



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND FIRELANDS FORWARD PARTNER WITH THREE LOCAL NONPROFITS TO ASSIST RESIDENTS DISPLACED BY SALE OF OSTER'S MOBILE HOME PARK

Sandusky, Ohio, June 22, 2023 — Erie County Community Foundation and Firelands Forward are teaming up with three area nonprofits to assist local Erie County residents unexpectedly evicted from Oster's Mobile Home Park in Huron. For the past five years, Canopy Tuesday, Salvation Army - Huron Service Unit, and Huron St. Vincent de Paul Society have been the primary advocates for displaced residents, providing social and financial resources relative to their dealings with the city.

The City of Huron recently purchased the park and intends to repurpose it from a mobile home park to an unknown future use. The nonprofits are currently working with Oster Mobile Home Park residents to assist them with the expenses of moving and finding new housing.

"It is going to be a struggle for these residents to find new homes," said David White, Director of Firelands Forward. "Erie County already has a rental housing gap of over 1,600 units, primarily for units having rents under \$1,700 per month. Firelands Forward is using our Employer Resource Network to case manage these residents and their families to help them negotiate their immediate and future needs."

Community members wishing to donate to help these residents offset their unexpected expenses can visit <https://www.eriefoundation.org/> and click on the Oster/Rye Beach Assistance Fund button on the home page.

Erie County Community Foundation is collecting and managing money donated to the fund for distribution directly to the residents through Firelands Forward. Donations are tax deductible per IRS regulations. Only monetary donations can be accepted – no "in-kind donations" are permitted. Donors can process credit card donations directly through the Erie County Community Foundation website, or mail or drop off checks to the Foundation's office at 135 E. Washington Row in Sandusky.

"All funds donated will go toward moving, storage, rent assistance, and other expenses these displaced residents incur," said Roxanne Goss from Salvation Army - Huron Service Unit. "The limited housing options here make this exceptionally difficult. Nearly three months since the purchase, and after continuous search for new homes, only a handful of Oster residents have been able to find adequate housing."

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.



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An independent Board of Directors and Officers governs Erie County Community Foundation, 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 \$36.6 million in 2022. During this time, the Foundation has distributed over \$20.5 million to area non-profits for local projects, programs, scholarships, services, and initiatives to improve the quality of life in Erie County, Ohio.

About Firelands Forward

Serving Erie, Huron, and Ottawa Counties, Firelands Forward grows our region's economy by connecting a stable skilled and supported labor force to meaningful and sustaining employment. Firelands Forward addresses immediate & future workforce needs of the Firelands region, builds on existing economic & workforce development work, and enables the region to develop strategies for a continuous talent pipeline.

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