

# Erie County Community Foundation

## Newsletter

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

100 years of  
community  
foundations 2

Name  
Change 3

Community  
Links 3

Scholarships  
Available 4

## National Standards Accreditation Affirms Our Commitment to Excellence

The Erie County Community Foundation is pleased to announce that it has recently received accreditation with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™. This accreditation indicates that the Erie County Community Foundation meets the highest standards for philanthropic excellence.

“This is a significant accomplishment,” said Mary Jane Hill, Board Chair. “When donors trust the Erie County Community Foundation with a charitable bequest, to establish a fund, or set up an annuity, they do it knowing that we have met rigorous standards for donor services, investment

management, grantmaking and administration.”

We have always worked hard to do good things, right here in Erie County. And we will continue to work with you to achieve your charitable goals. National Standards ensures that we have policies in place for financial stability and longevity, affirming our continued commitment to our donors, grantees and community. In short: We are a proven place to give.

The process of earning National Standards accreditation is arduous. The program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments,

grantmaking and administration. Our documentation was reviewed by a community foundation expert from a panel appointed by the Community Foundations National Standards Board, a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations in Arlington, V.A.

“The National Standards accreditation says this house is in order” said Anna Oertel, Executive Director. “It is excellent validation of the work we do on behalf of our donors and our community.”

With your help, the Erie County Community Foundation has become a more effective partner to impact the causes you care about. Thank you for working with us.

# Celebrating Community Foundations

## 100 Years in America, 100 Years in Ohio

Ohio's community foundations are local nonprofit organizations providing donors a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving—so their gifts do good works within the community, forever.

One hundred years ago, the community foundation concept was born in Cleveland Ohio, giving rise to a new philanthropy, a new way of participating in community, and a new vision for the future.

Today, there are more than 700 community foundations across the U.S. that invite ordinary citizens with a vision and a passion for community to create something together: For good. Forever. Nationwide, these organizations collectively manage more than \$48 billion in assets and make grants of approximately \$4.5 billion a year to improve life in their communities. This philanthropic model has spread beyond U.S. borders, with approximately 1,700 community foundations established worldwide.

“On the field’s 100th anniversary, we want to celebrate all the

good work being done by community foundations throughout America and especially right here in Ohio” said Dr. Susan T. Allen, Executive Director of Philanthropy Ohio. “In communities throughout the state, the generosity of countless donors and partner organizations continues to make life better for all of us.”

Thanks to community foundations, people in cities and towns throughout the State of Ohio can pool their charitable funds into community resources for the benefit of all. Community members from Cincinnati to Cleveland have literally given billions of dollars since Ohio’s first community foundation was established in 1914.

These gifts build endowment funds that benefit their communities forever and help create personal legacies. When you contribute to an endowment managed by the Erie County Community Foundation, your gift is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community

needs. Your gift—and all future earnings from your gift—is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work today and in the future.

In Ohio alone, billions of dollars are expected to transfer from one generation to the next during the next 50 years. The philanthropic opportunity during this time has the potential to improve the quality of life—in urban centers and small towns alike—through economic development, education, health, human services, environment, arts and culture. As place-based organizations that focus collective assets for good works, community foundations are helping people of all means give back and make a positive difference.

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# Community Links Seeks Interns

The Erie County Community Foundation is accepting applications for internship positions for the 2014 Community Links internship initiative.

This program is a 10 week, paid internship program for undergraduate and graduate students committed to public service, community building, and social change.

Applicants must be a sophomore,

junior or senior in college or a recent college graduate in the fall of 2014. Successful applicants must have a declared major, be able to pass a BCI background check, and have their own transportation.

Applications are available at the Foundation office or online at [eriefoundation.org](http://eriefoundation.org). Completed applications must be received in the Foundation office by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 21, 2014.



## New Year, New Name

As of January 1, 2014, the Sandusky /Erie County Community Foundation officially changed its name to the Erie County Community Foundation.

When the Community Foundation began 17 years ago, the individuals, organizations, and private foundations that came together to establish a community foundation in Erie County were primarily located within the City of Sandusky. The original name of the Foundation reflected this fact.

In the years since its inception, not only has the Community Foundation grown in assets, but also in service area. Funding has been provided to organizations that serve every community in Erie County. Donors to the Community Foundation can be found throughout Erie County and beyond.

“The Board of Directors made the decision to change the name of the Community Foundation to more accurately represent the region we serve.”, said Anna Oertel, Executive Director of the Erie

County Community Foundation.

The Foundation’s website has been changed to match the new name. You may now visit our website at : [www.eriefoundation.org](http://www.eriefoundation.org)

While the name may have changed, the programs and services remain the same. All grant cycles, initiatives, scholarships and fund distributions will continue as they have before.

*We feel that the new name more accurately represents the region we serve.*

**Erie County Community  
Foundation**

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public good.***

## Scholarships Available

The Erie County Community Foundation administers scholarships to a broad base of Erie County students who are continuing their education beyond high school. It is difficult to imagine a gift more meaningful or life changing than the gift of an education.

The Foundation currently administers 29 named scholarship funds with additional funds being added regularly.

A majority of the scholarships administered at the Erie County Community Foundation have an application **deadline of March 7, 2014.**

For a complete list of the Foundation's scholarships, applications, guidelines, and deadlines, visit [www.eriefoundation.org](http://www.eriefoundation.org).

Scholarship applications and information will also be available at all high school guidance offices.

