Grantee: Waterford Community Fair Association  Grant: $3,600
Project: Expand service to its 6,300 entrants
Impact investing is not a new concept. The Rockefeller, George Gund, and F.B. Heron foundations have been investing funds to drive social, cultural, and environmental change and maximize financial returns since the 1990s. Through impact investing, these groups have been able to realize larger gains toward their mission. This movement has recently caught fire and is now being adopted by foundations, brokers, philanthropists, and thought leaders around the world.

In 2014, the ECGRA board of directors adopted an Impact Investing Policy and began rethinking how it put gaming funds to work in Erie County. At a time when financial returns are generally most highly regarded, we're making targeted investments to change the life trajectory of residents in local communities. In Corry, we're piloting a neighborhood renewal initiative to elevate blighted neighborhoods (pg. 6). Across the county, we piloted a summer jobs program for disconnected youth (pg. 22). In our cities and boroughs, we're fostering small business growth (pg. 14) and main street renewal (pg. 8). And throughout our county, we’re igniting innovation and entrepreneurship and empowering nonprofits.

In the past 12 months, we’ve learned three very important lessons: productive collaborations between residents, local government, and business can vastly improve communities; relatively small, focused amounts of funding can positively shape the lives of Erie County residents; and looking beyond short-term gains and focusing on sustainable, systemic change are key to transforming Erie County.

We look forward to reporting short- and long-term outcomes as we continue to make impact investments in our community.

In service,

David S. Sample, Chairman  Perry N. Wood, Executive Director
### Financial Report

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
<td>$27,408.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Account</td>
<td>$13,168,436.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$1,350,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$7,610.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,553,455.06</strong></td>
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</table>

#### Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$13,954,151.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$599,304.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Issued</td>
<td>$4,729,588.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Assets</td>
<td>($172,542.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corry Neighborhood Renewal Pilot</td>
<td>($20,000.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>($69,208.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Assets</td>
<td>($970,217.59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Assets Endowment</td>
<td>($1,373,646.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Development</td>
<td>($1,383,095.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Main Street</td>
<td>($77,530.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</td>
<td>($242,987.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Financing</td>
<td>($150,000.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>($160,362.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Jobs &amp; More Pilot</td>
<td>($110,000.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,553,455.06</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Impact Neighboorhoods & Local Communities**

**Impact Municipalities**

**Impact Small Business**

**Impact Quality of Place**

**Impact Education & Youth**

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Erie County Council establishes ECGRA as an economic development financing authority

$15M

Makes initial investment of $3.5 million in Local Government Development; $15 million invested to date
TOTAL INVESTED BY IMPACT

- Local Government Development: $1,383,095
- Lead Assets Endowment: $1,373,646
- Lead Assets: $970,217
- Multi-Municipal Collaboration: $242,987
- Community Assets: $172,542
- Special Events: $160,362
- Small Business Financing: $150,000
- Summer Jobs & More Program: $110,000
- Mission Main Street: $77,530
- Human Services: $69,208
- Corry Neighborhood Renewal Pilot: $20,000

Additional Information:
- Receives President’s Award from County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania for 2010.
- Creates Erie Innovation Fund in collaboration with Ben Franklin Technology Partners and commits $700,000 to catalyze tech startups and manufacturers; eight small businesses fortified to date.
“Successful revitalization creates a neighborhood whose conditions help enable all of the residents to succeed economically and socially.”

Sean Zielenbach, author of The Art of Revitalization: Improving Conditions in Distressed Inner-City Neighborhoods
IMPACT

NEIGHBORHOODS & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

2014 PILOT: Over the past two decades, the city of Corry has experienced the dual decline of its housing stock and its tax base. Closed businesses and lost jobs have resulted in increased poverty, declining population, and growing vacancy and blight. The median household income of Corry residents is $30,677 compared to Pennsylvania residents’ median HHI of $52,267. Approximately 26% of the Corry population lives below the poverty level—twice the Pennsylvania average. Of the 2,808 housing units in Corry, more than 11% are distressed or vacant. Blight deters new talent and businesses from moving to Corry; declining property values provide little funding to the school district and city in the form of taxes.

In April, ECGRA and The Corry Community Foundation invested $40,000 to launch the Corry Neighborhood Renewal pilot program and fuel a powerful partnership in which the Bayfront East Side Taskforce serves as exemplar to the Corry Neighborhood Initiative (CNI).

In its first six months, the pilot reported impressive outcomes: CNI demolished two blighted properties, formed a citizens action group, and kicked off Corry Cares, a campaign to raise funds for neighborhood renewal. In December, ECGRA joined forces with the Corry Industrial Benefit Association to create a $100,000 revolving loan fund to help qualifying Corry homeowners make energy- and money-saving home improvements.

*Figures come from the American Communities Surveys 5-year estimates for 2012 and door-to-door surveys by the Corry Neighborhood Initiative.

Corry Neighborhood Renewal officials will continue their work with more than 40 owners in Corry’s first ward to bring properties into compliance with code standards or plan demolition.
Main streets are at the heart of many of our municipalities and sound the pulse of our community. ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants, launched in 2013, revitalize Erie County main corridors—home to small businesses, special events, historic structures, and central parks—and ultimately drive job creation, boost population, and promote tourism. This year, ECGRA invested $77,530 to renew commercial corridors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTEES</th>
<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corry Community Development Corporation</td>
<td>$9,850</td>
<td>Install educational sidewalk panels, outdoor benches, and planters; expand décor to drive shoppers to “A Very Merry Corry Christmas,” the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce’s small business initiative; produce a marketing video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown North East Inc.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Improve facades on 10 downtown businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erie Downtown Partnership Inc.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>In collaboration with ECGRA and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, improve facades on 15 downtown businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society</td>
<td>$3,180</td>
<td>Install iron hand rails and gutters, repair the roof, and purchase lawn mowers for grounds maintenance at the historic Eagle Hotel in Waterford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKean Borough</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>Replace 630 feet of dilapidated walking and storefront sidewalk along Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City Community House Association</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Construct a recreational pavilion and rehab a vacant downtown lot; install signage, planters, flowers, and trees for Community Days, Union City in Bloom, and “Buy Local” campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford Borough</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>Landscape and hardscape around the community gazebo built in Municipal Park (built with a 2012-13 MMS grant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Launched UChoose Grants; $90,000 total invested in nine projects chosen by community voting

Erie County Historical Society uses ECGRA funds to host NASA Astronaut Colonel Michael Fincke

Opens first-ever Community Assets Grants
Grantee: Downtown North East Inc.  
Grant: $15,000

Project: Improve facades on 10 downtown businesses

Grantee: Downtown North East Inc.  
Grant: $15,000

Project: Improve facades on 10 downtown businesses

Photo by: Mark Fainstein

Enterprise Development Fund uses ECGRA Small Business Financing funds to make region’s first micro-loan

Invests $151,000 in Erie County Community Assets; $630,00 has been invested

Begins funding Erie County’s fairs through Community Assets Grants; to date, ECGRA has funded the Albion Area Fair, Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, North East Community Fair, and Waterford Community Fair
**IMPACT**

**MUNICIPALITIES**

**Contiguous Municipalities**
From public safety to infrastructure to health and human services, these six municipalities contiguous with Presque Isle Downs and Casino received $1,383,095 in ECGRA funds to use for the betterment of Erie County residents:

- Erie County
- Greene Township
- McKean Township
- Millcreek Township
- Summit Township
- Waterford Township

“Cities are defined by the quality of the ideas they generate, the innovations they spur, and the opportunities they create for people living within and outside the city limits.”

Dr. Bruce Katz, author of *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy*
Multi-Municipal Collaboration


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTEES</th>
<th>COLLABORATORS</th>
<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erie Area Council of Governments</td>
<td>City of Erie, Erie County, Franklin Township, Girard Borough, Harborcreek Township, Lawrence Park Township, Millcreek Township, Summit Township, Wesleyville Borough</td>
<td>$88,000</td>
<td>Create county and municipal websites, build information-sharing technologies, advance electronic forms and document management systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erie County Redevelopment Authority</td>
<td>City of Corry, Union City Borough</td>
<td>$25,600</td>
<td>Develop a process to convert street lights to energy- and cost-saving LED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborcreek Township</td>
<td>Brookside Fire Company, Fairfield Hose Company, Harborcreek Fire Department, Lawrence Park Township</td>
<td>$23,200</td>
<td>Purchase an emergency response vehicle to provide off-hours first responder and emergency medical technician services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Educational Society</td>
<td>Cranesville Borough, City of Corry, Harborcreek Township, Millcreek Township</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Develop emerging leaders and build a cooperative civic culture through the newly formed Jefferson Alliance for Community Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platea Borough</td>
<td>Cranesville Borough, Elk Creek Township, Franklin Township, Girard Borough, Girard Township, Springfield Township</td>
<td>$6,187</td>
<td>Keep neighborhoods clean and safe and promote recycling via the annual West Erie County Recycling/Clean-up Day Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$242,987
To catalyze our region’s private sector and develop Erie’s entrepreneurial ecosystem by spurring small business development, building collaborations for business acceleration, and offering a broader spectrum of financing products for starting, growing, and reinventing small business. Current initiatives include Ignite Erie™ and Mission-related Investments for Small Business Growth.

To educate Erie’s young adult workforce, strengthen schools and employers, and abate poverty. Current initiatives include the School District Foundation Endowment Challenge and the Summer Jobs and More pilot.

Returns aren’t always measured in dollars.

A growing movement spearheaded by the Rockefeller, George Gund, and F.B. Heron foundations, impact investing takes into account the social, cultural, and environmental effects of investments, in addition to the financial return. ECGRA has been measuring returns in both dollars and impact since 2011 and in 2014, ECGRA formally adopted an Impact Investing Policy to effect change in five specific areas.

Returns aren’t always measured in dollars.

Erie Zoo uses ECGRA funds to beautify West 38th Street corridor and install animal silhouettes.

Major sponsor of the Pennsylvania Governor’s Awards for the Arts.

Invests $500,000 in Enterprise Development Fund.

Invests $149,000 in Erie County Community Assets.
To promote well-being, foster civic pride, drive tourism, and attract, retain, and mobilize creative talent and innovative businesses through cultural, heritage, service, and recreation organizations and projects. Currently, grant and endowment funds are at work for Lead Assets, Community Assets, Special Events, and Human Services.

To reinvigorate neighborhoods and main corridors, boost buy-local efforts, and combat blight. Current projects include Mission Main Street Grants and the Corry Neighborhood Renewal pilot.

To foster progress and functional cooperation among Erie County’s 38 municipal governments. Current grant programs include Local Government Development and Multi-Municipal Collaboration.

Grantee: Corry Neighborhood Renewal
Grant: $20,000
Project: Pilot a renewal program in City of Corry blighted neighborhoods

JMC Ice Arena scoreboard restored using ECGRA funds

ECGRA funds used to renovate JC Martin Golf Course, the city of Erie’s sole golf course used often by nonprofits to train kids in golf and in life skills
“Economic activity in and around inner cities will take root if it enjoys a competitive advantage and occupies a niche that is hard to replicate elsewhere.”

Dr. Michael Porter, economist, researcher, author, advisor, speaker, and Harvard Business School professor
Ignite Erie kicked off in November 2013 when ECGRA and 26 leading agencies and businesses brought together more than 350 entrepreneurs, educators, policy makers, subject-matter experts, and elected officials to discuss the future of inner-city investment and innovation-based economic development.

In late 2014, ECGRA rolled out phase two by committing $3 million over three years to small business development. The goals? To create jobs, renew inner-city neighborhoods, inspire partnerships that serve entrepreneurs, leverage private investments, and ignite Erie’s entrepreneurial spirit.

Early this year, ECGRA made its first Ignite Erie investments:

**$150,000 in Inner-city Small Business Development**

Economist Michael Porter believes that America’s distressed cities are the greatest challenge the nation faces. ECGRA awarded $50,000 to the Erie Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship Center, a unifying effort of Community Capital Development Corporation and Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, and $100,000 to Bridgeway Capital Inc. for the sole purpose of working collaboratively with banks, developers, and small business owners to ignite commercial activities in Erie’s inner city.

Across the country, universities are collaborating with each other, startup entrepreneurs, small business, manufacturing, labor, healthcare, and local government to build an atmosphere conducive to innovation. ECGRA will support entrepreneurs from stage-to-stage of new product and service development through a $1.5 million business acceleration collaborative with Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and Mercyhurst University.

To spur job creation and business development and fill gaps in the spectrum of financing products available for starting, growing, and reinventing small business, ECGRA will make its first mission-related investments—investments that generate financial returns alongside social or environmental impact.
ECGRA’s Regional Assets represent Erie County’s key cultural, heritage, and recreational organizations and events. Grantees improve residents’ sense of community and quality of life, inspire innovation, and drive millions of tourists to our region. ECGRA Human Services Grants, made in collaboration with The Erie Community Foundation, mobilize nonprofits to serve and empower our in-need neighbors. These grantees work together to promote our health, happiness, and well-being, and improve Erie’s overall quality of place.
LEBOEUF LITTLE LEAGUE
To rehab multipurpose building and Challenger Field and to purchase new baseball and softball equipment
$10,950

MEAD PARK ASSOCIATION
To prepare grounds for and install new playground equipment
$11,850

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FAIR ASSOCIATION
For door replacement and roof repairs on an event-critical storage unit
$1,173

PERFORMING ARTISTS COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE
For critical upgrades to the theater performance space
$8,487

PRESQUE ISLE PARTNERSHIP
To replace deteriorated wooden tables with recycled aluminum tables and to install bike racks throughout the park
$11,550

SNOOPS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION
To create a gateway mural on the high-visibility railroad overpass located at E. 15th & Ash streets
$10,640

URBAN ERIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
For girls ages 6-18 from West Africa to perform “My Mama Was a Refugee,” an original dance and music production
$3,184

WATTSBURG CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
To improve safety and aesthetics by replacing deteriorated fencing
$8,400

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY YOUNG ARTISTS DEBUT ORCHESTRA
For its 10th season of performing and matching students ages 6-21 with professional musician mentors
$9,900

SPECIAL EVENTS
$160,362 in 193 Events

ALBION AREA FAIR INC.
To maintain high-quality fair exhibits by installing sliding steel doors and cementing floors in the animal barns
$4,424

BARBER NATIONAL INSTITUTE
To raise awareness for individuals with disabilities via BNI’s Art Show & Sale, Beast on the Bay, and Christmas Ball
$14,116

BOROUGH OF WESLEYVILLE
For Wesleyville Days, an annual event celebrating the past, present, and future of the borough
$599

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA - FRENCH CREEK COUNCIL
To provide youth ages 6-20 opportunities to gain knowledge of local heritage and learn a variety of skills while being mentored by caring adults
$650

Café
For CelebrateErie, a four-day, open-air street festival in the heart of downtown Erie
$15,750

CORRY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
To promote outdoor family activities at WinterFest and to operate CorryFest, the largest free celebration in southern Erie County
$2,068

DAN RICE DAYS
For the 44th annual Dan Rice Days Celebration, Girard’s premier family-friendly event
$306

DOWNTOWN EDINBORO ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL
To showcase grassroots art and music in the unique spirit of Appalachian culture and tradition
$2,246

EDINBORO HIGHLAND GAMES
To further Scottish heritage, competitive arts, and heavy athletics
$2,493

EDINBORO PARTNERSHIP
To replace deteriorated wooden tables with recycled aluminum tables and to install bike racks throughout the park
$11,550

ECGRA funds used to erect the Purple Heart Memorial of NWPA

ECGRA burgee flies on the Flagship Niagara at Erie’s Tall Ships Festival

Invests $565,000 in Lead Assets endowment

Invests $157,000 in Erie County Community Assets

Goodell Gardens uses ECGRA funds to replace roof on its historic bank barn

Invests $1 million in revolving loan funds in Enterprise Development Fund
“Finding a place that makes us happy has a powerful effect on our ‘activation.’ Such places encourage people to do more than they otherwise would, such as engage in more creative activities, invent new things, or start new companies—all things that are both personally fulfilling and economically productive.”

Economic geographer and theorist Dr. Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*
EDINBORO UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
For the three-day Boropaloosa Homecoming festival
$4,455

ERIE COUNTY FAIR AT WATTSBURG
To demonstrate the past, present, and future of local agriculture at annual Erie County Fair
$10,257

ERIE DANCE CONSERVATORY COMPANY
To feature the talents of local dancers and the next generation of artists in “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”
$860

ERIE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
To promote city attractions via Bike Nights, Block Parties, and Downtown d’Lights
$2,250

ERIE HOMES FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS INC.
To increase participants’ quality of life and promote ability over disability at ECHA’s Partners in Dance, THE Spring Event, and Victory Ride
$2,480

ERIE REGIONAL CHAMBER & GROWTH PARTNERSHIP
To attract tourists and promote local businesses and brewers at the Beer on the Bay Craft Brew Festival
$2,250

ERIE-WESTERN PA PORT AUTHORITY
For the free 8 Great Tuesdays Summer Concert Series at Liberty Park
$6,290

FORT LEBEOUF HISTORICAL SOCIETY
To highlight historical encampments, re-enactors, period antiques, and handmade crafts at the annual Waterford Days Celebration
$900

GANNON UNIVERSITY
To attract and retain students and foster relationships with alumni at the weekend homecoming event
$1,350

GREATER CALVARY FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
To educate youths about risks of casual sex, drug and tobacco use, and violence at abstinence conference and operate the Fun Day summer festival
$1,481

HARBORCREEK TOWNSHIP
To bring families and community members together at two free family-oriented concerts and fireworks displays
$1,440

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
To preserve the local Polish heritage and share its culture at the Zabawa Festival
$4,860

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
To expand intellectual horizons via presentations by nationally known experts at Global Summit V
$13,950

LAKE ERIE FANFARE INC.
To promote heritage at the 18th annual German Heritage Festival
$2,205

LAKE ERIE FANFARE INC.
For the 31st annual Drum Corps International competition
$2,214

LAKE ERIE ARBORETUM AT FRONTIER
To encourage the public to enjoy the beauty of Frontier Park via Arbor Day, ArborEAT’em, Arts in the Arboretum, FROLF (frisbee/golf), LEAF Festival, Movies in the Park, and Winterfest
$1,755

LAKE ERIE BALLET
For the 56th production of the Nutcracker
$2,700

LAKE ERIE FANFARE INC.
For the 31st annual Drum Corps International competition
$2,214

LAKE ERIE FANFARE INC.
To attract and entertain visitors and residents at the Best Summer Night featuring Steely Dan, UPMC Sunset Music Series, Discover Presque Isle, and Three Mile Isle
$31,932

LAKE ERIE FANFARE INC.
To promote heritage at the 18th annual German Heritage Festival
$2,205

LAURENCE PARK TOWNSHIP
For the two-day July 4th family-friendly parade, celebration, and fireworks display
$801

THE NONPROFIT PARTNERSHIP
To educate and empower regional nonprofit leaders at the 14th Annual NWPA Nonprofit Day
$2,814

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FAIR ASSOCIATION
To showcase local fruits, flowers, crafts, baked and canned goods at the 88th North East Community Fair
$585

PRESQUE ISLE PARTNERSHIP
To attract and entertain visitors and residents at the Best Summer Night featuring Steely Dan, UPMC Sunset Music Series, Discover Presque Isle, and Three Mile Isle
$31,932

Small Business Financing investments reach more than $12.5 million in leveraged private cash and in-kind investments

Dave Sample named board chair
RUSSIAN
ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF THE
NATIVITY
To bring high-quality folk entertainment, food, and experience via the Russian Troika Festival
$1,800

SAFENET
For the 40th Anniversary Gala, a fundraiser for the Abuse Prevention and Children's Program Endowment
$4,500

SAINT BONIFACE PLAYERS
To produce the all-school, full-scale musical “Annie Get Your Gun” and the all-community play “Inspecting Carol”
$981

SAINT PATRICK CHURCH
To promote and sustain Irish culture at the Erie Irish Festival
$2,250

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK
To highlight the cultural heritage of regional Italian immigrants and establish the “Little Italy” neighborhood via the Italian Festival
$3,600

UNION CITY PRIDE INC.
To celebrate Union City’s historic background at the Gathering at French Creek family festival
$900

WATERFORD COMMUNITY FAIR ASSOCIATION
To organize one of the county’s largest fairs with more than 6,300 entrants, showcasing livestock, produce, and home economic wares
$3,600

HUMAN SERVICES
in collaboration with The Erie Community Foundation
$69,208 in 8 special projects

ALL ABOUT CHARACTER INC.
To combat violence and increase high school graduation rates via “Character Be About It/ Troopers Teaching Students” character-education curriculum
$10,000

EARLY CONNECTIONS
To increase the safety and security of the children and staff at the city center child-care facility by adding multiple wireless security devices
$5,208

ERIE REGIONAL CHAMBER AND GROWTH PARTNERSHIP
To study the feasibility of an Erie-based center for arts and technology
$25,000

MOTHERS AGAINST TEEN VIOLENCE
To empower, motivate, and encourage youths to develop positive healthy lifestyles through the Leadership, Empowerment, Accountability, Diversity (L.E.A.D) summer program
$8,000

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED
To purchase and renovate dry-cleaning equipment to provide job training and work experience to individuals with disabilities
$15,000

SARAH REED CHILDREN’S CENTER
To improve safety of youth residents by installing security and video monitoring systems
$5,000

THE UPPER ROOM
To renovate main facility used to shelter near-homeless and homeless adults
$18,500

URBAN ERIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
To increase awareness of black history by expanding “Embracing the Past, While Celebrating the Future” to Erie School District teachers and students
$7,500

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
Joins forces with Erie County government and The Erie Community Foundation to pilot Summer Jobs and More for disconnected youth

EARLY CONNECTIONS
Deploys $78,000 in Mission Main Street Grants

ECGRA funds used to erect Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Lead Assets endowment exceeds $10 million and is recognized as The Erie Community Foundation’s 2nd largest endowment

Downtown North East Inc. begins reviving 12 façades using ECGRA Mission Main Street Grants
To promote Erie’s independent galleries and vibrant arts scene via Gallery Night and to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem via InnovationErie: Design Competition $130,008

To create and promote a master vision for arts and culture in the region and establish a centralized cultural website $95,516

To perform at schools and community centers via Community Music Connections $121,283

To conceive and present theatrical mini-events that transform children’s books into character-development lessons for at-risk children and their parents $122,496

For the new cat exhibit and for free entertainment and member-only perks available at Wild Wednesdays $277,395

To celebrate 20 years of play and learning and to create and present 12 educational components for toddlers and preschoolers using the new interactive woodland mural in the Tot Spot $42,112

For new traveling maritime curriculum designed for preschool thru high school students that complement core history teaching and relieve traditional field trip costs $50,299

For artists-in-residence to present to children and adults at more than 20 in-community art and education venues $75,097

In 2011, ECGRA named and made its initial investments in the Erie County Lead Assets. In 2012, ECGRA committed to sustain those organizations in perpetuity and created the Erie County Lead Assets Endowment, held in trust at The Erie Community Foundation. This year, ECGRA invested $970,218 in grant funds in the Lead Assets and grew the endowment to more than $10 million with a $1,373,646 investment.

Grantee: Lead Asset ExpERIEnce Children’s Museum
Grant: $42,112
Project: To paint Tot Spot mural, design educational programming, and celebrate 20 years

Using an ECGRA grant, Presque Isle Partnership completes restoration of the 1872 Presque Isle Lighthouse

Grantee: Erie Art Museum
Grant: $120,000
Project: To celebrate 20 years of play and learning and to create and present 12 educational components for toddlers and preschoolers using the new interactive woodland mural in the Tot Spot

Grantee: Erie Philharmonic
Grant: $50,000
Project: To perform at schools and community centers via Community Music Connections

Grantee: Erie Playhouse
Grant: $56,012
Project: To promote Erie’s independent galleries and vibrant arts scene via Gallery Night and to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem via InnovationErie: Design Competition

Grantee: Flagship Niagara
Grant: $50,299
Project: For new traveling maritime curriculum designed for preschool thru high school students that complement core history teaching and relieve traditional field trip costs

Grantee: MIAC
Grant: $73,097
Project: For artists-in-residence to present to children and adults at more than 20 in-community art and education venues

Grantee: Presque Isle Partnership
Grant: $120,000
Project: To paint Tot Spot mural, design educational programming, and celebrate 20 years
To help change the trajectory of at-risk young lives and improve the region’s economy, ECGRA collaborated in May 2014 with Erie County Council and The Erie Community Foundation to pilot Erie Summer Jobs and More. The results: 123 eligible participants age 16-21 received paid on-the-job training from 32 countywide employers in a variety of professions.

ECGRA and its partners intend to expand Summer Jobs and More to serve 200 youths and grow the program to include more work and learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, art+design, and math.

In early 2015, ECGRA launched the School District Foundation Endowment Challenge—a $200,000 incentive to help Erie County’s 13 public school districts grow their endowments. Through 2016, ECGRA will match funds raised by the foundations up to $5 per student per district and provide free training in organizational and fundraising capacity building.
Board & STAFF MEMBERS

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Jay A. Breneman (ex-officio), Member, Erie County Council
Gary N. Lee (ex-officio), Director of Administration, County of Erie

Special thanks to:
Barbara H. Steele, Senior Accountant, GECAC, 2014 board member

ECGRA Staff
Perry N. Wood, Executive Director
Diane K. Kuvshinikov, Executive Assistant

Many thanks to PR and Brand Manager Amanda P. Burlingham and Jenny Poff of Presque Isle Designs for helping us showcase the impact of ECGRA grant money at work in Erie County.

Launches Phase 2 of Ignite Erie: Inner-city Small Business Development, Industry+University Business Acceleration Collaboration, and Impact Investing
Exceeds $30 million invested in Erie County
Launches School District Foundation Endowment Challenge serving 10 Erie public school districts
Deploys $242,987 in Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants
Invests $178,919 in Erie County Special Events
Invests $150,000 in Inner-city Small Business Development
Launches Ignite Erie Industry+University Business Acceleration Collaborative; invests $750,000