

### **About Erie County Community Foundation**

Erie County Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to building a thriving and vibrant Erie County, Ohio by addressing community needs, providing leadership, and cultivating resources for a lasting impact. The organization's primary purpose is to provide a means for people to make permanent gifts of assets to enhance the quality of life in Erie County and Sandusky, Ohio—today, tomorrow, and forever.

Erie County Community Foundation is governed by an independent Board of Directors and Officers, comprised of Erie County business, civic, and non-profit leaders. The Board of Directors employs Foundation staff, establishes policies and priorities, and directs final grantmaking decisions. The Board's strength lies in the diverse range of knowledge and expertise of its members, and in their shared commitment to improving the quality of life in Erie County, Ohio.

Since Erie County Community Foundation's founding in 1995, the Foundation has grown from assets totaling \$1.8 million to more than \$40.7 million in 2023. During this time, the Foundation has distributed over \$23 million to area non-profits for local projects, programs, scholarships, services, and initiatives to improve the quality of life in Erie County, Ohio.

###