



# Annual Report 2005

## The Nonprofit Partnership

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## 2005: A Snapshot of The Nonprofit Partnership

The Nonprofit Partnership, a project of The Erie Community Foundation, is a member-based partnership that provides education, training and tools to strengthen local nonprofit member agencies.

## Our Mission

To enhance the management and governance of regional nonprofit organizations through capacity building programs and services.

## What is capacity building?

Capacity building has fast become a major topic among nonprofits, funders and management support organizations that provide services to nonprofits. There are a variety of definitions for capacity building; perhaps the most fundamental definition is "actions that improve nonprofit effectiveness." In the long run, building capacity enhances a nonprofit's ability to work toward its mission.

## Why is The Erie Community Foundation involved in nonprofit capacity building?

Community foundations have become active in funding and promoting capacity building as a way of adding value to their grantmaking and overall philanthropic goals. Recently, the Human Interaction Research Institute conducted a national study on capacity building in philanthropy. Results indicate that out of nearly 350 capacity building programs nationally, 81 (23%) are affiliated with community foundations.

Since 2000, Trustees at The Erie Community Foundation have recognized enhancing the management and governance of local nonprofit organizations as a core value. ECF's first capacity building effort was announced as a member-based organization in June 2001; 80 nonprofit organizations in Erie joined as members during the first year. Now in its fifth year, The Nonprofit Partnership is composed of approximately 160 nonprofit members who attend education, training, peer learning and networking sessions throughout the year. Capacity building grants began during 2005 to offer additional opportunities for intensive technical assistance and internal problem solving.

## Why participate in nonprofit capacity building?

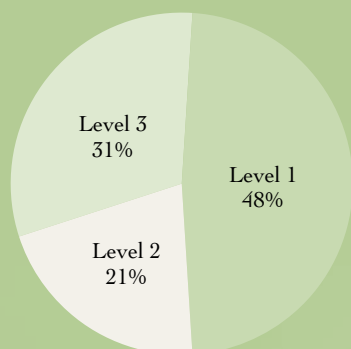
The case for capacity building is strong. Capacity building activities such as planning, reorganizing, training and communicating lead to increased capacity as measured by organizational outputs including improved morale, focus, efficiency and productivity. Such enhancements are clearly related to better management and improved program impacts, which are linked to both employee and public perceptions of nonprofit effectiveness. All of this helps to strengthen the nonprofit sector in Erie and leads to a better community.

The Nonprofit Partnership gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support for this project by The Erie Community Foundation and its member agencies.

### Our Members, 2005

Membership in The Nonprofit Partnership provides financial support for the costs of direct programming and services. Annual memberships are offered according to the organization's annual budget at the following rates:

Level 1 (under \$250,000): \$120  
Level 2 (\$250,000 to \$1,000,000): \$300  
Level 3 (over \$1,000,000): \$600



### Our Programs

Nonprofit Partnership programs help organizations achieve their unique missions. In addition, programs provide member agency volunteers and staff the opportunity to convene and network. In 2005, core programs included:

- Capacity Building Grants
- Education
- Training
- Peer Learning and Exchange

# Nonprofit Partnership Summary of Programs, 2005

## Capacity Building Grants

This is a specific funding strategy undertaken by The Erie Community Foundation to support local nonprofits engaged in capacity building activities. Grant activities relate to one of the following areas intended to improve organizational effectiveness: mission, vision and strategy; governance and leadership; strategic relationships; and internal operations.

During the spring of 2005, potential applicants contacted ECF to discuss their goals and ensure a capacity building grant was an appropriate undertaking. Pre-application materials, including an organizational assessment and questionnaire, were distributed to staff and volunteer leadership. During July 2005, brief meetings with the grant applicant's ED/CEO and board chair were conducted by ECF program staff. Grant applications were submitted to ECF on August 1, 2005, using the Foundation's competitive proposal guidelines. Eight of the 12 proposals submitted were awarded funding. Recipients in 2005 for capacity building grants were: Arts Council of Erie, Dafmark Dance Theatre, Early Connections, Friends of Asbury Woods Nature Center, House of Healing, HANDS, Lake Erie Ballet, and L'Arche Erie.

### A Snapshot:

Applicants: 12  
Grant Awards: 8  
Total Amount: \$75,500  
Average Grant: \$9,483

## Education & Training

### Nonprofit Executive Forum

May 19, 2005: Gregg Behr, President, Forbes Funds, a supporting organization of The Pittsburgh Foundation, "Why the Nonprofit Sector Must Step Forward to Lead Our Communities"

- 100 participants from 54 organizations

### Board Leadership Institute

May 2, 2005: "Fundamentals of Good Governance Practice for New and Prospective Nonprofit Board Members," Kate Dewey, Partner, McCorry & McDowell LLC

- 38 participants from 22 organizations

### Nonprofit Leadership Day

*in cooperation with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Northwestern PA Chapter*

October 25, 2005: Keynote Speaker: Kim Klein, "The Role of Fundraising in Determining the Future of the Nonprofit Sector"

- 243 participants from 104 organizations

### Additional presentations by:

- John Christianson, "Tips for Successful TV Media Coverage"
- Marilyn Coleman, "Striving for Excellence: New Trends in Board Leadership"
- John Elliott, "Critical Marketing Strategies for Nonprofits"
- Susan Henry, "Performance Appraisals: Tackle without Torment"
- Bill Hummel, "Beat Your Hurdle Rate – Investing Charitable Assets for Future Generations"
- Phil and Heidi Kerner, "Networking for Professionals"
- Kim Klein, "How Small Groups Can Raise Big Money" and "Fundraising in Small Towns and Rural Communities"
- John Owen, Esq., "PANO's Standards for Excellence and the Independent Sector's Accountability Guidelines"
- Janice Smith, Esq., "The Evolving Role of Board Leadership"
- Nancy Stampahar, "Executive Leadership and Supervision"
- Debra Thompson, "Community Fund Drives Committee Information Session"
- Tom Vinca and Melani Scott, "Best Practices Workshop"
- Laura Willumsen, "Your Core Business and the Dual Bottom Line"
- And concluding the day: "Connect to Community" Networking and Board Fair sponsored by Highmark with partners Association of Fundraising Professionals, Project Blueprint and The Erie Ambassadors.

*Learning materials and transcripts for all the above sessions are available by calling Robin Koble at The Nonprofit Partnership, (814) 454-0843.*

## Peer Learning and Exchange

### Learning Circles

Based on an internationally known process called action-learning, circles are composed of five to seven leaders who are committed to meeting professional and personal challenges. Trained facilitators ensure highly focused meetings and tangible results for each group member.

Each group member is trained on how to select the best goals for themselves, how to get coached in the group and how to coach other group members. The program includes an introductory training session and seven meetings; each meeting is two-and-a-half hours long and is held every three to four weeks. Circles were offered in peer coaching and peer training formats. Groups are confidential, supportive and focused on learning and action.

*During 2005, five Learning Circles were convened including:*

1. ED Rounders (small nonprofits), Facilitator: Reverend John Downey, Cathedral of St. Paul
  2. ED Rounders (large nonprofits), Facilitator: Tom Vinca, Family Services
  3. Governance, Facilitator: Danny Jones, School District of the City of Erie
  4. Strategic Resource Development (large nonprofits), Facilitator: Judy Lawrence, United Way of Erie County
  5. Strategic Development (small nonprofits), Facilitator: Bill Flaherty, Schaffner Knight Minnaugh
- 38 participants from 22 organizations

### ListServe

Our ListServe provides an online network for member agencies. There is currently a ListServe for nonprofit executives and for development directors. For more information, call Robin Koble at (814) 454-0843.

### BoardnetErie

In 2005, The Erie Community Foundation joined with several other nonprofit capacity building organizations throughout the U.S. and the Volunteer Consulting Group of New York to provide a state-of-the-art, online board match service to northwest Pennsylvania. Our local initiative for Nonprofit Partnership member agencies is BoardnetERIE. This tool expands the networking ability of local nonprofits searching for prospective board candidates.

During the first six months of 2005, the Partnership registered over 80 member agencies with BoardnetERIE. Next it turned its focus to recruiting prospective board members to complete a profile with BoardnetERIE. Partnership efforts to promote BoardnetERIE have included the following:

- 300 letters to local business and individuals
- Nonprofit Partnership Advisory Board members have been recruited as ambassadors for the program
- Brochures with registration information were distributed to members and employees at the following organizations:
  - Erie Insurance
  - Highmark
  - Malin Bergquist and Co.
  - PNC Financial
  - Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett
  - Penn State Behrend
  - Erie County Bar Association
  - Seaway Rotary
  - Edinboro Rotary
  - Quinn Law Firm
- Mention in the Erie Magazine (Erie Regional Chamber publication)

As we continue our recruitment efforts, we will be able to monitor the number of prospective board candidates who have registered using the Erie portal, which is linked to our website, [www.cferie.org](http://www.cferie.org). As of December 2005, there were over 50 board candidates registered with BoardnetERIE.

## Recognizing Excellence in Nonprofits

The Charles H. Bracken Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Governance is made annually to a Nonprofit Partnership member that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to excellence in governance. Every year, the award winner is publicly honored at the Annual Meeting of The Erie Community Foundation, and receives a cash grant of \$5,000 to be used for governance and management support purposes.

**The award-winning organization must show a commitment to the following areas:**

- Established commitment by the board to the mission of the organization
- Demonstrated leadership by the board of directors
- Conscientious recruitment and orientation processes of new board members
- Focused attention to policy and planning by the board of directors
- Engaged participation by board members in fundraising and agency events
- Maintenance of a professionally and demographically diverse board of directors
- Effective governance practices
- Responsible fiscal management

**Past recipients of the Charles H. Bracken Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Governance are:**

2005 Family Services of Northwest Pennsylvania  
2004 Achievement Center  
2003 Perseus House  
2002 Stairways Behavioral Health

**The Nonprofit Partnership would like to acknowledge and thank the ongoing support and guidance by its Advisory Board members:**

- Michael Batchelor, President, Erie Community Foundation
- Rebecca Brumagin, Executive Director, Achievement Center
- The Very Reverend John Downey, Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul
- Lisa Kelleher, Executive Director, St. Paul's Neighborhood Clinic
- Angie Porfilio, President (2004-2005), Association of Fundraising Professionals
- Emma Lee McCloskey, Development Director, Stairways Behavioral Health
- James McKibben, CLU, Lillis, McKibben & Co.
- Mr. Alan Perez, President, United Way of Erie County
- Jeff Pinski, Public Editor, Erie Times-News
- Sr. Stephanie Schmidt, Executive Director, House of Healing
- Atty. Tom Tupitza, Knox, McLaughlin, Gornall, & Sennett
- Gwendolyn White, Personal Lines Underwriting Supervisor, Erie Insurance Group
- Erie Community Foundation Liaisons: Kathy Dahlkemper, B.J. Lechner, and Marne Roche



## Member Agencies

The Achievement Center  
Always On Our Own Inc.  
The Alzheimer's Association  
American Cancer Society-Corry  
The American Red Cross-Corry  
The American Red Cross-Erie  
Artists Incorporated  
Arts Council of Erie, Inc.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center  
Barber National Institute  
Bethesda Foundation for Children  
Booker T. Washington Center  
Boys & Girls Club of Erie  
Brevellier Village  
The Caring Place  
Case Management Support Services  
Cathedral of St. Paul Episcopal  
Catholic Charities  
Children's Advocacy Center  
Christian Witness in the Holy Land  
Community Access Television  
Community Country Day School  
Community Health Net  
Community Nursing Services of NE  
Community of Caring  
Community Resources for Independence  
Community Shelter Services  
CORE, Penn State Erie  
Corry Arts Council  
Corry Chamber of Commerce  
Corry Community Development Corp.  
Corry Community Foundation  
Corry Higher Education Council  
Corry Memorial Hospital  
Corry Public Library  
Counseling Services Center of SE Erie Co.  
Crawford County Special Olympics  
Crawford Heritage Foundation  
Dafmark Dance Studio  
Early Connections, Inc.  
ECPL Foundation  
Edinboro University Foundation  
Edinboro University of PA  
EmergencyCare  
Erie Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Erie Area Safe Kids Coalition  
Erie Art Museum  
Erie Cemetery Association  
Erie City Mission  
Erie Civic Music Association  
Erie County Bar Association

Erie County CASA Inc.  
Erie County Diabetes Association  
Erie County Historical Society & Museums  
Erie DAWN  
Erie Family Life Skills  
Erie Homes for Children & Adults  
Erie Philharmonic  
Erie Playhouse  
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership  
Erie Summer Festival for the Arts  
Erie United Methodist Alliance  
Erie Zoological Society  
Erie's Promise  
expERIENCE Children's Museum  
Family Services  
1st Presbyterian Church of the Covenant  
Flagship Niagara League  
Forrester's Harbor, Inc.  
Foundation for Free Enterprise Education  
Gannon University  
Gannondale  
Gaudenzia Crossroads Inc.  
Gifts for Kids  
Goodell Project  
Greater Erie Youth Symphony  
Greater Calvary Community Development  
H.A.N.D.S.  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hamot Health Foundation  
Harborcreek Youth Services  
Healthcare Ventures Alliance  
Hermitage House  
H.E.R.O.  
Hispanic American Council  
Hooked on Books  
Hospice of Erie  
House of Healing  
Humane Society of Northwest PA  
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House  
International Institute of Erie  
Joel II Restoration Ministries  
Kiwanis Club of Corry  
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF)  
Lake Erie Ballet  
Lake Erie Fanfare  
Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force  
Lakeshore Community Services  
L'Arche Erie  
LifeCare Pregnancy & Family Resource Center  
Luther Memorial Church & Learning Center  
March of Dimes

Masonic Learning Center  
M.H.E.D.S.  
Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA  
Mercy Center for Women  
Mercyhurst College Civic Institute  
NAMIECO  
North East Community Foundation  
NW PA Area Health Education Center  
Ophelia Project  
Parkinson Partners  
Partnership of Women Religious  
Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council  
Perseus House  
Presbyterian Homes  
Presque Isle Partnership  
Purple Martin Conservation Assoc.  
Roadhouse Theater  
Safe Harbor Behavioral Health  
Safe Horizons  
SafeNet  
Sarah A. Reed Retirement Center  
Sarah Reed Children's Center  
St. Martin Center  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Saint Mary's Home  
Saint Paul's Neighborhood Clinic  
Saint Vincent Health Foundation  
SCORE Chapter 193  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
Sisters of Mercy  
SSJ Neighborhood Network  
Special Olympics of Crawford Co.  
Springhill Senior Living  
Stairways Behavioral Health  
Technology Council of NW PA  
TREC  
Union City Chamber of Commerce  
Union City Community Foundation  
Union City Public Library  
Union City Family Support Center  
United Fund of Corry  
United Way of Erie County  
Urban Erie Community  
Development Corporation  
Villa Maria Academy  
Vision & Blindness Resources-Erie Center  
Visiting Nurse Association  
Western PA K-12 Education Scholarship Fund  
Women's Care Center  
WQLN  
YMCA of Corry  
YMCA of Greater Erie



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