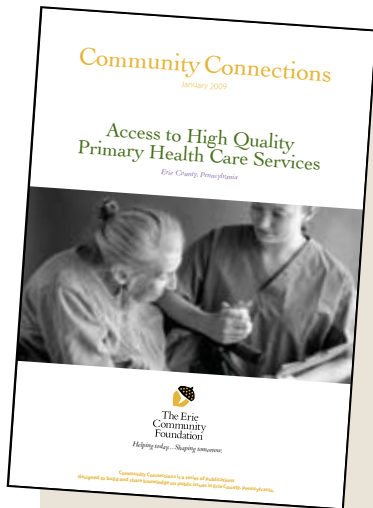


# IMPACT



## Hot Off the Presses

is the latest edition of Community Connections! "Access to High Quality Primary Health Care Services"

highlights opportunities related to increasing access to healthcare, both dental and primary, in our community. After taking a snapshot of Erie County statistics, the report analyzes the challenges of inadequate access and the options to those without insurance. The Access to Care Project has been a collaborative effort among The Erie Community Foundation, PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community, John Snow, Inc., the Erie County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and many others to formulate strategies to improve health care access. If you would like a copy, please call The Erie Community Foundation at (814) 454-0843 or download the piece at [www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org).

## AN OPEN LETTER TO DONORS AND FRIENDS

Trustees, donors and staff at The Erie Community Foundation are deeply committed to our local nonprofit community. As we begin our calendar 2009 grant making year, world economies remain in turmoil. While things could look very different in a few short months, your community foundation has adjusted its grant making budgets to insure maximum responsiveness and flexibility.

By making some difficult decisions, The Erie Community Foundation is announcing an increase in funds available in our *Helping today* grant making category in an effort to help as many local charities as possible.

To accomplish this, we made significant cuts in our administrative budget, including no staff raises. We have also narrowed our long-term and systemic *Shaping tomorrow* activity. In 2009, *Shaping tomorrow* priorities will include The Nonprofit Partnership, Erie FREE Taxes and Poverty Simulations. We will also begin convening "Community Access Panels" to help us plan for future grant making to multi-year collaboratives working in areas that are the antecedents of poverty: increasing access to quality early childhood education, workforce solutions and health care.

Erie needs a strong nonprofit sector now, more than ever. We have also modified our marketing message to encourage donors to continue giving to our nonprofit partners. While there will be difficult decisions ahead, and many worthy projects that we are unable to fund, please know The Erie Community Foundation will continue doing its best to help.

Sincerely,



**Michael L. Batchelor**  
President  
February 2009



## Helping today:

# The Erie Community Foundation Infuses \$278,000 into the Nonprofit Sector



Mike Batchelor presented grants to 30 local nonprofits including Erie Homes for Children and Adults, who used their \$10,000 grant to help fund the Project First Step Doula Services. Accepting are Jim Steber, director of Planned Giving and Community Support and Paul Carpenedo, executive director.

Foundation reviews grant applications and distributes unrestricted dollars to meet the most pressing needs of local nonprofit organizations. At a recent press conference, The Erie Community Foundation awarded \$258,195 to

"Now more than ever, the nonprofit sector needs support in place," said Michael Batchelor, president of The Erie Community Foundation. "When people lose their jobs or financial security, they turn to nonprofit organizations to help them through the tough times. In turn, the nonprofits turn to us, and others, for assistance."

Each and every quarter, The Erie Community

thirty-one nonprofits, and education mini-grants totaling \$19,855 to 27 schools as part of the *Helping today* grant making program.

"Each of these grants were made possible by donors, past and present, who created unrestricted endowment funds at The Foundation," said Batchelor. "They didn't know the HVAC system at Erie Center on Health & Aging would break, or that Community Country Day School would need a new floor. We thank these donors for their generosity and foresight," he said.

Total grants, including income from donor advised and designated funds, equaled nearly \$2 million dollars in December. "That's quite a boost to the economy and to our nonprofit sector," said Batchelor. "Philanthropy is actually a big business in our region."

Mary Bula, vice president of the Growth Partnership, and Judith Fagin, project manager of ReThink Erie, presented an update of the status of the Community College. The Community College is one initiative of The Erie Community Foundation's *Shaping tomorrow* agenda, which is guided by Shiloh Turner, vice president of Programs at The Foundation.



## Agencies receiving grants:

Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System (ACES)

ArtsErie

Awareness Ministries/Safe-Haven

Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies

Books for Kids

Camp Notre Dame

Caring for Children

C.H.A.M.P.S.

Community Country Day School

Early Connections Inc.

Educational Advocacy for the Inclusion of Youth

Erie Homes for Children and Adults

ErieKids Inc.

ExpERIENCE Children's Museum

Foundation for Free Enterprise Education

Greater Erie Youth Symphony Orchestra

Hispanic American Council

Junior Achievement of Western PA Inc.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation Inc.

Ophelia Project

PA Council on Economic Education

Perseus House

Regional Science Consortium at TREC

Rice Avenue Community Public Library

Royal Family Kids Camp

Union City Family Support Center

Urban Erie Community Development Corp.

YMCA (Glenwood Branch)

## Emergency grants:

Erie Center on Health & Aging

Erie County Historical Society & Museums

JFK Center



## Pennywise



At The Erie Community Foundation, we consistently seek ways to cut expenses in order to provide more grants to local nonprofits. One way is to go paperless with our newsletter. If you are interested in receiving this publication electronically, please visit [www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org/pennywise](http://www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org/pennywise). At this section of our website, we will ask for your name and e-mail address. By being wise with our pennies, we can give more dollars to charities.

For more details on these grants, visit [www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.ErieCommunityFoundation.org).

## Shaping tomorrow:

# Erie FREE Taxes Helps Working Families

With the support of local business leaders and many government representatives, Erie County launched year four of Erie FREE Taxes, a community led effort to help local working families take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

"The EITC reduces taxes, supplements wages, and provides incentive to work. The EITC is often used to pay down debt or pay for necessities; however, EITC can also provide opportunities to begin building financial stability by opening or contributing to a savings account," said Senator Jane Earll. "These opportunities to build wealth provide a solid move toward self-sufficiency for the working poor."

Erie FREE Taxes, which is funded through The Erie Community Foundation's *Shaping tomorrow* grant making, strives to make a difference in the lives of working community members through financial literacy education, free tax preparation sites, and promotion of the economic benefits of the EITC both to individuals and the community at large.



*At the Erie FREE Taxes event were Tom New, WQLN; Ron Steele, GECAC; Cheryl Kobel, St. Martin Center; Adrian Paul, Booker T. Washington Center; Cheryl Bates, Erie FREE Taxes; Valerie Kish-Bierbower, Early Connections; Regis Bodnar, IRS; and Mike Batchelor, Erie Community Foundation.*

Each year, Erie County loses millions of dollars as taxpayers fail to claim their EITC. Many people are unaware of the requirements and assume they are ineligible. Since tax credits help workers take care of day-to-day needs, it provides a boost to Erie County's economy. Learn more at [www.erieFREETaxes.org](http://www.erieFREETaxes.org).



Set to an upbeat musical jingle, numerous ten second television spots promoting the "Give Help...Get Help" campaign have hit the airwaves in order to connect donors to community causes. During these tough economic times, The Erie Community Foundation, The Nonprofit Partnership and WJET-TV 24 collaborated to launch the "Give Help... Get Help" online campaign. "Give Help...Get Help" can be found at [www.yourerie.com](http://www.yourerie.com). On the website, you can learn about the *Helping today...Shaping tomorrow* grant making programs, and see profiles of nonprofits that feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, nurture the young and protect the elderly.

## Community Access Panels Address Health Care, Early Childhood Education & Workforce Solutions

The Erie Community Foundation has created Community Access Panels for each of its *Shaping tomorrow* grant making areas of interest. "We firmly believe the right people, empowered



*At the Community Access Panel organizational meeting are seated: Donna Hixon, Ph.D., Laura Lewis, Ph.D. and standing: Cheryl Kobel, Dr. Geoff Dunn and Debi Liebel.*

with the right information, can make significant progress on difficult issues facing this community," said Foundation president Michael L. Batchelor.

Each Community Access Panel is empowered to study, and recommend, specific solutions to increase access to quality programs and services for the underserved. Panels have been formed around expanded access to health care, early childhood education and workforce solutions. "To assist with this work, we will convene field experts to identify best practices and unique grant making opportunities," said Shiloh Turner, MPA, vice president of Programs. Each Community Access Panel

**"Go as far as you can see, and when you get there you will see farther."** —anonymous

will have between six and twelve members, who will serve two year terms. Content experts will work directly with staff and trustees of

The Erie Community Foundation.

"Because this is important work

that impacts our entire community, our board of trustees allocated up to \$100,000 for each Community Access Panel during the 2009-2010 time frame," said Batchelor. "The Community Action Panels will also identify ways to use The Foundation's funding to leverage additional new private foundation or governmental resources."

# "Donor Insider" Debuts

What are the most pressing charitable needs in our community? Do you know if you are maximizing the impact of your charitable donations?

The Center for Wealth and Philanthropy estimates that between 1998 and 2052, charitable contributions will be in the range of \$21.2 to \$55.4 trillion. "Those numbers are staggering, and overwhelmingly positive for our nonprofit sector," said Kevin Moore, MPA, vice president of Stewardship and Regional Affiliates. "Research also indicates that donors who are engaged and informed on community needs will increase the impact of their charitable giving. With this in mind, we established the 'Donor Insider' program."

During quarterly "Donor Insider" sessions, Foundation staff review recently approved grants and provide background on how decisions were reached. The staff also reviews projects that were deemed worthy but denied, or partially supported, due to lack of unrestricted funding. "We firmly believe this regular dialogue with donor advisors will reduce duplications in charitable support, as well as generate increased support for priority needs," Moore added. "'Donor Insider' sessions are a two-way street of communication where donors can share their insights on what is and is not working in our community."



*Mike Batchelor, Kevin Moore, Shiloh Turner and David González met with donors at the first "Donor Insider" meeting to discuss community needs.*

To learn more or to attend a "Donor Insider" session, call Kevin Moore at (814) 454-0843.

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## Charitable Gift Annuities Make a Difference to Nonprofits

The Erie Community Foundation is collaborating with nonprofit organizations to introduce the idea of a Charitable Gift Annuity to potential donors. "To date, a handful of nonprofits have brought their boards and top donors to The Foundation where we host a conversation on this type of giving, and we are seeing successes already," said Kevin Moore, vice president of Stewardship and Regional Affiliates. A Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract where a gift (\$10,000 or higher) provides an opportunity to make a significant financial impact on a favored charity while also securing a lifetime income.

Jim Steber, director of Planned Giving and Community Support for Erie Homes for Children and Adults (EHCA) has been using the Charitable Gift Annuity concept as a fundraising tool with EHCA donors. "The Erie Community Foundation has tremendous purchasing power given the size of its endowment. As an agency partner, we are able to take advantage of that power and help our donors accomplish their philanthropic goals for Erie Homes for Children and Adults. It's a wonderful win-win-win for our organization, The Erie Community Foundation, and our donors."

The National Committee on Gift Annuities establishes the payment rates, which are based upon the annuitant(s) age(s) at the time the gift annuity contract is established. "Donors can lock in a rate and during uncertain economic markets, that is a true benefit," Moore added. Donors must be 60 years of age or older to participate, and a spouse may be included as a second annuitant. To learn more, contact Kevin Moore at (814) 454-0843.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**FEBRUARY 24**

Nonprofit Partnership—Technology on a Shoestring Budget at Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies

**APRIL 8**

Grant Writing Workshop

**MAY 4**

Human Service & Community Development Grant Application Deadline

**MAY 9**

Mack Society Event

**MAY 19**

Regional Affiliate Retreat

**JULY 8**

Grant Writing Workshop

**JULY 30**

Scholarship Reception

**AUGUST 3**

Health & Environment Grant Application Deadline

**SEPTEMBER 30**

Grant Writing Workshop

**OCTOBER 16**

Education Grant Application Deadline

## Future Philanthropists

The Gannon University Alpha Gamma Delta sorority sisters recently took their chapter picture in front of The Erie Community Foundation's acorn. "Because our mascot is a squirrel, the oversized acorn was perfect for our picture," said Devin Stiger, chapter president. The mission of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, which was established at Gannon in 1976, is to "Inspire the Woman, Impact the World." "We are involved in many philanthropic events at Gannon, but our main charitable focus is to support diabetes research," Stiger added. "How ironic



that our mission of philanthropy mirrors that of The Erie Community Foundation, which helps many nonprofits!"



## Scholarships Online



Mary Nelson (center) established an engineering scholarship in memory of her father, who was an engineer. At the grant reception, she had the opportunity to meet the students and their families.

Each year, The Erie Community Foundation hosts an annual scholarship reception for donors to meet students. All scholarships housed at The Foundation are posted on our website. As a community service, we are using our website

to be a resource for students. If you have a scholarship which you would like included on our website, please e-mail the details and contact information to Jayne Randall, executive assistant and scholarship coordinator, at [jrandall@eriecommunityfoundation.org](mailto:jrandall@eriecommunityfoundation.org).

## News Updates



Tim Shuttleworth

### The Erie Community Foundation Announces Board Appointments

**Tim Shuttleworth**, president and CEO of Eriez Magnetics, was recently appointed to the board of The Erie Community Foundation. Tim joined Eriez Magnetics in 1994 as vice president of the International Division. In 2004, he was named president and CEO. Prior to joining Eriez, he was employed by Litton Industries as director of Sales & Marketing, and by Shuttleworth, Inc., where he held positions in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland and Belgium. A graduate of Indiana University, Tim earned his master's degree in Business Administration

with honors from the University of Notre Dame. Presently, Shuttleworth serves as chairman of the Manufacturer & Business Association, vice-chairman of the Saint Vincent Health System Board of Trustees and a board member of the International Institute of Erie.

The Erie Community Foundation Board of Trustees also approved the appointments of **B.J. Lechner** as board chairman; **Robert G. Dwyer, Esq.** as secretary; **Edward P. Junker, III** as treasurer, and **Michael L. Batchelor** as president.

**Shiloh Turner, MPA**, vice president of Programs, was recently published in the January-February 2009 grant watch report HEALTH AFFAIRS. Her report, entitled *Inform, Influence, Evaluate: The Power Of State Public Opinion Polls*, concludes that a combination of state-level health assessment surveys and public opinion data provides a powerful tool for health policy development.



B.J. Lechner



Robert G. Dwyer, Esq.



Edward P. Junker, III



Shiloh Turner, MPA

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**Russell S. Warner, Esq.**

**Michael L. Batchelor**  
*President*

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Council of Foundations Seal of Approval



The Erie  
Community  
Foundation

*Helping today... Shaping tomorrow.*

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Cheryl & Tom Vicary, Erie Women's  
Fund Member and Long Time Donors

"Since we returned to Erie about 20 years ago, we have been very impressed with the support the community gives, particularly to social service agencies that are so much needed in our community. The Erie Community Foundation is a wonderful vehicle for our giving; it helps connect us to community needs."

"The Erie Community Foundation has been wonderful to Mercy Center for Women. They encouraged us to build our endowment in 2004. They gave us ideas and were behind us all the way. They actually changed our way of thinking to be good stewards of our money and to continuously find ways to secure our future."

Chris Tombaugh, Director of  
Mercy Center for Women



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