

The Eden Community Foundation

A report from The Board of Directors
Fall 2025



THE EDEN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!

Dear Eden Community,

I would like to begin by acknowledging our community members as a whole for making the Town of Eden a place where my wife and I are proud to raise our family and call home. The mission of The Eden Community Foundation is to strengthen and improve lives within our town, and this is only made possible through your generous support to drive our success. We strive to utilize contributions through awarding impactful grant projects to beautify the hamlet of Eden, improve community spaces and support programming for town residents.

We are proud to continue our 25th anniversary grant award with Phase 1 of the Swartz Field improvement project already completed. Our gratitude goes out to the community volunteers that devoted their energy and expertise by contributing to the community build day on September 20, 2025. Seeing members of our community working together on this all-inclusive playground demonstrates the true purpose of our organization. This type of event is what continues to drive our ambitions to support projects and services within our town, none of which could be possible without the continued support of the Eden Community. It will be great to see the smiles of all ability levels enjoying the new equipment for many years to come. The next phase of the project is slated for the spring to include expanded parking with a walking and exercise trail along the perimeter of the park. We are thankful for the Town of Eden for their collaboration and planning on these exciting improvements.

Our board members dedicate their time and efforts to supporting grant applications, including the great ideas and aspirations of local organizations. While Bob Penna continues to serve on the board, we are especially grateful for his service as our president from 2020 to 2025, through which his guidance and leadership has strengthened the organization. I am also pleased to welcome Becca Cerne as our newest board member. Becca is currently serving as our assistant treasurer and her hard work and dedication are an asset to our team.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2026!

Ed

Ed Bugenhagen, President
Eden Community Foundation



Some of our Eden Community Foundation board members participated in the Swartz Playground Build Day:

(L to R) Dick Minekime, Gary Eye, Kate McShea, Kristin Kent, Molly McLaughlin, Ed Bugenhagen, Pam Henrich, Bob Penna, Holly Tredo (not pictured, John Henrich and Allan Silver)

The Eden Community Foundation was proud to be among the partners helping contribute to the Town of Eden's new all-inclusive playground at Swartz Field. The playground features include a zipline with a bucket seat, a wheelchair-accessible "We-Go-Round," a sensory play center and new swings all on a new rubber surface. A tremendous community build day on September 20th saw a great deal of work done and a ribbon-cutting was held in October.



We're so excited to have been a part of the town's project in cooperation with Legislator John Mills, the Erie County Community Development Block Grant program and New York State Parks & Historic Sites!



What an outstanding day it was as Eden residents joined together for our community playground build for the new playground at Swartz Field! Around a hundred volunteers came together, including our board members, to construct various parts of the expansive, all-inclusive playground. We're so thankful for everyone's involvement and teamwork. It was our pleasure to serve lunch to all build crew volunteers.



Still to come to Swartz Field are a new exercise path and an expanded parking lot, scheduled to be finished this spring.

Thank you to Glenn McLaughlin and Nancy Carpenter for so many wonderful photos



Included in the photo above are ECF board members John and Pam Henrich, Molly McLaughlin, Bob Penna, as well as Pastor Kate Zimmerman and EUMC members Florence Rothaug, Michelle Wilson and Kevin Karstedt.

One of our grant highlights of 2025 was supporting the Eden United Methodist Church's addition of air conditioning to its fellowship hall. The church and its congregation welcome hundreds of Eden community members who use the space throughout the year.

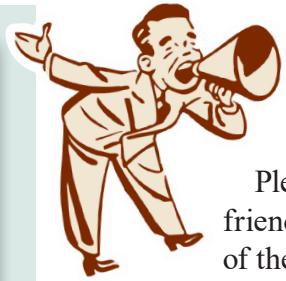
In June, church leaders installed air conditioning to the EUMC kitchen and fellowship hall which hosts many church and community events. "We are blessed to have a great congregation of caring people in a wonderful facility right in the middle of town," said EUMC Pastor Kate Zimmerman. "The church and its building have served the citizens of Eden for over 200 years and now with the help of a matching grant from the Eden Community Foundation we can do an even better and safer job of serving."

The Eden community meets at the church for various activities, including the Town of Eden Recreation Department's exercise class, summer music lessons, Vacation Bible School, Cub Scouts, town-wide dinners, AA meetings, Youth Sum-

mer Theater Camp and the town's Alzheimer's Respite program. "We are thankful to the Eden Community Foundation for helping us to make this building more comfortable and safer for all those that use it," said Diana Graovac, chairperson of the EUMC Trustees.

Future Gifts are always welcome, too. You can continue your support of our efforts long after you have passed away, by making a planned gift, sometimes called a legacy gift. It can be done as simply as naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, or as a beneficiary of one of your investment assets, such as an IRA or 401(k) account. Your legal or financial advisor can guide you in this process. It can be the perfect way to keep giving to Eden well into the future.

THANK YOU TO
EVENHOUSE PRINTING, LLC
 for helping us produce this year's
 special 25th Anniversary Newsletter



SPREAD THE WORD!

Please tell your friends and family of the good works of the Foundation! Like us on Facebook and invite your friends to like us as well!

DONATE TODAY



Tax Considerations for Giving

Consider a QCD: If you are required to take minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA due to your age, you are also probably aware the distribution is considered Ordinary Income and 100% taxable. If so, you may want to consider making some or all of your RMD a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD would enable you to transfer funds from your traditional IRA directly to a qualified charity, like The Eden Community Foundation, without recognizing as income the amount you specify as a QCD. This is an especially helpful technique since you will get a tax benefit from your donation even if you are unable to meet the dollar threshold needed to itemize on your tax return. The QCD amount is specified on a special form available from your IRA plan administrator. **Consider giving appreciated assets to charity such as stock instead of cash.** Beyond claiming a deduction for the fair market value of the asset at the time donated, you can avoid the capital gains tax you would otherwise incur if you sold the asset and then donated the cash proceeds. It is essential that the asset be donated directly to the charity and not sold by the donor and the proceeds donated.