For 29 years, making life better for the people of North East has been the mission of The North East Community Foundation.

In 2020, with the help of our donors, NECF was able to grant nearly $147,000 including:

$78,855.98 to education - supporting libraries and schools, providing college scholarships and summer experiences in the arts and nature

$39,371.83 to enriching our community and preserving our unique history and downtown - through organizations such as North East in Bloom, Downtown North East, North East Historical Society and the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society

$28,287.50 to basic health and safety needs - firefighters and first responders, nursing and hospice care, food, clothing and other essentials

Our volunteer board is honored to partner with donors and the community to make North East better for today - and tomorrow.

Our volunteer board is honored to partner with donors and the community to make North East better for today - and tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Billy Lewis,
Chairman
Vernon Frye,
Vice Chairman
Robert Jeffery,
Treasurer
David Mehl,
Executive Asst.

Chris Miller
Sonia Fails
Deborah Phillips
Jennifer Smith
Melissa Fisher
Dan Adamus
Joseph Cancilla
Jim Gorzynski
David Meehl
Deborah Phillips
Jennifer Smith
Melissa Fisher

For 29 years, making life better for the people of North East has been the mission of The North East Community Foundation.
New scholarship funds established

In 2020, North East Community Foundation proudly partnered with Ian Malesiewski to create a new scholarship designed to empower, encourage and uplift local students. The DefiANT Scholars Program is a scholarship available to seniors in Erie County, Pennsylvania who have a physical or intellectual disability.

The number of students with disabilities who are able to pursue higher education is disappointing, said Malesiewski, a North East native and athlete who sustained a spinal cord injury in 2016 and is now attending the University of Miami. There are so many challenges — from physically navigating the new environment, to taking notes and completing assignments. Malesiewski relies on technology, like a special mouse he uses with his mouth to type, along with the support of friends, family and even athletes like NFL player James Conner.

DefiANT Scholars aim to make the transition to college less difficult. Its mission is to help aid the disabled community in an attempt to break down barriers, stereotypes and misconceptions inside and outside of the classroom.

Susan Valone, MD scholarship established

The Susan Valone, M.D. Memorial Scholarship was also created in 2020 and recognizes outstanding graduates of North East High School who plan to pursue a career in a medical or health sciences-related field.