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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS
OVER \$259,000 IN GRANTS TO ERIE COUNTY NONPROFITS**

Sandusky, Ohio, October 26, 2026 — At its October 2026 meeting, Erie County Community Foundation's Board of Directors awarded \$259,650 in charitable grants to numerous Erie County non-profits, schools, and community organizations. In total, Erie County Community Foundation distributed funds to 34 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: Community Youth Mentoring's Building Brighter Futures for Erie County Children through School-Based Mentoring; Ducks Unlimited, Restoring Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area; EHOVE Career Center's Emergency Assistance and Dropout Prevention Services for Adult Learners; and Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio's Erie County Food Distribution.

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 2 Grants Cycle

- 2027 JumpStart Cohort, \$25,000 Supports Nonprofits through Tailored Coaching, Workshops, and Resources to Improve Fundraising and Donor Engagement
- American Red Cross North Central Ohio, \$5,000 Support for Red Cross Blood Services in Erie County
- Bayshore Counseling Services, \$5,000 Helping Clients Pay Out-Of-Pocket Expenses for Treatment
- Bellevue Historical Society, \$3,000 Tremont House Rear Egress Renovation
- Cancer Services of Erie County, \$8,000 Transportation Assistance for Cancer Patients
- Care and Share Inc. of Erie County, \$5,000 Serving Our Community - 2 staff positions
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo, \$5,000 Sandusky Furniture Mission
- Cinderella's Closet Northeast Ohio, \$3,500 Empowering High School Girls Through Formal Wear
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History, \$5,000 Free Experiential Science Programming for Sandusky City Schools
- Community Youth Mentoring, \$8,000 Building Brighter Futures for Erie County Children Through School-Based Mentoring

- Ducks Unlimited, \$10,000 Restoring Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area
- Edison Birthplace Association, \$5,000 Wall Removal/Hill Regrading
- EHOVE Career Center, \$4,000 Emergency Assistance and Dropout Prevention Services for Adult Learners
- Erie County Economic Development Corp., \$15,000 The Power of Lake Erie (Symposium) + Summer on Sandusky Bay (Internship)
- Erie Shore Network, Inc., \$2,000 Health & Wellness Program
- Firelands Habitat for Humanity, \$3,000 Safe Affordable Housing Projects
- Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry, \$10,000 Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies, Rental Assistance
- Huron Public Library, \$2,650 Bambu Lab Improved 3D Printing Project
- Kelleys Island School District, \$4,000 Island Ecosystem Connection (IEC)
- Kidney Foundation of Ohio, \$2,500 Transportation Assistance Program
- Law Enforcement Foundation, \$5,000 LEF Police Training Programs
- Main Street Vermilion, \$3,000 Kids Frozen Play Place at Main Street Vermilion's Annual Ice A Fair
- My Faith Learning Center, \$7,500 Expansion of Outdoor Play Spaces
- New Day Family Resource Center Inc., \$6,000 Immigrant and Refugee Focused Food Pantry and Community Resource
- Ohgo, \$10,000 Project Happy
- Reserve Care, \$10,000 Stein Hospice's Reserve Care Navigator Program
- Road to Hope, \$5,000 Road to Hope Peer Transportation Program
- The Salvation Army, \$10,000 Emergency Social Services and Homeless Prevention
- Sandusky Central Catholic Schools, \$20,000 SCCS Capital Campaign
- Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, \$15,000 Erie County Food Distribution
- United Church Homes, \$10,000 UCH Engage Service Coordination
- Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana, \$15,000 Crossroads Shelter
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy, \$10,000 Thunderbird Hills Marsh Extension
- Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation, \$2,500 44th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

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 application deadlines in February and August. 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 30th 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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