

better together

ANNUAL REPORT • 2008



THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



AN OPEN LETTER TO ERIE DONORS, NONPROFITS AND CIVIC LEADERS

Last year, your community foundation awarded 1407 different grants totaling more than \$9.1 million. Local donors created 36 new charitable endowments, bringing our total to 556. In a difficult economy, we received new gifts totaling \$7.7 million. Our December 31 market value was \$184 million; keeping The Erie Community Foundation well within the top 10% of community foundations in the nation.

But numbers never tell the true story of a community foundation: the way we work to strengthen our nonprofit partners beyond our grant dollars; the way we work with donors and their families to identify causes they care about; the way we help create personal giving plans tailored to unique circumstances; and the way our programs and partnerships are

bringing substantial new private foundation and governmental dollars into our region.

Sometimes, our greatest strength and value is simply to provide a neutral setting where community leadership gathers to collaboratively decide the best course of action for our region. We've proven our ability to advance a cause, to promote an issue, to build a bridge and to make a connection.

None of us can do it alone. A challenging investment market served to highlight a consistent theme of The Erie Community Foundation during calendar year 2008. Now, more than ever, it is important for our community, and its community foundation, to work together in a collaborative fashion to solve priority problems.

FOUNDATION STAFF

Michael L. Batchelor
President

Jayne M. Randall
*Executive Assistant &
Scholarship Coordinator*

Barbara F. Sambroak, MBA, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Amanda E. Schantz
Staff Accountant

Kevin E. Moore, MPA
*Vice President of Stewardship
& Regional Affiliates*

Erin D. Fessler
*Director of Marketing
& Public Relations*

Jane G. Cowell
Stewardship Associate

Donna M. Buseck
*Administrative Assistant
& Receptionist*

Shiloh Turner, MPA
Vice President of Programs

David González
Program Officer

Tiffanie L. Martin
Program Associate



Pictured with Michael Batchelor, BJ Lechner and Bill Hilbert Sr. are children from the Success by Six partnership which includes the YMCA, Dr. Gertrude A. Barber National Institute and Early Connections.

While we are proud of our long history of service to this region, your community foundation has changed. We are no longer just a grantmaker. We no longer simply sit in our office and respond to requests that "cross our transom." We have launched a new way of doing business. We are placing an increased emphasis on partnerships, transparency and collaborations. This is the best way to achieve genuine positive change for our region. We really are better together.

There are more than 200 of your friends and neighbors with specific volunteer leadership responsibilities within The Erie

Community Foundation. A summary listing of this diverse group is included on page 4 of this annual report. These volunteers work with our staff to review community needs, build collaborations and trust, make connections, award and evaluate grants, advocate for change and encourage increased philanthropy within our region. We are proud of their commitment and we thank each of them for their dedication to our mission.

Looking forward, our collaborative work will continue. Erie County lags behind Pennsylvania and the nation in many economic,

educational and health indicators. Erie is a great place to live, work and raise a family. But it can be better. With your continued help and support, we can work with our many partners to make this happen. We really are better together.

Sincerely,

William M. Hilbert Sr., *Chairman 2006-08*

Michael L. Batchelor, *President*

B.J. Lechner, *Chairman 2009*

better
together

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better together...DONORS

The Erie Community Foundation works with donors to create individually tailored charitable and estate plans. Many donors choose The Erie Community Foundation because it is:

SIMPLE:

You can establish a named endowment in a manner of minutes at no cost. Private foundations require start-up time and expenses to create a new fund. We customize your endowment to your wishes on your timeline.

FLEXIBLE:

Literally, the sky is the limit. With your endowment, you can choose to involve family members and make grants to your charities in and out of Erie County. You can remain anonymous or we can help you celebrate with publicity regarding your fund.

COST EFFECTIVE:

Grouping individual endowments under one administrative umbrella provides investment economies of scale as well as tax benefits under

a simplified 990 IRS form. An endowment at The Foundation pays no tax on investment income. A private foundation often pays up to 2% federal excise tax on its net invested income and realized gain.

SECURE:

In 1935, Elisha H. Mack, co-founder of the Boston Store created a philanthropic legacy that benefits our community to this day. Be assured that your Erie Community Foundation's board of trustees carries out Mr. Mack's specific wishes as well as those of over 540 funds...forever.

When you establish an endowment fund, you greatly enhance the collaborative philosophy that is woven into the fabric of your Erie Community Foundation. You leverage our resources and staff expertise to guarantee that your treasure is used wisely and effectively. We truly are better together.

FUND TYPES:

Unrestricted Fund

Allows Foundation trustees the maximum flexibility to respond to changing needs of our community.

Field of Interest Fund

Supports broad charitable causes such as education, arts, health, children, etc.

Donor Designated

Perpetually benefits one or more favored charities.

Donor Advised

A wise alternative to a private foundation because you receive a 100% tax deduction and you still "advise" on fund usage. The Foundation manages administrative costs and tasks including investment, legal, accounting, marketing and grant monitoring.

Geographic

Support a specific geographic area of your choice.

Scholarships

Create a named scholarship to establish your own legacy or celebrate the life of a loved one. You can provide permanent educational support to those who need it most.

Agency Endowments

When a nonprofit organization agrees to transfer all, or part, of its endowment to a fund within The Foundation, that endowment gains investment expertise and economies of scale and reduced fund management costs to that agency allowing them to focus on their core mission.

Annuities and Trusts

These planned giving alternatives create financial benefits for both the donors and local charities.

"Pass Through" Funds

As a community service, you can make gifts to your favorite charity through The Foundation when anonymity is important.

better together...VOLUNTEERS

Time...Talent...Treasure...

Whatever gifts are shared
with The Erie Community
Foundation, we are
all better together.
We thank our many
dedicated volunteers
for sharing their talent.

ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

B.J. Lechner
Michael Batchelor
Geoffrey Dunn, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Robert Dwyer, Esq.
William Hilbert Sr.
Edward Junker III
Susan Kemenyffy
Marne Roche
Tim Shuttleworth
R. Anthony Snow, M.D.
Philip Tredway
Russell Warner, Esq.

CORRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Rick Peterson
John (Chip) Colwell
Mary Alice Hammond
Phyllis Marchitelli
Ken Neckers
Bill Nichols
Bill Roche
Marne Roche
Mamie Smith

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

William Lewis
Sonia Fails
Jim Gorzynski
Robert Jeffrey
Ernest Lake (emeritus)
Christopher Miller
Nicholas Mobilia
Reverend David Oyler
Ken Slaney, CPA, CFP
Geraldine Smith
James Walczak, Esq.

UNION CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Mark Webb
Dr. Rogelio Allanigue
Abbe Biebel
Kyle Blakeslee
C. Angela Bontempo
Diane Bowes
Darrel Cooper
Gerald Eddy
Thomas Fucci
Ronald O. Jones
Steven Jones
Richard Mason
Larry Obert
Sydney Smith
Rebecca Stuart
Norman Troyer

FINDLEY LAKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Thomas Roche
David Bartrum
Rebecca Brumagin
Carol Eller
Jack Graham
Donna Beth Luce
Albert Stohr
Michele Vonk

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANELS

Health Care

Dr. Geoffrey Dunn
Dr. Bruce Gebhardt
Andy Glass
Charles "Boo" Hagerty
Dr. Hank Hill
Bill McCarthy
Msgr. David A. Rubino, Ph.D.

Workforce Solutions

James Borelli
John Elliott
Beverly Fetzner
B.J. Lechner
Dale McBrier
Michele Zieziula

Early Childhood Education

Karen Bauer, Ph.D.
Bill Jackson
Nancy Kalista
Carl Kallgren, Ph.D.
Susan Kemenyffy
Robert Oliver, Ph.D.
Dennis Valone, Ph.D.
Robert Wooler

GRANT REVIEW PANEL

Dr. Geoffrey Dunn
Donna Hixon, Ph.D.
Donny Jones
Susan Kemenyffy
Debi Leibel
Dale McBrier
Marne Roche
Russell Warner, Esq.

THE ERIE WOMEN'S FUND

50 Members

THE ELISHA H. MACK BEQUEST SOCIETY COMMITTEE

11 Members

CORRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS COMMITTEE

4 Members

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEES

115 Members

For a complete list of named funds, donors, grants, scholarships and financial information,
go to our website: www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org

better together...NONPROFITS

"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

—Albert Schweitzer

Our community benefits from a strong nonprofit sector dedicated to serving those in need. When our nonprofits are faced with decreased funding and an increased demand for services,



In 2008, four nonprofits moved into the historical Siegel-McDougle home at 459 West 6th Street. Representing Erie FREE Taxes is Cheryl Bates, and the Erie Philharmonic is Eric Borenstein. Jennifer Dobbs Woods represents the Nonprofit Partnership and Michael Batchelor of The Erie Community Foundation.

they turn to The Erie Community Foundation. Last year, a time-proven grants process delivered more than \$9.1 million to deserving nonprofit organizations. In addition, we awarded nearly \$500,000 in scholarships in 2008.

Our *Helping Today* grants are focused on capital improvements, program development, transportation and technology. *Helping Today* grants address four distinct program areas: Arts & Culture; Human Services & Community Development; Health & Environment and Education, with typical grants ranging between \$15,000 and \$30,000. Grant applications and guidelines can be found on our website, www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org.

Link to Community and *Link to Learning* mini-grants assist neighborhood groups and local teachers in implementing small projects with up to \$500 mini-grants. In the right hands, this has a tremendous community impact.



As part of your Erie Community Foundation's work in addressing poverty, Money Works for You helped Erie County residents like Shelly Hofius and her fiancée, Brandon Marsh purchase their first home with the assistance of Rebecca Outlaw of St. Martin Center.

Shaping Tomorrow grants address broad community challenges.

Shaping Tomorrow grantees are community partners who help us pursue viable solutions, propose thoughtful program design and achieve quality outcomes.

Shaping Tomorrow grants are made to multi-year collaboratives of invested stake holders working jointly...ultimately becoming better together.

better together...COMMUNITY

"Coming together
is a beginning.
Keeping together
is progress. Working
together is success."

—Henry Ford

Integrated into our *Shaping Tomorrow* grantmaking are Community Advisory Panels (CAPs). Comprised of trustees and community leaders, with support from national content experts, CAPs work to identify best practices and grantmaking strategies for broad community challenges.

Our CAPs are focused on the antecedents of poverty: access to early childhood education; access to health care; and workforce development. It's a new partnership for decision-making in our community, and it is working.

Such collaboration really does make all of us better. Our \$200,000 funding commitment to the Erie FREE Taxes program leveraged \$2.5 million in federal tax returns that went directly to low income taxpayers in Erie County.

Our ongoing support of the Nonprofit Partnership helped provide 70 training programs for more 1,500 agency staff and board members in 2008. Thanks to many partners, a new dental clinic at the Martin Luther King Center provides accessible and affordable dental care to previously deprived citizens. We continue to host and fund poverty simulations.



Students from Bethesda Community Place, located in the Little Italy neighborhood of downtown Erie, enjoyed participating in a summer music camp, which was made possible due to a grant from donors via The Erie Community Foundation.

We support an important donor advised fund, The Erie Women's Fund, as it strives to reduce the impact of poverty.

We are all better together.



Each quarter, the trustees of The Erie Community Foundation award "Helping today" grants to local nonprofits in four broad program areas including: Quality of Life, Health, Human Services & Community Development, and Education.



The Erie Community Foundation

MISSION

The Erie Community Foundation works to improve the quality of life in our region by evaluating and addressing community issues, by promoting responsible philanthropy and by connecting donors to the critical needs of our community.

we are simply **better**
together

This year, we have earmarked a portion of our annual meeting and annual report budgets to go to a very special cause. We are sending more than 600 underprivileged children—affiliated with 10 local nonprofits—to the Erie Zoo as part of the Erie Community Foundation's *A Day for You at the Zoo* event.