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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF MEMBER, NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND POSITIONS**

**Sandusky, Ohio, February 1, 2024** — Erie County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the hiring of its new Program Officer and the placement of two new members and new leadership and emeritus members of its Board of Directors.



Erie County Community Foundation's new Program Officer, Mollie Schaefer comes to the Community Foundation after most recently working as a Naturalist and Event Coordinator for Erie MetroParks the previous 2.5 years. Prior to that role, Schaefer served as Administrative Customer Service Representative for The Lakeside Association, and as Education and Outreach Coordinator for West Virginia's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In Schaefer's new role at the Community Foundation, she will be responsible for managing and evaluating the Foundation's discretionary grants, Donor Advised Fund grants, and Youth Council grant programs. She will also oversee the Foundation's scholarships programs, maintaining records on scholarship funds and student recipients in compliance with state, federal and IRS requirements. Schaefer will serve as liaison to the Erie County Community Foundation Scholarship Committee, high school and college counselors, donors, and students to increase the number of students applying each year for scholarship assistance.

Schaefer earned her Bachelor of Science in environmental science with a minor in biology from Heidelberg University in 2017.



New Board of Directors member Stacey Hartley is a Business Development Officer with BGSU Firelands in Huron.

Hartley is an experienced professional who advances the mission of higher education institutions through strategic partnerships with individuals, business/industry, and government agencies.

She previously served as Ohio State University Medical Center's Director of Development, and as Senior Director of Development for Bowling Green State University.

Hartley attended Miami University, where in 1988 she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and French, and anticipates earning her master's in organizational development from Bowling Green State University in May 2024.

New Board of Directors member Alexa Murray MS, APRN-CNP is a Nurse Practitioner with Sandusky-based Family Health Services. She works in multidisciplinary teams to provide evidence-based practice, patient-centered care, and effective communication.



Murray is also the Mid-West Section Coordinator and National Leader for Mortar Board National College Honor Society, Treasurer of The Assembly of Erie County, and serves on the Murray & Murray Charitable Foundation.

She began her career at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center's Registered Nurse Med/Surg Float Pool, before becoming a Nurse Practitioner in its Department of Neurology.

Murray attended Ohio State University, where in 2015 she earned her Bachelor of Science Neuroscience, and in 2018 earned her Master of Science Family Nurse Practitioner degree.

"We are thrilled to welcome these three exceptional professionals to Erie County Community Foundation," said Elizabeth Maiden, Executive Director. "Stacey, Alexa, and Mollie each bring invaluable expertise and passion to our shared mission of enriching the lives of the people of Erie County by addressing community needs, providing leadership, and cultivating resources for a lasting impact. Their impressive skills and dedication will add immeasurable strength to our pursuits."



The Community Foundation also welcomes a new Board Chair, Board Vice Chair, and Emeritus Director in 2024. Ron Parthemore, an adjunct faculty member at BGSU Firelands Campus teaching Advertising and Marketing and chairman of the Sandusky State Theatre Board of Review, becomes the new Chair of the Community Foundation board, succeeding Lee Alexakos.

Abbey Bemis, Chief Operating Officer for Payne, Nickles & Company and an Adjunct Professor at BGSU Firelands Campus, becomes the Board's new Vice Chair and continues as Governance Chair.





Finally, Carl McGookey, a lifelong resident of Sandusky and Past Chair and Past Grants Chair of the Board, begins his Emeritus status effective immediately.

### **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 the 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.

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