



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of The Erie Women's Fund (EWF) is *Empowering Women and Families*. EWF educates and inspires its members to positively impact the lives of Erie County women through philanthropy and community engagement.

In 2007, twelve altruistic women sought to combine their philanthropic efforts to make a difference in our community. Today, EWF has over 200 like-minded members who have given over \$1,000,000 to local nonprofits that Empower Women and Families.

A letter from the Chair

At the end of each year, we can reflect on where we have been, where we are and where we are going.

The women of Erie Women's Fund are amazing. In 2007, twelve altruistic women sought to use their collective philanthropic efforts to change our community, empowering women and families through local nonprofits. The influence of these women set the Erie Women's Fund on a clearly defined path to positively impact our community, change lives generationally.

As you know, we had another busy year making a difference to others. Our annual major grant of \$100,000 was awarded The Mercy Center for Women for their Women Empowered Achieve results "WEAR" program. This grant helps MCW offer GED & job readiness classes to women at their center and through the Erie Community College as well as learning opportunities for kids through the expErience Children's Museum. The Furchak-Ferko Grant cycle began with up to \$25,000 being awarded and the winner announced at EWF Holiday party. With the awarding of the Furchak-Ferko Grant, the EWF will surpass the \$1,000,000 milestone for dollars donated to the Erie community, empowering women, and families.

Our education sessions provided great learning opportunities for our membership. Dr. Kelly Hayes from UPMC presented "Taking the Lead on your Heart Health." Our Women in Leadership Series: Industrial Leaders included a panel discussion with Elisabeth Smith, President Acutec Precision Aerospace, Inc., and Ashleigh Walters, President of Onex, Inc. Thank you to Stephanie Williams, chair of the education committee, and team for providing a link between EWF members and our community.

I appreciate the EWF Steering Committee for their compassion, energy, vision, and talent for making things happen. Thank you, Allison Hodas, Kathy Stearns, Britt Daeknke, Dana Zaphiris, Stephanie Williams, Susannah Weis Frigon, Alex Sienerth, Linda Corso, Shelia Stearett, Marybeth Smialek, and Emily Cox.

Next year is promised to be more impactful and exciting as we move forward collaborating with each other to change lives and make a difference in our community.
Be well and be happy.

Yours truly,

Gwendolyn White

Chair, Erie Women's Fund



Grants Committee 2022

The Grants Committee has been hard at work this year! Our 2022 Major Grant of \$100,000 was awarded at the summer gathering in July. This year, the award went to the Mercy Center for Women for their Women Empowered Achieve Results (W.E.A.R) Program. This program will offer GED and job readiness classes to women at the center through the Community College while their children are learning through the expERIENCE Children's Museum. This program is aimed at helping women achieve family-sustaining wages. The Mercy Center was selected from over 30 local nonprofits who submitted their applications. After the grants committee narrowed down the applications, the final vote went to each of our members to make this decision.

Then on September 15th, the Furchak-Ferko grant cycle began. This grant cycle has been made possible by a forward-thinking philanthropist, Mary Furchak, who left a legacy gift in the interest of Women and Families in Erie. This year, we have decided to award up to \$25,000 to deserving nonprofits. We received well over 30 applications, a testament to the need of this program. Upon review of the grants committee, we have decided to award the following grants:

\$20,000 to the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network to provide 10, \$2,000 grants for home repairs on female-led homes.

\$5,000 to Operation Warm to provide over 250 coats and boots to local students.

Upon awarding these grants, the Erie Women's Fund surpasses a very notable milestone... **The Erie Women's Fund has officially granted over \$1,000,000 since the inception of the fund!** This is quite an achievement for what started as a small group of women with a big idea and a passion for philanthropic endeavors. Thank you to all of you for making this possible, and for your continued support to cross more milestones.

For the upcoming year, our longtime co-chair, Emily Cox will be stepping down from her position to make room for a new vice-chair. Linda Corso has been a part of the Erie Women's Fund since relocating back to Erie in 2021. We are excited to have her in a leadership role this year and extend a huge thank you to Emily for her time dedicated to the Fund.

Happy Holidays,

Kathy Stearns

Grants Committee Chair



Mercy Center for Women accepting the Major Grant at the Summer Celebration



Stephanie Williams and Kathy Stearns at the Annual Meeting in October



The Women Driving Philanthropy outing raised over \$25,000 for our grantmaking fund

2022 Membership

Platinum

Penny Austin
Marybeth Baran
Peg Bly
Gretchen Brugger
Teresa Brugger
Amy Cuzzola-Kern
Lorianne Feltz
Carol Geiger
Terri Lubahn*
Lynn McBrier
Elizabeth McCormick
Lisa NeCastro
Robin Scheppner*
Marybeth Smialek
Dana Zaphiris*

Gold

Brenda Bennett
Karen Bilowith
Peep Brereton
Linda Corso
Kathy Dammeyer
Mary Fette
Susan Forquer
Susannah Weis Frigon*
Julie Garcia
Kathleen Goodelle
Linda Graff
Martha Hilbert
Karen Hourigan
Mollie King
Stella LaPaglia
Jane M. Laskowski
Barbara Lechner
Charlotte Manison
Ann Marx
Monica Masterson
Colleen McCarthy
Anne Mitruka
Deborah Murphy
Leah Murphy
Amy Nedreski
Michelle Robertson
Ann Rutkowski
Annalynn Shuttleworth
Susan Smathers
Carol Stamm**
Kathleen Stearns
Amy Valentine

Silver

Tammy Batchelor
Lauren Bauer
Janel Bonsell
Betsy Bort
Barbara Bowers
Linda Breakiron
Kathy Brugger
Beth Burnside
Kathy Dahlkemper
Pamela Davis
Adrienne Dixon
Susan Euliano
Maryann Flaherty
Jennie Hagerty
Danna Hartwig
Christine Henderson
Allison Hodas*
Karen Horstman
Dawn Joy
Michelle Knight
Anita Kuchcinski
Mary Lindquist
Emily Lubahn
Carly Manino
Stephanie Potous-Eaker
Darby Scalise
Lara Schultz
Elizabeth Sesler
Brittany Shaffer
Sandra Smialek
Courtney Steding*
Naomi Stutzman
Anine Zaphiris

Bronze

Andrea Amicangelo
Mary Bahn
Annie Bauer
Lauren Bauer*
Jaimee Black
Christine Blashock
Linda Bolla
Dee Dee Bolt
Katie Bool Shafer
Nancy Brower
Julie Chacona
Lisa Chinsky
Dorine Ciotti
Karen Clark
Emily Cox*
Carol Dabrowski

Britt Daehnke*
Elise Dahlstrand
Sally Dibacco
Elizabeth DiSantis
Donna Douglass
Keely Doyle
Neala Eastman
Morgan Eberlin
Christine Eddy
Erin Fessler
Janise Filbeck
Vanessa Fremer
Kaley Getz
Judy Goddard
Jana Goodrich
Lisa Graff
Kelly Green
Rebecca Grimald
Kelly Hilling
Lynette Hughes
Sarah Humphrey
Katie Jones
Bonnie Kaliszewski
Sara Kallner
Allison Kaverman
Amanda Kochirka
Sue Kuebler
Erinn Lake
Kristina Lantz
Peggy Laughlin
Abigail Lechner
Beth Lewis
Deborah Lewis
Jennifer Lundy
Jennifer Lyons
Linda Lyons King
Leah Manino
Tina Mengine
Andrea Mirth
Ashley Nedreski
Kathryn Nicolotti
Janet Peters*
Bridget Philip
Katie Pisano
Ann Quinn
Mary Ranalli
Kelly Richter
Jackie Roddy
Laurie Root

Kathryn Ruffa
Karen R. Rzepecki
Brenda Sandberg
Abigail Scott
Karen Seggi
Janice Skolnick
Julie Slomski
Claudine Sloppy
Abby Sorensen
Lisa Sorensen
Honey Stempka
Sheila Sterrett
Linda Stevenson
Jennifer Stewart
Jo Theisen
Claudine Thiem
Patricia Thomas
Jackie Tirpak
Karen Tyler
Renee Uht
Karina Vernaza
Christina Vogel
Catherine Vonbirgelen
Lisa Watkins
Breanna Watts
Beth Weaver Baney
Sue Weber
Gwendolyn White*
Karen Wiczorek
Mary Beth Wilcher
Stephanie Williams*
Maureen Wilson
Cindy Yahn Grode
Kayte Zechman
Julie Zoumbaris

Group

Sarah Hordusky
Erika Gwinn Musser
April Soriano
Anne Lewis

Nancy Bird
Kathy Birkmire
Jessica Bongiorno
Caley Gray
Victoria Heister
Kara Lamb
Allison Mosier
Michaelyn Orlando
Melissa Stano
Julie Vendetti

Education Committee

The Education Committee is responsible for hosting engaging and enriching events for all of EWF membership. We began the year in February with a timely topic of Women's Heart Health and then kicked off our Women In Leadership Education series.

Women's Heart Health

Dr. Kelly Hayes provided an In depth look at heart health for women. The group also encouraged an engaging Q & A session.

Women in Leadership: Industry Leaders

The Women in Leadership series was created thanks to our membership survey results. Kicking it off, we were joined by two powerhouse women who are the President & CEOs of their respective organizations:

Panelists:

- Elisabeth Smith, President of Acutec Precision Aerospace, Inc.
- Ashleigh Walters, President of Onex, Inc.

Joined by 40 women both in-person and virtually, the conversation was guided by panelist questions and followed by a riveting open Q&A session.

Stay tuned as we continue this series! Our next Women In Leadership session will take place on January 19, 2023 and will focus on women leaders in Education.



Stephanie Williams

Stephanie Williams

Education Committee Chair

Welcome 2023 Steering Committee!

Steering

Lauren Bauer, Chair
Allison Hodas, Vice-Chair
Gwendolyn White,
Immediate-Past Chair

ECF Liaison

Susannah Weis Frigon

Treasurer

Katie Ruffa

Grants

Kathy Stearns, Chair
Linda Corso, Vice-Chair

Membership

Marybeth Smialek, Chair
Stephanie Williams, Vice-Chair

Education

Sheila Sterrett, Chair
Brenda Sandberg, Vice-Chair

Event Logistics

Jennie Haggerty, Chair
Ashley Nedreski, Vice-Chair

Thank you to the 2022 Steering Committee

Steering

Gwendolyn White, Chair
Lauren Bauer, Vice-Chair
Courtney Steading,
Immediate-Past Chair

ECF Liaison

Susannah Weis Frigon

Treasurer

Allison Hodas

Grants

Kathy Stearns, Co-Chair
Emily Cox, Co-Chair

Membership

Britt Daehnke, Chair
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Education

Dr. Stephanie Williams, Chair
Sheila Sterrett, Vice-Chair

Event Logistics

Robin Scheppner, Chair
Dana Zaphiris, Vice-Chair



ERIE WOMEN'S FUND
EMPOWERING WOMEN & FAMILIES



The Erie
Community
Foundation

If you're interested in joining the
Erie Women's Fund to
Empower Women and Families,
visit www.ErieWomensFund.org
today!

Let's get together!

Take a look at our calendar of events
and stay tuned for updates
throughout the year.

January

19, Education Session

February

17, Major Grant Application Opens
22, Ice Breaker

March

31, Major Grant Application Deadline

April

26, Education Session

May

18, Platinum & Gold Reception

June

21, Ice Breaker

July

13, Summer Gathering

August

TBD Ice Breaker
9, Erie Gives
28, Women Driving Philanthropy

September

TBD, Education Session
14, Furchak-Ferko Application Opens

October

12, Annual meeting
13, Furchak-Ferko Deadline

November

TBD Ice Breaker

December

7, Holiday Party