

Albion Area Fair Inc. • ANNA Shelter • ArtsErie • Asbury Woods Partnership • Barber National Institute • Bayfront East Side Taskforce (BEST) • Bayfront Maritime Center • Bayfront NATO • MLK Center • Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP • Bethany Outreach Center • Blended Spirits Ranch • Boys Women's Services • Boy Scouts of America – French Creek Council • Café CelebrateErie • Commodore Perry Chapter of the Military Order of the Erie Legion • Community Health Net • Community Shelter Services • Corry Area Historical Society • Corry Community Development Corporation • Corry Salvation Army • County of Erie • Crime Victim Center of Erie County • Dafmark Dance Theater • Downtown Edinboro

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14



Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network • SNOOPS Neighborhood Association • Stairways Behavioral Health Center City Arts • StARTup Incubator Inc. • Tit Township • Sunshine Group of Erie • Tickets for Kids Charities • Twilight Wish Foundation • Union City Community House Association • Union City Family Support Center • Union City Pride • United Way of Erie County • Urban Erie Community Development Corporation • Voices for Independence • WQLN • Washington Township • Waterford Borough • Waterford Community Fair Association • Waterford Township • Wayne Township • West Erie County Emergency Management Agency • YMCA of Erie • Young People's Chorus of Erie



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From the Board Chairman & Executive Director

Although ECGRA was established in 2008, more than 85% of the \$27,964,967 in grants and loans we've awarded has been invested since 2011. The past three years not only mark our most impactful in grantmaking, they also denote our evolution in organizational identity as we've aligned ourselves with the best traditions of community development: collaboration, empowerment, and impact measurement.

ECGRA's investments support social, economic, and cultural programs and institutions that are shaping how leaders, entrepreneurs, and residents view our region and will act for Erie's future. We maintain the highest standards of transparency via community relations and through presentations to stakeholders and reports, such as this one. When researching prospective grants or funding areas, we practice academic rigor and perform benchmarking.

We also reflect and revise our strategic plan to meet the community's needs and aspirations.

Erie County's ability to plan and implement in the arena of community development is surpassed only by its zeal to reinvent the region. We are proud to be one of many competitive factors that set Erie apart and we embrace Erie's ever-evolving landscape.

We dedicate this year's annual report to ECGRA's board of directors. These volunteers spend an average of 90 hours per year carefully deliberating every initiative and how every dollar is spent. Thank you, colleagues, for your enduring service, without which we would have never accomplished so much.

In service for Erie,



Charles J. Peters
Chairman



Perry N. Wood
Executive Director



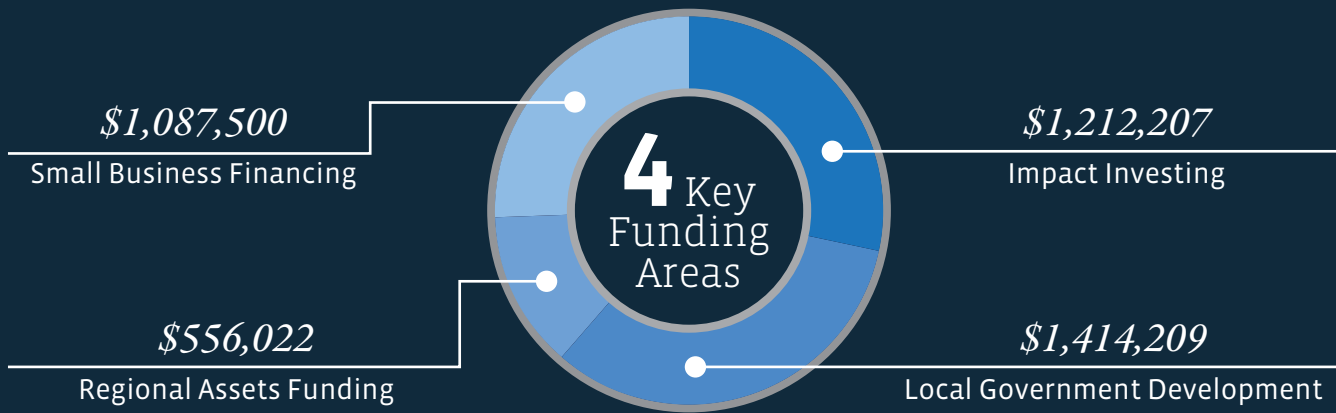
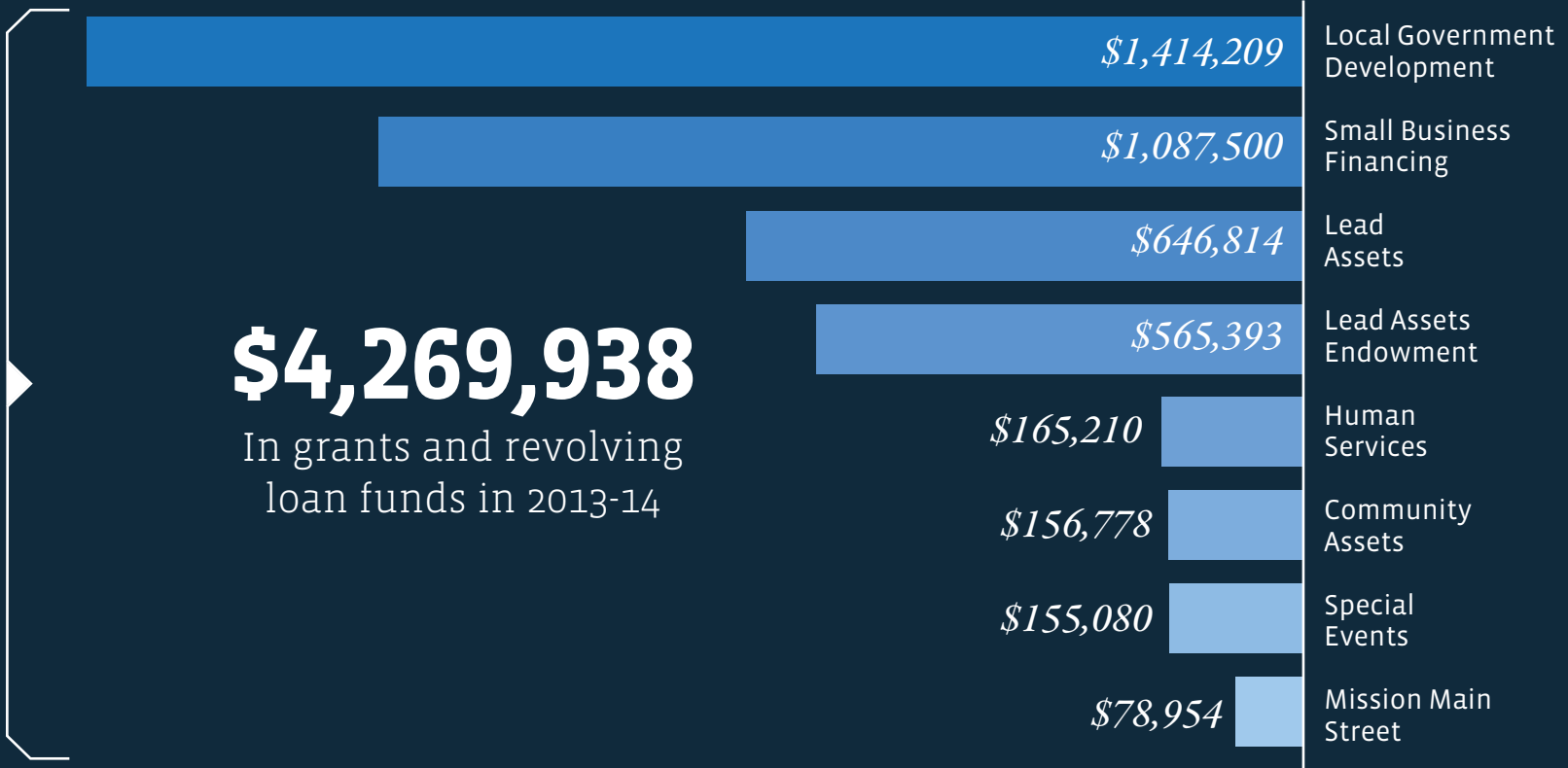
Financial Report



Fireworks light up the U.S. Brig *Niagara* as Lead Asset the Flagship Niagara League hosts a sold-out crowd at its annual Mariner's Ball. flagshipniagara.org

ASSETS	
Checking Account	\$30,047.00
Savings Account	\$12,616,618.17
Accounts Receivable	\$1,300,000.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$7,485.84
TOTAL ASSETS	\$13,954,151.01

EQUITY	
Beginning Balance	\$11,982,828.58
Net Income	\$1,971,322.43
Grants Issued	\$3,469,937.95
Community Assets	(\$156,778.00)
Human Services	(\$165,209.52)
Lead Assets	(\$646,814.00)
Lead Assets Endowment	(\$565,393.00)
Local Government Development	(\$1,414,209.43)
Mission Main Street	(\$78,954.00)
Small Business Financing	(\$287,500.00)
Special Events	(\$155,080.00)
TOTAL EQUITY	\$13,954,151.01







Erie County Lead Assets

In 2013, more than 1,176,539 residents and visitors experienced culture, heritage, and recreation through Erie County's Lead Assets.

In 2011, ECGRA named nine Erie County Lead Assets: ArtsErie, Erie Art Museum, Erie County Historical Society, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Zoological Society, expERIEnce Children's Museum, Flagship Niagara League, and the Institute for Arts & Culture at Mercyhurst University. Recognized and funded for their critical role in boosting vitality and vibrancy in our community, these arts, cultural, and heritage organizations collectively received \$646,814 in 2013-14.

ECGRA is committed to helping sustain the Lead Assets in perpetuity. In 2012, ECGRA created the Erie County Lead Assets endowment fund within The Erie Community Foundation with just under \$7 million in investments—the fourth largest donation made to the foundation in its 75-year history. As of April 2014, the Lead Asset endowment has grown to \$8.3 million.

Lead Asset the Erie Playhouse produced "The Spirit of Erie," a signature event of the Perry 200 Commemorative Celebration. erieplayhouse.org



\$1,414,209 to Municipalities

contiguous with Presque Isle Downs & Casino

For four years, **Erie County** residents have relished zero tax increase while benefiting from uncompromised services. Some services, such as those offered at Erie County libraries, have improved with the use of gaming funds. Main and branch libraries now boast increased accessibility and broadened free and discounted offerings, including technology training, resumé services, early childhood education, adult literacy, and cultural events.

Used much like a community center, the **Greene Township** municipal building not only houses official offices, it also functions as a food pantry, social hall, and venue for public and private meetings. In 2013, gaming revenue funded the purchase and installation of seven rooftop heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units improving energy efficiency of the 60-year-old building.

McKean Township puts gaming revenue to work in one key area: public safety. Officials recently purchased a fire engine with a 1,500 gallons-per-minute water reservoir. The fire engine serves McKean Borough and Township and supports the Perry Hi-Way, Edinboro, West Ridge, and Fairview fire departments. Funds also helped to refurbish a second engine.

Guests of Presque Isle Downs and Casino can compound traffic in **Millcreek Township's** already bustling communities. Yet, the township consistently receives AAA's most prestigious traffic safety award thanks to Corporal Anthony Chimera who is retained and trained with gaming funds.

In July 2013, **Summit Township** officials relocated to a newly built facility at 1230 Townhall Road West. The building encompasses business offices for all municipal employees and hosts regional and Summit Township events. Recently, officials purchased a large collection of historical documents and photographs. The relics will soon be on display as a historical archive in the building's multipurpose room.

With gaming funds, **Waterford Township** officials have transformed three miles in roads from dirt to tar and chip: Elkcreek Road, Lane Road, and Flatts Road. These developments not only improve drivability and safety, but also increase home and land values. Plans are underway to recover two more roads.

Discovered among historical photos purchased by Summit Township, this image depicts a neighborhood picnic held on Cherry Street Extension when it was a dirt road.



The November 2013 event was standing room only.

Nationally recognized expert Richard Bendis presents on the entrepreneurial climate and innovation-based economic development.

ECGRA's Perry Wood (far right) takes a break from brainstorming urban innovation with (L-R) Carmen Dawson, CEO of Adreamz Institute, Bill Generett, president of Urban Innovation 21, and Andre Horton, Erie County councilman.

Ignite Erie™

Ignite Erie™: A Day of Innovation for Entrepreneurs was envisioned to galvanize our region's private sector. Co-hosted by ECGRA and Adreamz Institute and presented in collaboration with 26 agencies, Ignite Erie brought together more than 350 policy makers, leaders in economic development and education, funders, and entrepreneurs

for training and networking. Speakers included Richard Bendis, innovation and technology-based economic development leader, and Ray Leach, entrepreneur motivator and small business ecosystem expert. Ignite Erie presentations are downloadable from ECGRA.org; key speakers' remarks can be viewed on YouTube.

Special thanks to these collaborators who helped make Ignite Erie a reality:

Richard Bendis, founder and president of Innovation America; *innovationamerica.us*

Ray Leach, CEO of JumpStart, Inc.; *jumpstartinc.org*

William Generett, president and CEO of Urban Innovation 21; *urbaninnovation21.org*

Dr. Balaji Rajagopalan, director of the Sam and Irene Black School of Business at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; *psbehrend.psu.edu*

Adreamz Institute
BKD CPAs and Advisors
Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP
Blue Tree Allied Angels
Booker T. Washington Center
Bridgeway Capital
Ciright Systems
Community Capital Development Corporation
Destination Erie
Edinboro University
Enterprise Development Fund

Gannon Small Business Development Center
The Innovation Collaborative
Jefferson Educational Society
Knox Law Firm
MacDonald Illig Attorneys
Northwest Savings Bank
Penn Venture Partners
Phoenix Cosmopolitan Group
RBC Wealth Management
Technology Council of Northwest PA
TriMech Solutions



3 Economic Development Partners

Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA

Enterprise Development Fund

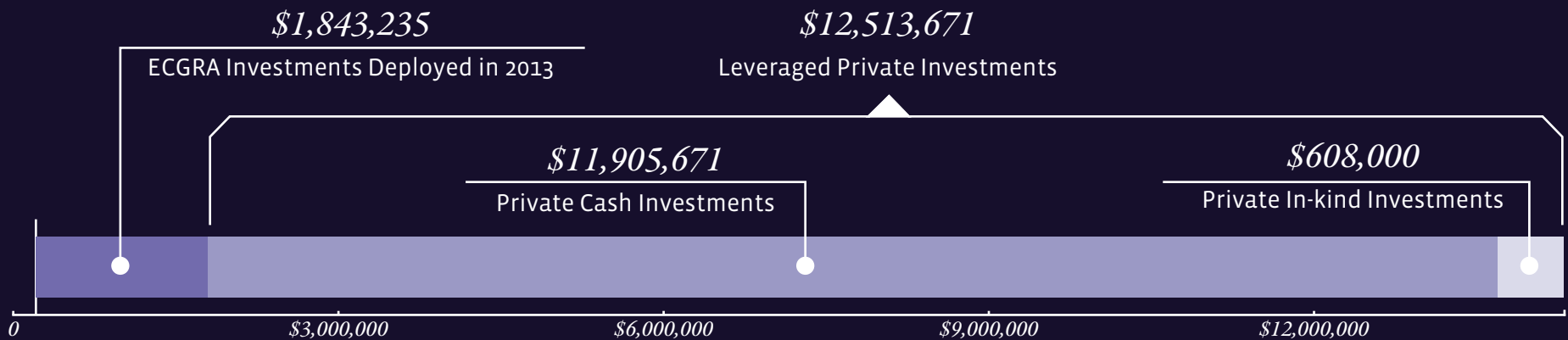
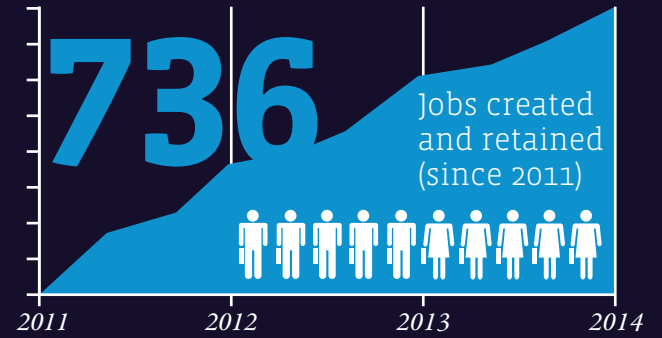
Gannon University Small Business Development Center



9 Funded start-ups, small businesses, & manufacturers in **SIX** industries*

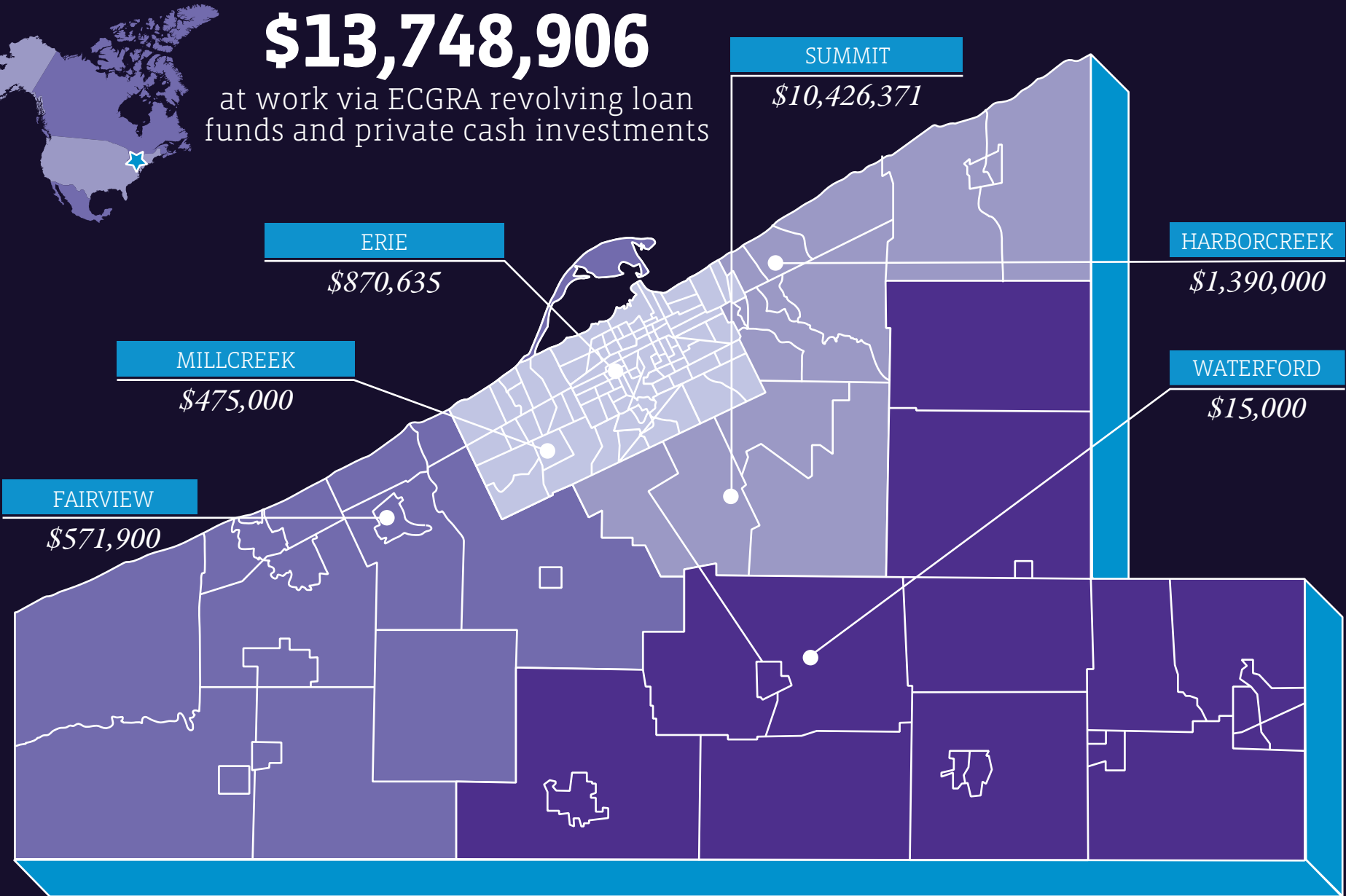
- SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
- AUTOMOTIVE SALES
- HEALTHCARE
- CONSUMER SERVICES
- NEW PRODUCT DESIGN
- NATURAL RESOURCE REFINING

*in 2013



\$13,748,906

at work via ECGRA revolving loan funds and private cash investments



\$155,080 in Special Events Grants

ECGRA-funded special events drove 1.1 million visitors to Erie County in 2013!



EVENTS	ORGANIZATIONS	GRANTS
8 Great Tuesdays	Erie-Western PA Port Authority	\$6,985
10th Annual Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival	Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival	\$2,084
30th Annual Drum Corps International Competition	Lake Erie Fanfare Inc.	\$2,421
55th Annual Nutcracker	Lake Erie Ballet	\$2,724
87th Annual North East Community Fair	North East Community Fair Association	\$585
A Christmas Carol, The Wizard of Oz	Saint Boniface Players	\$1,355
Albion Area Fair	Albion Area Fair Inc.	\$11,303
Alumnae Dinner, Chances Are, Miles for Mercy 5K, Purse & Pearl Luncheon, Road Rally, Women Making History, Wreath Sale	Mercy Center for Women	\$2,325
Annual Golf Tournament	Boy Scouts of America - French Creek Council	\$398
ArborEAT'em, Arts at the Arboretum, Full Moon Dance Party, Movies in the Park, Winterfest	Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF)	\$1,125
Art Show, Beast on the Bay, Christmas Ball, Garden Party, Ladies Only Luncheon, Shillelagh Golf Tournament	Barber National Institute	\$13,389
Beer on the Bay Craft Brew Festival	Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	\$1,874
CelebrateErie	CAFÉ	\$15,687
Dan Rice Days Festival	Girard Borough	\$360
Discover Presque Isle, Three Mile Isle, Sunset Music Series	Presque Isle Partnership	\$7,830
Downtown Erie Bike Nights, Block Parties, Downtown D'Lights	Erie Downtown Partnership	\$2,500
Edinboro Highland Games	Edinboro University	\$2,068
Erie County Fair	Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	\$14,961
Erie Irish Festival	Saint Patrick Church	\$2,124
Gathering at French Creek Family Festival	Union City Pride Inc.	\$900
German Heritage Festival	Lake Erie Fanfare Inc.	\$2,148
Perry 200	Jefferson Educational Society	\$49,500
Russian Troika Festival	Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity	\$1,778
"The Waves" Dance Production	Dafmark Dance Theater	\$900
Waterford Community Fair	Waterford Community Fair Association	\$3,150
WinterFest, CorryFest	Corry Community Development Corporation	\$2,356
Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival	Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	\$2,250

Crowds of more than 5,000 have enjoyed 10 years of the Edinboro Highland Games featuring an array of competitions, world-class musicians, fine gift vendors, and the gathering of Scottish clans. edinboro.edu

\$156,778 in Community Assets Grants

In 2013, ECGRA's Community Assets drove more than 25,000 visitors to Erie County!



ORGANIZATIONS	PROGRAMS
Albion Area Fair Inc.	\$9,362 to repair the roof over the homemaking building and to lay drainage pipe around barns to prevent flood damage
Bayfront Maritime Center	\$9,840 for the Cardboard Boat Regatta and Presque Isle Bay Messabout that raise funds for alternative, after-school, and adaptive education
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival	\$7,920 for the 10th anniversary festival showcasing grassroots art and music in the unique spirit of Appalachian culture and tradition
Edinboro Area Historical Society	\$640 for entertainment at the 2014 Maple Syrup Festival
Erie Yesterday	\$2,240 to launch the 2014 DiscovERIE Passport and the Teaching Out of the Box initiative, and for marketing that benefits all 20+ member organizations
Fairview Area Historical Society	\$800 to purchase a laptop for use during presentations and when conducting outreach programs
Gannon University - Erie Chamber Orchestra	\$12,240 in support of the 36th season of the orchestra
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	\$10,800 to replace the roof of the bank barn, an 1800s historical landmark in Edinboro
Harborcreek Historical Society	\$1,024 in support of their 20th anniversary celebration
Jefferson Educational Society	\$4,092 for Global Summit V featuring multiple renowned speakers and educational lectures
Lake Erie Fanfare Inc.	\$12,600 to alleviate student and event costs associated with the 31st Drum & Bugle Corps season and Lake Erie Fanfare competition
Mead Park Association	\$12,120 for safe, low-maintenance playground equipment at the Corry park
North East Community Fair Association	\$1,841 for the 88th annual agricultural fair showcasing locally grown fruit, handicrafts, baked goods, and floral displays
North East Historical Society	\$3,200 for energy-efficient windows
Northwest PA Vietnam Veterans Memorial Inc.	\$10,800 to complete phase two of the memorial at Memorial Park in Erie
Preservation Erie	\$9,387 to construct a dog park at McClelland Park in Erie
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	\$11,400 in support of the mural-painting program connecting local artists with at-risk children to beautify Historic Little Italy
Stairways Behavioral Health	\$11,280 for the continued expansion of the Center City Arts campus in Erie with an emphasis on the community garden and Bhutanese cultural center
StARTup Incubator Inc.	\$10,320 to support Basement Transmissions, a youth-oriented cultural center in Erie
Waterford Community Fair Association	\$7,040 for necessary repairs and safety improvements to the fairgrounds
Young People's Chorus of Erie	\$7,832 for tuition assistance so that every child has the opportunity to participate in this high-quality youth choral program

Portions of the bank barn's hand-hewn frame and joinery were exposed to the elements. Now in phase two of repairs, the barn serves as the architectural icon of Goodell Gardens' beautiful and historic 78-acre educational site. goodellgardens.org

\$78,954 in Mission Main Street Grants

More than 17,500 visitors and 105,000 locals enjoy Erie Downtown Partnership's street- and small business-centric events. eriedowntown.com



“Main Street” has been at the heart of America’s economy for centuries. It is where our ancestors erected storefronts, our families celebrated milestones, and our neighbors met to socialize. Today, historic business districts have been abandoned for malls. As a result, our once-bustling main streets have fallen into disrepair.

In cities, boroughs, and towns where main streets are well

maintained, there is a sense of vibrancy and civic pride. Studies show that improving main streets can drive job creation and promote tourism—two critical economic growth components. Working countywide to galvanize small businesses, renew historic structures, and bolster special events, ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants deployed \$78,954 in seven revitalization projects along commercial corridors.

GRANTEES	GRANTS	PROJECTS
Corry Community Development Corporation	\$6,500	Beautify Center Street and purchase and maintain signage that will direct traffic to Center Street and promote downtown small businesses
Downtown North East Inc.	\$15,000	Paint mural on 17 West Main Street to welcome visitors to downtown North East and Grape County Marketplace
Erie Downtown Partnership	\$12,500	Update Downtown Erie master plan to include revitalization strategies and economic development tactics
Lawrence Park Township	\$7,754	Purchase benches, planters, outdoor map and message center, and trash and recycling receptacles to be placed along Main Street
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network	\$7,200	Streetscape improvements along West 18th Street, including sidewalk construction and installation of 16 solar lights in the rain gardens
Union City Community House Association	\$15,000	Event management for Community Days, Christmas on Main, farmers market, and others; construction of community pavilion; purchase and maintain streetscape improvements, including windows, foliage, and awnings along Route 8/Main Street
Waterford Borough	\$15,000	Install a community gazebo for Municipal Park facing Main Street



An illustration of the North East mural project to be painted by local muralist Ehren Knapp this spring.

\$165,210 in Human Services Grants



Caseworker Pam Biroscak (right) uses a new computer to help Erie DAWN participant Carol update her resumé. eriedawn.info



Former Marine Robert Paterson combats PTSD with the Downtown Y's latest yoga therapy. ymcaerie.org



Kids learn how to cook healthy meals for themselves in an updated Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network kitchen. ssjnn.org

*Through a meaningful partnership with The Erie Community Foundation, ECGRA is helping human services organizations today and is significantly impacting Erie Vital Signs to assure a better tomorrow.
erievitalsigns.org.*

Bayfront East Side Taskforce received \$9,592 to establish a “community tool shed” to be used for neighborhood clean-up days, home improvement projects, and community gardening initiatives.

The **Benedictine Sisters of Erie Inc.** used \$21,829 to replace outdated, unsafe flooring in the St. Benedict Center classrooms, multipurpose rooms, and hallways.

Boro Women’s Services offers life skills training and wellness education to students and parents. Using a \$675 grant, they are equipping volunteers to help broaden their impact.

The **Bosnian Islamic Community of Erie Inc.** received \$10,000 to repair the roof of its community center used to maintain the culture of the Bosnian people, teach Bosnian and English, hold elections, and host youth and community events.

With \$10,000 in grants, **Community of Caring** renovated bathrooms at its emergency shelter, restored the porch at its transitional

housing unit, and increased security at both the shelter and the Intergenerational Family Support Center.

Community Health Net received \$19,000 to repair an elevator at its State Street facility where staff members serve more than 40,000 primary care patients and approximately 1,500 vision care patients each year.

With \$10,000 in funds, **Erie DAWN** is replacing end-of-life technology and communication equipment in order to better provide support services and care to homeless women and their children.

With \$15,000 in grant monies, **Nurturing Hearts** provides mentoring and life skills education to at-risk females ages 10-18.

SafeNet received \$15,000 for technology upgrades that are equipping staff members to end domestic violence, affirm human dignity, and deliver sanctuary and support to victims of domestic violence. SafeNet also received \$10,000 for high-efficiency LED lighting.

Using a \$7,500 grant, **The Sight Center** purchased a new vehicle and is providing escorted, door-through-door transportation to 150 Erie County adults and children who are legally blind—just under 4,000 trips per year.

With a \$15,000 grant, the **Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network** is helping low-income residents repair their homes, bring their homes into code compliance, and obtain or retain homeowner’s insurance. The Sisters Network also received \$7,500 to replace two dilapidated stoves used to feed Erie’s hungry adults and children and to teach kids to cook.

Twilight Wish Foundation received \$5,000 to purchase two beach wheelchairs for use at Presque Isle State Park.

The **YMCA of Greater Erie** received \$9,114 to launch “Yoga for Vets” serving veterans and their family members of all ages who currently struggle with post-traumatic stress or anxiety disorders.



Board Members & Ex-officios

Dr. Lynn K. Corder, Retired Superintendent, Northwestern School District

Tony A. Logue, Attorney

Michael J. Paris, Owner, Paris Homes

Charles J. Peters, Managing Partner, Altair Property Management

David S. Sample, Owner, Corry Lumber Company Inc.

Barbara H. Steele, Senior Accountant, GECAC

David H. Yapple, Owner/Operator, Pine Avenue and Lawrence Park Dairy Queens

Jay A. Breneman (ex-officio), Member, Erie County Council

Sue Ellen Pasquale (ex-officio), Manager of Accounting, County of Erie

Special thanks to:

Jennifer D. Hill, Director of Development, Erie Art Museum; 2007-2013 ECGRA board member

Ronald J. Jones, Division Administrator, Saint Vincent Medical Group; 2011-2013 ECGRA board member

Denee M. Breter, Secretary/Administrator, Erie County Council; 2010-2013 ECGRA ex-officio

Joseph F. Giles, former member, Erie County Council; 2011-2013 ECGRA ex-officio

Advisors & Grants Reviewers

2013 MISSION MAIN STREET GRANTS REVIEWERS

Caleb Pifer, Executive Director, Erie County Historical Society

John Onorato, Director, Northwest Regional Office at Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

2013 COMMUNITY ASSETS GRANTS REVIEWERS

Amanda Brown-Sissem, Executive Director, ArtsErie

Shantel Hilliard, Associate Director, Booker T. Washington Center

CORRY NEIGHBORHOOD RENEWAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Patrick Migliaccio, Mayor, City of Corry

Alex Gernovich, Councilman, City of Corry

Brad Allen, Coordinator, Corry Neighborhood Initiative

Jeremy Bloeser, Executive Director, Bayfront East Side Taskforce

Richard Novotny, Executive Director, Erie County Redevelopment Authority

David Sample, Vice Chairman, ECGRA Board of Directors

ECGRA STAFF

Perry N. Wood, Executive Director

Diane K. Kuvshinikov, Executive Assistant

Many thanks to Amanda P. Burlingham and Burim Loshaj for bringing the figures in this report to life and revealing how ECGRA Grant Money Works.



The 2013 ECGRA 4th of July Fireworks lit up four communities across Erie County.



\$28 MILLION invested
to galvanize nonprofits toward
economic and community
development and to
elevate **ERIE COUNTY**

5240 Knowledge Parkway, Suite A | Erie, PA 16510 | 814.897.2690 | ECGRA.org



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority



/ErieCountyGamingRevenueAuthority



@ECGRA814