

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF JOINING EWF?

You are part of a women-led philanthropic group whose mission is to **Empower Women and Families**. Members have the opportunity to meet the needs in their community through collective giving that has a direct, positive impact on Erie. In addition, EWF members gain access to social and educational events while engaging with other community-minded women.

WHY WOULDN'T I JUST DONATE DIRECTLY TO MY FAVORITE CHARITIES, INSTEAD OF GIVING TO EWF?

Your charitable dollars will go further when combined with the gifts of others. Joining EWF makes you part of an empowering group of women whose collective efforts create powerful change.

CAN ONLY WOMEN JOIN?

EWF is intended to be a giving circle for women. We welcome anyone interested in other giving vehicles to reach out to the Erie Community Foundation.

WHAT HAS EWF ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS?

The Erie Women's Fund's annual major grant cycle now provides \$100,000 to a local nonprofit each year. Recent recipients of this grant include Emma's Footprints, the Mercy Center for Women, and the Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA). Thanks to a generous estate gift, we also offer the Furchak Ferko grant cycle, which began granting in 2021. In total, EWF has provided over \$1.1MM in grants to organizations that Empower Women and Families. For more information on our grantmaking, see our website, eriewomensfund.org.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR MY DONATION?

EWF accepts membership gifts year-round, and each membership is good for one year. Once you join, the date on which your donation is received will become your anniversary date.

I WANT TO JOIN ON ERIE GIVES DAY – HOW DOES THAT WORK?

When you join on Erie Gives Day, your gift is eligible for a prorated match through our "Bonus Bucks" program. Simply log on to www.ErieGives.org and search for Erie Women's Fund. It's that easy!

For information on donating via check, reach out to Olivia Burgess at oburgess@eriecommunityfoundation.org

How Do I Get Involved?

Step 1: Become a member!

The first step is to become a member! EWF has four levels of individual annual membership: Platinum (\$2500 or more), Gold (\$1000), Silver (\$500), and Bronze (\$250).

Step 2: Volunteer on one of our committees!

If your interest is:	You might like:
Learning about Community Issues	Education
Selecting Great Projects for EWF to Support	Grants
Attracting and Retaining Smart, Engaged Women (just like you!)	Membership
Planning Interesting and Worthwhile Events	Events

If you don't have time to volunteer, you can absolutely join EWF without a time commitment (see Step 1, Membership Levels). We understand our supporters are THE most important part of our success, and sometimes you just cannot do it all. We encourage you to be as involved as you are able.



WDP	The Women Driving Philanthropy Committee plans our annual women-only golf outing, coordinating sponsorships and logistics to raise money for our grantmaking. 2023 Chair: Katie Ruffa, Email: Kathryn.Ruffa@Northwest.com
EDUCATION	The Education Committee is responsible for creating educational events that empower our members to be more informed community members and grantmakers. 2023 Chair: Sheila Sterrett, Email: sheila.sterrett@yahoo.com
GRANTS	The Grants Committee is responsible for running our annual grant cycles, requesting and reviewing grant proposals, and tracking outcomes with our grantees. 2023 Chair: Kathy Stearns, Email: klstearns@yahoo.com
MEMBERSHIP	The Membership Committee is responsible for recruiting, orienting and retaining our membership. 2023 Chair: Marybeth Smialek (contact Olivia Burgess, oburgess@eriecommunityfoundation.org)
EVENTS	The Events Committee is responsible for planning and executing all Erie Women's Fund signature events. 2023 Chair: Jennie Hagerty, Email: jhagerty@mcwerie.org
STEERING	The Steering Committee of the Erie Women's Fund is responsible for the strategic direction of EWF and is comprised of the chairs and vice chairs of EWF's committees. 2023 Chair: Lauren Bauer, Email: lauren.bauer@ml.com