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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS  
OVER \$176,000 IN GRANTS TO ERIE COUNTY NONPROFITS**

**Sandusky, Ohio, March 30, 2026** — At its March 2026 meeting, Erie County Community Foundation's Board of Directors awarded \$176,622.92 in charitable grants to numerous Erie County non-profits, schools, and municipalities. In total, Erie County Community Foundation distributed funds to 24 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: Care and Share of Erie County's funding to support the two positions of Intake and Donation/volunteer coordinator; Campbell Christian Community Center, Nourish & Learn—Spring and Summer Food and Fun at The Center; Huron Band Parents, Inc., Replacement of Sub-Standard Percussion Equipment; Open Doors Academy, Out-of-School Time Program for Sandusky Students; and YMCA of Greater Cleveland, Vermilion YMCA Preschool, Y-Club (Before & Afterschool Care), and Summer Camp Scholarships.

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.

**Organizations Awarded in the 2026 Round 1 Grants Cycle**

- Back to the Wild, Inc., \$3,000 Wildlife Orphan Fund
- Bellevue Society for the Arts, \$3,468 Children's Theater "Junie B"
- Campbell Christian Community Center, \$7,500 Nourish & Learn—Spring and Summer Food and Fun at The Center
- Care and Share, Inc. of Erie County, \$20,000 Care & Share Serving our Community
- Equality Sandusky, \$4,500 Shoreline Pride Sandusky 2026
- Erie County CASA Program, \$6,300 Volunteer Recruitment and Training Efforts
- Erie County Health Department, \$5,000 Compass Point Senior Enrichment Center
- Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority, \$8,000 Food Pantry for Seniors
- Family Health Services, \$2,000 "Own the Bone" at Family Health Services
- Firelands Symphony Orchestra, \$8,300 FSO Tunes for Tuesday & Around Town Tours
- Huron Band Parents, Inc., \$1,234.92 Replacement of Sub-Standard Percussion Equipment
- Huron Historical Society, \$5,000 "1776" Musical
- Kinship, Inc. dba Kinship House, \$5,000 Replacement Siding for Kinship House

- Make-A-Wish Foundation of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, \$3,000 Granting Wishes in Erie County, Ohio
- OHgo, \$20,000 OHgo Mobile Pantry Food Costs
- Open Doors Academy, \$15,000 Out-of-School Time Program for Sandusky Students
- Peds on Wheels, \$2,000 Project neonatal jaundice
- Project Noelle, \$8,320 Youth Support and Prevention Education
- Sandusky State Theatre, \$12,000 Caryl Crane Youth Theatre Production support for the 2026 Season
- United Way of Greater Lorain County, \$5,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) for Erie County Residents
- Village of Milan, \$5,000 Jenkins Warehouse fire escapes
- Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana, \$15,000 Safe Supportive Housing with Dignity
- Williams Temple Church of God in Christ, \$2,000 Community Back-To-School Fun Give-Away
- YMCA of Greater Cleveland, \$10,000 Vermilion YMCA Preschool, Y-Club (Before & Afterschool Care), and Summer Camp Scholarships

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, 2026. For complete application process information, please visit <https://www.eriefoundation.org/nonprofits> or call 419.621.9690.

### **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. The organization, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025, addresses community needs, provides leadership, and cultivates 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 the Foundation's President & CEO, 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 \$52.9 million in 2025. During this time, the Foundation has distributed over \$27 million to area non-profits and students for local projects, programs, scholarships, services, and initiatives to improve the quality of life in Erie County, Ohio.

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