

PUBLISHED BY:

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LEF Year End Appeal

It's time for us to wrap up the year and send our final appeal for your help and support for Lake Erie Foundation's (LEF) mission to improve the health of Lake Erie. Your generosity and support enable us to advance the importance of protecting Lake Erie through advocacy with our legislators and local government agencies, collaborating with stakeholders such as scientists, farmers, and businesses, and building awareness of the issues through the education of our community members.

As you consider your donation or renewing your membership, there are many charitable methods to support Lake Erie Foundation.

Donor Advised Funds – A Growing Way of Giving

Many donors are turning to Donor Advised Funds (DAF) to support nonprofits they value. In short, a DAF is a charitable giving tool that makes it simple for donors to dedicate funds to support their favorite charities. Donor Advised Funds are both operationally convenient and a tax-efficient method to manage your charitable giving.

According to Candid, an online foundation resource website, a donor can contribute a certain amount of assets such as cash, stock shares, or some other kind of wealth, to their DAF. Donors can then deduct the total amount of that charitable gift from that year's taxes. The funds must remain in the DAF, during which time they can be invested and continue to grow to compound the long-term value of the gift.

Increasingly, individual donors are choosing to contribute to donor-advised funds because they can advise how funds are invested and distributed but avoid the administrative requirements and operating costs of running a private foundation. According to the National Philanthropic Trust, in 2018, DAFs held more than \$121 billion and made \$23.42 billion in grants to nonprofits, an increase in giving of 18.9% over the previous year.

LEF is honored to receive DAFs from many local financial institutions that can create and manage your funds. These include community foundations such as Erie County Community Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, Stark County Foundation, American Endowment Foundation, Toledo Foundation, Columbus Foundation, Dayton Foundation, and Community West Foundation, and investment firms that manage charitable funds of Vanguard, Fidelity, and Schwab.

Donor-advised funds are an effective method to streamline your giving through one charitable tool and allow you to give directly to LEF, a cause you can believe in now and in the future.

Talk to your financial advisor about recommending a DAF grant to LEF.

Matching Gifts – Double Your Impact

Corporate matching gifts are an easy way to double the impact of your gift. Many companies will financially match donations made by their employees to nonprofit organizations. It typically requires the employee (you!) to request the match to your employer. Companies usually match donations at a 1:1 ratio, but some will go to a 2:1 or more.

Many companies include corporate social responsibility – also known as corporate citizenship – in business operations. They are conscious of the kind of impact that they have on our environment or society in general. Companies of all sizes match donations because it is an easy and structured way for them to support the excellent work of LEF and other nonprofits in our communities.

The best way to determine if your company matches your donations is to check with your human resources department.

Partner Support - With a little help from our Friends!

LEF is grateful to our many business partners and passionate individuals who commit financial support and go the extra mile by donating sales proceeds or hosting a fundraising event. These activities are organized and run by local business owners who rely on and appreciate the value of Lake Erie. These essential activities provide LEF with an expanded ability to increase awareness of the issues impacting Lake Erie and to raise money to assist us in furthering our work.

If you or your business is interested in hosting an event or donating sales proceeds, don't hesitate to contact us at info@lakeeriefoundation.org, and we will be happy to partner with you!

Thank you to these businesses for their support through fundraising events and sales proceeds. We encourage you to support their businesses with your patronage.

- **Erie & Anchor** – ErieandAnchor.com – for more than four years, the owner has committed to donating a portion of annual sales proceeds to help improve Lake Erie.
- **Clemons Boats** – Clemonsboats.com - hosts their annual Customer Appreciation Event in August and donates proceeds from the event.
- **Sandusky Wine Walk** – an annual event in Downtown Sandusky where local businesses donate raffle items and money to help Lake Erie Foundation
 - Hotel Kilbourne, organizer, HotelKilbourne.com
 - Crush Winebar
 - Daly's Pub
 - Firelands Adventure Tours
 - Havin' Fun Too
 - J Bistro
 - Jax Bar
 - Kharma II
 - Shores & Islands Ohio
 - Lakelynn Design
 - Lakes Eleven
 - Magroup
 - Paddle & Climb
 - Shore House Tavern
 - The Fabulous Female
- **SolStay Lodging**, Sandusky - Solstaylodging.com – hosted a September fundraising event with food, music, beverages, ice cream, and raffles.
- **Small City Tap House**, Sandusky - Smallcitytaphouse.com – donating proceeds from Lake Erie Love craft beer sales
- **Lake Ridge Academy** – donated funds from a student-led Malley's Chocolate fundraiser and beach clean-up.
- **Facebook Fundraisers** – individuals can run fundraisers through their Facebook account such as one of our supporters did on Earth Day.