

Frequently Asked Questions about Erie Women's Fund (EWF)

What is the benefit of joining EWF?

You are part of a women-led philanthropic group whose mission is to increase awareness about our community, and use that awareness to drive positive change.

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. Join EWF to become part of an empowering group of women whose collective efforts create powerful change.

Can only women join?

EWF is intended to be a giving vehicle for women.

I have sons. Does EWF only care about women and girls?

Our mission is to "Empower Women and Families" – ALL members of families.

What has EWF accomplished in the last 5 years?

Our first major grant helped establish Erie Together, a joint venture between the Mercyhurst Civic Institute, GECAC and United Way of Erie County. By uniquely addressing poverty at both the individual and systemic levels, Erie Together helps low income families find their way out of poverty. In 2018, our grant to NAMI provided a free six-week educational program for parents and caregivers of children, age eight and under, who are experiencing the signs and symptoms of mental illness. We have made grants to more than a dozen other local nonprofits - for a complete list, please see the back of this FAQ.

How do I get involved?

(Step 1) The first step is to become a member! EWF has four levels of individual annual membership: *Platinum (\$2500)*, *Gold (\$1000)*, *Silver (\$500)*, and *Bronze (\$250)*. A *Group Membership* enables ten women (or less) to join together for \$1000 annually.

(Step 2) Volunteer on one of our four committees!

If Your Interest Is:

Learning About Community Issues
Selecting Great Projects for EWF to Support
Attracting and Retaining Smart, Engaged Women (just like you!)
Sharing Exciting EWF News and Updates
Planning Interesting and Worthwhile Events

You Might Like:

Education
Grants
Membership
Out Reach and Social Media
Event Logistics

(Step 3) 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.

What is the deadline for my donation?

EWF operates on a calendar-year basis. Any donation received by December 31 is used to determine the following year's Major Grant value. Memberships established after August 1 are effective through the following year.

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. Simply log on to www.ErieGives.org and search for Erie Women's Fund. It's that easy!

Full Listing of Erie Women's Fund Grants 2008- 2018
\$485,682 in Total

-  Achievement Center
-  Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies
-  Crime Victim Center
-  Erie County Technical School Foundation
-  Early Connections, Inc.
-  EmergyCare
-  Erie DAWN
-  General McLane Foundation
-  Habitat for Humanity
-  Hamot Health Foundation
-  House of Mercy
-  International Institute of Erie
-  Mercy Center for Women
-  Mercyhurst University and Civic Institute (Erie Together)
-  Millcreek Education Foundation
-  Multicultural Community Resource Center
-  Mystic Mountain Training Center
-  NAMI of PA, Erie County Affiliate
-  The Porreco College
-  The Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania
-  SafeNet
-  Salvation Army
-  Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
-  St. Martin Center, Inc.
-  The Upper Room