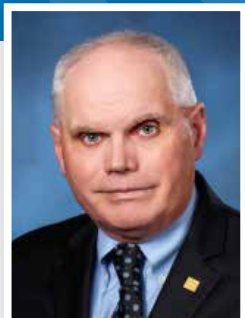


NEWS & VIEWS



INSIDE

Erie Food Co-op and EDDC Partnership
Our Valued Board Members
Second Harvest Food Bank
2021 Annual Report
Dafmark Creative Arts Center
2022 Goals and Objectives
Early Connections
Summer Internship Program
Summer Activities



Executive Director Commentary

By Michael R. Fraley, Executive Director

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie's (HACE) Motto is "It's About People." What does that mean and how does that impact our residents? At its very essence, it means that when an individual or family moves into one of our residences it is a home we would be proud to have our own mother live in, and our children thrive in.

Once residents move in it is our commitment that HACE as an organization will do everything in its power to assist residents on a path to self-sufficiency or provide our seniors and disabled residents with a home they can live happily in for the rest of their life.

We strive to have our neighborhoods be communities where families want to raise children and feel safe. The Housing Authority under John E. Horan realized it could not provide this kind of environment alone and would need to develop partnerships with area agencies and organizations to bring their services to HACE neighborhoods.

HACE partners with over twenty businesses and organizations to provide services and support to our residents. The partial list below will give you an idea of just how many services HACE and its partners provide to make our neighborhoods into communities. For more information on any of the services listed, contact Cherie Kinem at 452-2425 or kinemc@hace.org or visit the HACE website at www.hace.org.

- **Early Connections** – Licensed child care and free pre-K programs.
- **City of Erie Police** – Community-oriented Police and Probation Services.
- **Community Health Net** – Dental Services.
- **SafeNet** – Domestic Violence Casework Services.
- **Erie County Library** – Two 1,000-book libraries and reading programs.
- **Multi-Cultural Resource Center** – Erie Free Taxes, Job Development and ESL Programs.
- **E.F. Smith Quality of Life Learning Center** – COVID Support Programs, Adult Education, Youth Programming and ESL classes.
- **YMCA of Greater Erie** – Youth Recreation Programs.
- **John F. Kennedy Center** – Recreational/educational programs for children and youth.
- **HomePlus** – Senior citizen and mental health support services.
- **Erie County Probation** – Adult and Juvenile Probation officers.
- **Neighborhood Art House** – Environmental and Nature Programs for youth.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank** – Food boxes, fresh fruits and vegetables for seniors and families.
- **Gannon University Nursing** – Health education, flu shots and special events like health fairs.
- **LECOM** – Mentor Youth Program for children at Erie Heights/Pineview.
- **HACE Sponsored Programs** – Summer Internships, Family Self-sufficiency and Neighborhood Events including Meet Your Neighbor Days.
- **Ellen Curry Foundation** – Private school scholarships for youth in grades K through 8 and college scholarships.
- **Books for Kids** – Donates free books to hundreds of children every year.
- **United Way of Erie County** – Sponsors annual National Night Out in two HACE neighborhoods.
- **Dafmark Creative Arts Center**

This summer HACE will sponsor its 25th Annual Family Picnic where up to 1,800 residents will enjoy a picnic and fun-filled day at Waldameer. Over 150 volunteers, HACE Board members and HACE staff will come together to make this event successful.

So yes, we at HACE live by our motto of "It's About People" and we know that includes our residents, the dedicated staff from the organizations above plus volunteers from area business like Widget Financial and ONEX who sponsor Thanksgiving and Christmas events for families and children every year.

As we move forward in 2022 let's strive to be caring, kind and helpful and understand that we are all in this together, that everyone has value and that it is our responsibility to ensure that all children have the right to a bright future and that we can make that happen. **IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE!!!!**

Erie Food Co-op and Erie Downtown Development Corporation Partnership.

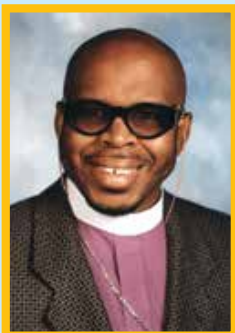
Residents of Schmid Towers and Friendship Apartments have a new and exciting grocery option on the bus route and within walking distance of their homes. The Housing Authority has partnered with the new Erie Food Co-op located at the northwest corner of Perry Square and the Erie Downtown Development Corporation to provide opportunities for residents of the two buildings to purchase a lifetime membership for \$25 instead of the normal cost of \$100. The memberships provide residents with opportunities for monthly discounts on groceries and household items and gives them, should they choose, a chance to have input in how the Co-op operates.



Sixty residents participated in a soft opening on March 17th where they learned how the Co-op operates, utilized free rides provided by EMTA and got to shop at a neighborhood grocery store that provides them with the freshest fruits and vegetables options along with healthy food choices. As an added benefit the Gordon Meat Market is located adjacent to the Co-op providing residents with fresh meat and seafood options.

Our Valued Board Members

“HACE” stands for Housing Authority of the City of Erie. For the five unsung heroes of that organization, it also stands for the Honor, Accountability, Commitment, and Experience with which they serve. Without their selfless service, the affordable housing and innovative supportive services for our residents would not exist.



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James Martin
Commissioner

Second Harvest Food Bank

HACE and the Second Harvest Food Bank have partnered to greatly increase food availability to HACE residents. These programs include senior food boxes that are delivered to Friendship Apartments, Schmid Towers and Ostrow Apartments. Family food boxes are delivered to John E. Horan Garden Apartments and Eastbrook.

Second Harvest also sponsors a monthly produce express that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to residents in the John E. Horan Garden Apartments and Erie Heights/Pineview. Volunteers from the C.O.P.P.S. Program, MCRC, HomePlus, and the Gannon Nursing Program assist in distributing the food items.





HOPE

Housing Opportunities
for the People of Erie

It's About





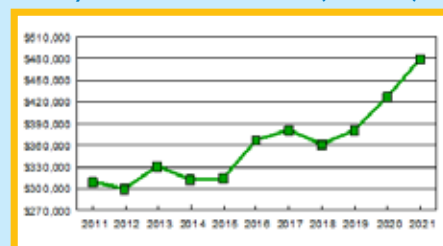
People

2021 Annual Report

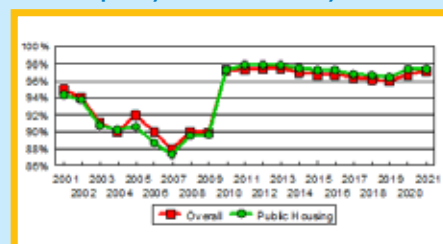
Every year the HACE staff submits Goals and Objectives for the HACE Board of Commissioners to approve. These goals are used as a plan for what HACE staff hopes to accomplish throughout the year. At year-end HACE staff submits a report to the HACE Board on the progress made towards meeting the approved goals and objectives. A complete copy of the 2021 Annual Report is available for review on the HACE website at www.hace.org. The graphs shown here are some of the highlights from the 2021 Annual Report.

- PILOT Payments – In 2021 HACE paid its highest Payment in Lieu of Taxes (\$481,126) ever to the three taxing bodies.
- On December 31, 2021, Occupancy was at 97.17% up from 96.84 in 2020.
- In 2021 HACE reduced its Unit Turnover rate by 31.44 days.
- 255 new Public Housing Residents were housed in 2021, up from 220 in 2020.
- In 2021, 1,082 HACE families had employment as a source of income, up from 943 in 2020.
- Reported criminal activity increased from 263 in 2020 to 424 in 2021. The majority of the increase involved domestic violence-related crimes. Other serious crimes did not see any increase. There were no homicides in public housing neighborhoods in 2021.

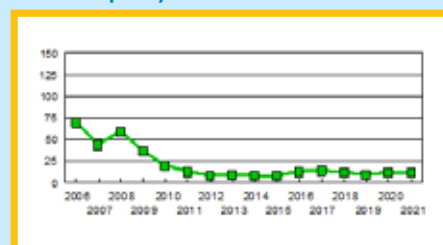
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (P.I.L.O.T.)



Occupancy Rate - Authority Owned



Rent-Up Days as Part of Unit Turnover



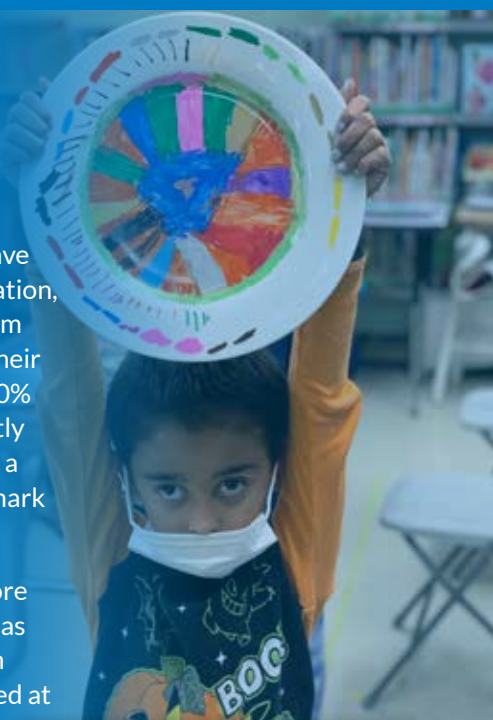
Dafmark Creative Arts Center – John E. Horan Garden Apartments (JEHGA)

In January 2021 the Housing Authority of the City of Erie began a partnership with the Dafmark Creative Arts Center to offer public housing youth the opportunity to have classes/lessons in fine and performance arts. Dafmark in the past 12 months have offered classes in theater, dance, music (cello and violin), drawing, stop motion animation, photography, filmmaking, clay sculptures and mosaics. In October 2021 students from Dafmark participated in their 1st Annual Youth Art Show, ARTISHERE showcasing their artwork at City Gallery, a professional gallery. 50% of the proceeds from the sale of the art go directly to the youth. In 2022 they will create and star in a live theater production to be performed at Dafmark Dance Theater.

Partnerships like this provide our youth with more opportunities to be successful and have choices as they grow into adulthood and make decisions on what they want to do with their lives. Also located at the JEHGA Dafmark Creative Arts Center is a 1,000-book library in partnership with the Erie

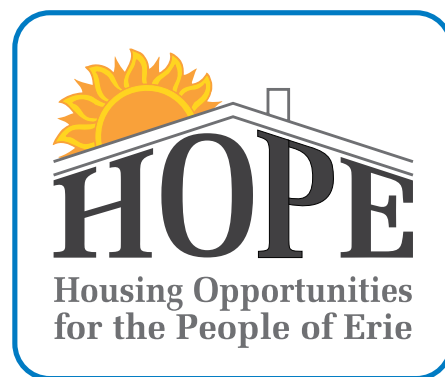
County Library giving youth options to check out books and participate in reading programs.

Dafmark's newest addition is a partnership with the Young Artists Debut Orchestra to bring in instructors from Pittsburgh to provide lessons in the cello and violin. During the summer the young musicians will participate in several performances.



2022 Goals and Objectives

Every year the HACE staff works with the HACE Board of Commissioners to develop Goals and Objectives that establish working plans for the organization to accomplish. For 2022 Six Goals were approved with each having established objectives to measure if the goals were met.



- 1 **Implement Ongoing Human Resources Program that Develops Plans for Board and Staff Succession.**
- 2 **Improve Livability of Public Housing.**
- 3 **Provide Housing Assistance to more Families/Individuals.**
- 4 **Operate all Programs Efficiently within Budgetary Limits and Improve Staff Productivity and Effectiveness.**
- 5 **Enhance Self-sufficiency of Public Housing/Section 8 Tenants and Promote Greater Sense of Community and Pride Among Residents.**
- 6 **Improve Neighborhoods Surrounding Public Housing Communities.**

At the end of 2022 the HACE staff will report to the Board on what progress was made in meeting the approved 2022 Goals and Objectives. The entire 2022 Goals and Objectives Plan can be viewed on the HACE website at www.hace.org.

Early Connections

On July 26, 1996, the former YWCA of Erie received a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to fund the first two years of a fully licensed child care center in the John E. Horan Garden Apartments. The YWCA later

became Early Connections and not only continued to operate the child care center at JEHGA for 26 years but later expanded, opening up another center in the Marsha Ann Hall Center in Harbor Homes.

Both high-quality child care centers are licensed by the Department of Human Services and serves children 6 weeks to 6 years of age. They offer funded infant-toddler and pre-K programs available to

qualified children at no cost to families. In total, the two centers serve 35 to 40 early learners, welcoming families from the Housing Authority locations to a consistent, high-quality early care and education program. Hours for each center depends on the needs of the families served; both centers are currently open from 7:30am until 4:00pm.



“ Throughout the years, Early Connections has admired HACE’s continuous respect and support for all families, along with their responsiveness to creative ideas and programs that help lead families to self-sufficiency. We are thankful for HACE’s dedication to our community, and look forward to continuing our longtime partnership. ”

Michelle Harkins
Executive Director, Early Connections

Summer Internship Program

Every summer the Housing Authority provides paid internships to Public Housing and Section 8 residents between the ages of 17 and 22 who will be attending or are enrolled in college full time in the fall of 2022. Interns work in Authority offices, summer recreation programs, maintenance department or in some cases with HACE partner organizations. Interns are paid \$13.00 per hour and work between 35 and 40 hours per week.

To apply to be a HACE Summer Intern you must pick up an application at our Central Office located at 606 Holland Street. For information, contact Resident Initiatives Coordinator Cherie Kinem at 452-2425.

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Michael R. Fraley – Executive Director and Secretary

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"It's About People!"

Visit us at hace.org

Summer Fun and Activities

HACE has a summer full of fun and entertaining activities for our young residents, their families and seniors. The highlight of the summer will be the 25th Annual Family Picnic at Waldameer Amusement Park on Friday, July 15th.

Summer activities will include Meet Your Neighbor Days, National Night Out, Concerts, Nature Programs, Summer Lunch, Learn to Swim, Golf, Sailing and Fishing Programs, Senior Picnics and much more. The YMCA, the John F. Kennedy Center, the E.F. Smith Quality of Life Learning Center and Dafmark have special events throughout the summer.

The Summer Activity Schedule will be out in May and can also be found on the HACE website at www.hace.org.

