

**Media Contact:** Paul Freeman, Vice President 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'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL AWARDS  
OVER \$17,000 IN GRANTS TO ERIE COUNTY NONPROFITS**

**Sandusky, Ohio, June 29, 2026** — At its June 2026 meeting, Erie County Community Foundation's Board of Directors awarded \$17,700 in charitable Youth Advisory Council grants to numerous Erie County non-profits, schools, and municipalities. In total, Youth Advisory Council distributed funds to 16 separate projects in this grant cycle.

Erie County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council consists of 14 junior and senior students from seven Erie County high schools, including Edison, Huron, Margaretta, Perkins, Sandusky, Sandusky Central Catholic/St. Mary, and Vermilion. Students serve a two-year term and learn about community needs and philanthropy.

The 2025-2026 YAC encouraged grant proposals that aligned with its priority areas: mental health, job training, childcare, youth programming, access to healthy food, preserving Lake Eries's waterways, supporting senior citizens, and animal welfare. Grants generally range from \$250-\$2,000 and are for one year only. Grant projects must serve Erie County residents.

YAC receives funding annually for its grantmaking program from ECCF and its community partners Sandusky Rotary Club Charitable Foundation Fund, Inc., the Mylander Foundation, and the Dorn Foundation. The grantmaking program covers a wide variety of needs throughout Erie County. These include but are not limited to Arts and Humanities, Community Development, Education, Environment, Health and Social Services, and Youth Services.

Erie County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council and Board of Directors are proud to grant funds for these and other diverse projects intended to build community and help address Erie County's most pressing needs.

**Organizations Awarded**

- Back to the Wild, Inc, \$1,966.25 Carnivore Diets for Wildlife Rehab Patients and Ambassadors
- Boots to Grasses Therapeutic Horsemanship Program \$405, I Gallop
- Campbell Christian Community Center, \$1,000 The Dignity Project: Confidence, Self-Care & Growing Strong
- Cancer Services, \$1,000 Care for Kids
- Care and Share, Inc. of Erie County, \$1,600 Hygiene – Keeping It Clean

- Erie County Agriculture Society, \$1,184.37 Protective Cages for 4-H Static Displays at the Erie County Fair
- Erie County Public Defender's Office, \$1,500 Project Strength
- Family Health Services, \$1,088 McKeen Pharmacy Capacity Expansion
- Harbourtown Fine Arts Center, \$1,720 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusive Summer Theatre Camp
- Humane Society of Erie County \$1,500 Humane Trap Initiative
- Huron Public Library, \$450 Unearth A Story: Resources for Summer Reading and Related Programs
- Obediah's Hope: An Equine Ministry of First Christian Church, \$586.38 Bits and Bridles and Saddle Pads
- Road to Hope INC, \$500 Road to Hope Peer Transportation Model
- The Parkvue Community, \$1,250 Parkvue Pals
- The Salvation Army – Vermilion, \$750 Backpacks Bags and Personal Hygiene
- Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church – Youth Group, \$1,200 Supplying the Needy through a Blessing Box

### **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.

###



**First Row:** Ava Quillen-Perkins HS, Lillyan Ryerson-Perkins HS, Gracie Rang-Edison HS, Sierra Nunn-Huron HS, Hunter Grant-Margaretta HS, Hunter Straub-Sandusky HS

**Second Row:** Rocco Speer-Perkins HS, Weston Gfell-Edison HS, Hayden Holmes-Huron HS, Kenna Kovaleske-Margaretta HS, Emmalyn Redinger-Sandusky Central Catholic/St. Mary, Heidi Schlesselman, ECCF Program Officer

**Not pictured:** Gabe Burch-Sandusky Central Catholic/St. Mary, Paige Dodge-Vermilion HS, Adam Hendershot-Vermilion HS