

IMPACT

Foundation Establishes New \$1 Million Fund To Benefit Community College

In early June, The Erie Community Foundation announced the creation of a new fund at The Foundation and provided the initial lead gift of \$1 million to benefit the planned community college for Erie County. "This grant is three times larger than any previous commitment made by The Foundation in our 75-year history," said Foundation president Mike Batchelor.



"High poverty in Erie County, persistently low educational attainment rates, and a business community challenged to recruit and retain a qualified workforce caused us to take this unprecedented step," he said. "A high correlation between educational attainment and lifetime earnings exists," explained Batchelor. "Erie County educational attainment rates are dramatically below state and national rates. A community college will increase access to education and help strengthen our local economy."

The fund will support ongoing operating and capital expenses and will be available assuming completion of the application to the state for the community college, Erie County Council's sponsorship of the application by Sept. 30th, and the ultimate receipt of the necessary state approvals. The Foundation also made a second grant to assist in the timely preparation of the detailed application package required by the state.

Foundation Trustees will continually review community college operations to ensure it meets the educational and economic development needs of Erie County residents. "This additional level of community involvement should maximize the effectiveness of this important institution," Batchelor added.

The Foundation encourages local businesses, philanthropists and the general public to add to the fund. At the press conference, three local businesses each pledged \$10,000: Bill Hilbert, Sr. from PHB/Reddog Industries; Nick Scott, Sr. from Scott Enterprises and David Tullio of Custom Engineering.

If you are interested in supporting the community college, mail donations to The Erie County Community College Fund, c/o The Erie Community Foundation, 459 West Sixth St., Erie, PA 16507, or make a donation online at www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org/community-college.

The Foundation also announced the creation of **The Coalition For Our Community College**. "It's important that supporters of a community college have their voices heard," said Batchelor. "We have created a logo and a Facebook site. We expect the Coalition to grow organically from there."

At the million dollar announcement:
Attorney Bob Dwyer, Mike Batchelor, and Barry Grossman.

In the back row:
Attorney Russ Warner, Susan Kemenyffy, Marne Roche and Dr. Geoff Dunn.



Foundation Earns Prestigious Four-Star Rating

Charity Navigator, which is America's premier charity evaluator, awarded The Erie Community Foundation with the coveted four-star rating for sound fiscal management for the second year in a row.

"Only 21 percent of the charities we rate have received at least two consecutive four-star evaluations, indicating that The Erie Community Foundation consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms other nonprofits," said Ken Berger, president and chief executive officer, Charity Navigator. "In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, we highlight the fine work of efficient nonprofits like The Foundation, and we provide donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in their charitable choices." This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates The Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

"As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, donors demand more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the nonprofits they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars," said Mike Batchelor, president. "We do our best every day, and we are honored to receive this recognition."



At a grant reception hosted by the expERIENCE Children's Museum, The Foundation distributed \$1,984,227, as follows: \$199,887 to 17 local arts & culture nonprofits, and \$1,784,340 in grants from 346 donor advised and donor designated endowments.

Pictured are: June Pinteá, former executive director, expERIENCE Children's Museum; Mike Batchelor, president; Dr. Geoff Dunn, board trustee of The Foundation and Shiloh Turner, vice president of Programs.

The expERIENCE Children's Museum was one of the larger recipients, receiving a \$50,000 challenge grant for its capital campaign.



Erie FREE Taxes recently marked the end of tax season with a volunteer appreciation reception. The group celebrated the fact that Erie FREE Taxes returned about \$4.5 million to Erie County through tax refunds. Last year, Erie FREE Taxes returned \$2.5 million.

More than 2,500 low to moderate income working families received free tax preparation services through Erie FREE Taxes from 88 volunteers, who worked at 16 VITA Sites throughout Erie County. Of the 2,500 local residents, more than 1,000 received the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is the country's largest anti-poverty program.

The coalition that works with Erie FREE Taxes includes Booker T. Washington Center, Early Connections, GECAC, St. Martin Center and WQLN.



Pictured are: Cheryl Bates, program director of Erie FREE Taxes, Mike Batchelor, president of The Erie Community Foundation and David González, program officer of The Erie Community Foundation.

School-Based Health Centers: From Idea to Reality

Through *Shaping tomorrow* grantmaking, the idea of school-based health centers will be a reality by September 2011. "Our Healthcare Community Advisory Panel started the wheels in motion in March of 2009," said Shiloh Turner, vice president of Programs. "We are proud to announce that after a thoughtful and thorough round of requests for proposals, we are funding planning processes for three school-based health centers."

The Foundation awarded three \$35,000 planning grants. The first two were awarded to Community Health Net, who is partnering with Saint Vincent Health System to assess the feasibility of creating a center with the Girard and Union City School Districts. The third was awarded to Hamot, who is working with the Erie City Schools to assess feasibility of opening a center at Wayne Elementary School. All grants are broad collaborations and involve 24 social service and nonprofit organizations. The Foundation will fund the project with \$350,000 over the next five years. "1,700 school-based health centers already exist nationwide, with 28 in Pennsylvania, but none in our community," said Turner. "Schools in areas with higher poverty rates received higher consideration in the grant awarding process."

After receiving five proposals, Foundation staff conducted site visits, which were followed by external grant reviews from field experts Yvonne Cook, president of the Highmark Foundation; Kate Keller, senior program officer, Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and board member of National Association of School-Based Health Centers; Dr. Joseph Napolitano, senior program officer, Dorothy



At the first School-Based Health Center planning event: Shiloh Turner, vice president of Programs; Michael Batchelor, president; Kate Keller of the National Assembly of School-Based Health Care; Dr. Tony Snow, Foundation board trustee and CMO, Community Health Net; and Bill McCarthy, president/CEO, Stairways Behavioral Health.

Rider Pool Trust; Carrie Baker, president, Ohio School-Based Health Care Association; Laura Brey, training director, National Assembly on School-Based Health; and Foundation Trustees B.J. Lechner and Attorney Bob Dwyer.

A school-based health center brings a doctor's office into the school environment and may feature dental, medical, and mental-health services, increasing access to healthcare for children from low-income families. Children with no medical insurance are seen for free.

At Wayne School, 92 percent of its 577 students qualify for free or discounted lunches, an

indicator of families that live below the federal poverty line. The Union City School District has 1,325 students enrolled, and 56 percent receive free/reduced lunch. In Girard, 49 percent of the 2,000 students qualify for free/reduced lunch.

"We are improving the all-around well-being of a child," said Diane Sutton, Wayne's principal. "When kids feel well physically, we have a better opportunity to reach them academically."

"These proven centers are effective," said Dr. Chris Clark, vice president of Clinical Outcomes Management, Saint Vincent Health Center. "The benefit for working parents is immeasurable."

"Every proposal pulled at your heart strings because of the great need," said Attorney Bob Dwyer, Foundation board trustee. "Our goal is to create healthier children, and ultimately healthier neighborhoods, and we are that much closer."

Collaborating Organizations:

- Adagio Health
- Allied Pediatric Health of Erie
- City of Erie Mayor's Office
- City of Erie School District
- Community Health Net
- Early Connections/Success by 6
- The Erie Community Foundation
- Erie County Department of Health
- Erie Together Action Team
- Girard School District
- Hamot Medical Center
- Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System
- National Baptist Convention
- PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community
- PSU CORE
- Safe Harbor Behavioral Health
- Saint Vincent Health Center
- Sarah Reed Children's Center
- Sight Center of NWPA
- Smile Pennsylvania, Mobile Dentists
- Stairways Behavioral Health
- Union City Family Support Center
- Union City School District
- Union City Sustained Healthy Youth Development Committee

\$400,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 250 STUDENTS

The graduation party circuit is in full swing. To add to the celebrations, 250 students just received \$400,000 in scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year. Senior Judge John Bozza, the scholarship reception keynote speaker, addressed the students. "Each of you is as unique as your scholarship, and you are here because of a thoughtful donor," said Bozza. "Whether you pursue engineering, music, education, pre-med or law, you guide your destiny."

"Our scholarship program continues to grow because donors accomplish three objectives: meet their philanthropic goals, establish a scholarship in memory or honor of a loved one, and help the next generation attain higher education," said Mike Batchelor, Foundation president. Visit www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org to learn more about our 76 scholarships.



Pictured are: Mike Batchelor, Judge John Bozza, Dick Fox of Weber Murphy Fox and students Michael Mangiaracina and Julie Buziewicz.

Foundation Announces over \$2 Million in Grants

The tagline of The Erie Community Foundation is "Helping today...Shaping tomorrow." *Helping today* grants are reactive and address immediate needs of the nonprofit sector. "If a nonprofit organization, like Erie DAWN, doesn't have to worry about the costs of furnishing apartments, they can focus on their mission of providing a two-year program to help women get back on their feet through mentoring and advocacy," said Mike Batchelor, president of The Foundation. "We lighten a funding burden, and in turn, Erie DAWN, or any other nonprofit receiving a *Helping today* grant, can help more people."

Shaping tomorrow grants are proactive and strategic by addressing the antecedents to poverty including healthcare, workforce development and early childhood education. "To do this work, we created Community Advisory Panels with field experts," said Shiloh Turner, vice president of Programs. "Each panel member knows the issues and knows the resources to solve community problems."

Helping today grants

Human Services & Community Development

- ANNA Shelter \$2,000
- Community of Caring \$10,000
- Erie City Mission \$15,000
- Erie DAWN \$30,000
- Family Services of Northwest Pennsylvania \$18,965
- Gateway Rehabilitation Center – Erie \$12,000
- Harborcreek Youth Services \$10,000
- Mercy Center for Women \$6,000
- Better Housing of Erie \$2,612
- Erie Downtown Partnership \$9,500
- Erie Homes for Children and Adults \$7,500
- Habitat for Humanity \$12,000
- Perry Square Alliance \$12,200
- Safe Horizons \$18,347
- Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network \$5,000
- Trinity Square Foundation \$15,000
- Wattsburg Agricultural Society \$10,000
- West Springfield United Methodist Church \$5,000
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy \$3,342

Donor Directed & Agency Grants

- Donor Directed – 127 grants \$364,409
- Agency Endowments – 41 grants \$576,095

Shaping tomorrow grants

Strategic & Collaborative

- Hamot Health Foundation – Patient Care Assistance Apprenticeship Program \$90,315
- Hamot Health Foundation – Hamot-Wayne Community School-Based Health Center \$35,000
- Community Health Net – Girard School District School-Based Health Center \$35,000
- Community Health Net – Union City School District School-Based Health Center \$35,000
- The Nonprofit Partnership \$240,000
- Erie FREE Taxes \$189,000

ReTool Erie Capacity Building Grants

- HERO, Inc. \$34,840
- My Father's House of Erie \$25,600
- SafeNet \$24,950
- Opportunities Unlimited \$24,886
- Erie County CASA \$24,843
- Corry Higher Education Council \$24,780
- Erie DAWN \$23,490
- St. Martin's Center Culinary Lab \$22,445
- Erie Homes for Children and Adults \$20,956
- Erie Tenant Council \$12,970
- Technology Council of NWPA \$11,500

Endowments & Funds Preserve Wealth

"Donors say to me: ***I don't want my money to end up in Harrisburg or Washington when I pass away; I want my hard-earned dollars to stay here working for MY community,***" said Kevin Moore, vice president of stewardship. "Through effective and careful estate planning, that is possible."

When a donor establishes a named fund, the donor advises how grants will be made while receiving a tax benefit for their contribution. In 2010, we have created 17 new endowment funds. PNC Bank helped fund the Christopher Mark Knoll Scholarship. Asbury Woods Partnership, ArtsErie, Salvation Army, Drug & Alcohol Coalition, Multicultural Community Resource Center and the JC Martin Golf Course have recently established new funds to permanently benefit their organizations.

"By establishing an endowment, we eliminate the worry for our donors and nonprofits," Moore said. "We wisely invest and grow the principal, as they continue their philanthropic missions."



The first-ever Policy Forum, which was organized by The Nonprofit Partnership with help from The Erie Community Foundation, brought together nonprofit executives and local politicians to discuss how and why the philanthropy and nonprofit sectors need to be engaged in public policy and government relations in order to create a shared agenda.

Pictured are: Bill Jackson, president of the United Way of Erie County; Tony Ross, president of the United Way of Pennsylvania; Mike Batchelor, president of The Erie Community Foundation; Steve Gunderson, president of the Council of Foundations; and Gary Ravetto, associate director, The Nonprofit Partnership.

"The nonprofit sector is one of the largest employers in Erie County, and every nonprofit is impacted by public dollars," said Batchelor. "If government cuts funding to nonprofits, we need to be aware and involved because our grant strategies can be affected."



Foundation Assists Golf Classic

This summer, Erie will host the American Junior Golf Association's Erie Junior Golf Classic for boys and girls ages 12-18, who aspire to compete on the next level. Well-known players such as Phil Mickelson and Paula Creamer began their careers playing in junior tournaments.

Thanks to the Phillips E. Patton Foundation, the primary sponsor of the Classic, the event will be played at The Kahkwa Club August 16-19. Proceeds will benefit the JC Martin Golf Course Restoration Fund at The Erie Community Foundation.

"Our goal is to raise \$100,000 so that we can apply for a USGA grant to match our community funds," said Greg Cronkhite, co-chairperson. "Additionally, the first \$30,000 raised will be matched dollar for dollar."

"The Classic will be a terrific opportunity to see the golfers of tomorrow, while building a fund at The Foundation to benefit our local JC Martin course," added Kevin Moore, vice president of stewardship. To establish an endowment for a cause you are passionate about, call Kevin Moore at (814) 454-0843.



AFFILIATE FOUNDATION NEWS

Congratulations to the Community Nursing Services of North East! The **North East Community Foundation** honored them with the Lake and Smith award for outstanding community service at The Foundation's annual meeting. The award is named after Ernie Lake and Gerrie Smith, two founding members of the North East Community Foundation. In addition to this honor, Community Nurses Services received a \$500 grant.

Over 100 residents attended the **Union City Community Foundation** annual meeting where Mark Webb received the "I Believe" award for 10 years of service as chairperson of the Union City Community Foundation, as well as for his volunteer roles with the Lion's Club, Saint Vincent's board of directors and First United Methodist Church.



The Erie
Community
Foundation

Helping today... Shaping tomorrow.

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The Erie Community Foundation

459 West Sixth Street
Erie, PA 16507
Phone: (814) 454-0843
Fax: (814) 456-4965
www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org



Council of Foundations Seal of Approval

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|---------------------|--|
| August 5 | Healthcare Community Advisory Panel Meeting |
| August 11 | Union City Community Foundation Board Meeting |
| August 12 | The Erie Community Foundation 19th Annual Meeting
<i>Ambassador Hotel at 4 p.m.</i>
Keynote: Monica Patten, President & CEO of Community Foundations of Canada
<i>Ed Doll Community Service Award Winner: Bill Hilbert, Sr.</i>
Learn about Erie's Vital Signs |
| August 13 | A Day for You at the Zoo |
| August 16-19 | American Junior Golf Association Classic |
| August 16-20 | Nonprofit Partnership Event: Grantsmanship Center Training |
| August 18 | Early Childhood Education Community Advisory Panel Meeting |
| August 20 | Briefing & Breakfast
St. Martin Center at 7:45 a.m. |
| August 25 | Workforce Community Advisory Panel Meeting |
| September 26 | Mack Event at Mercyhurst College featuring the movie "The Ultimate Gift" |