



Check out page 3 for more !

Erie Gives Day
August 11, 2020
Eriegives.org



mission empower

Educational Advocacy for the Inclusion of Youth

GRATITUDE REPORT

Impact Journal August 2020

Straight from The Executive Director

During these uncertain times, things are continuously changing, especially whether to send children back to school full time, use a hybrid approach, or to keep them home and go virtual. Children and youth with disabilities are at risk of falling further behind in their education more than ever before. This may be the first generation when young people with disabilities lose more protections and rights since civil rights laws were passed. Through your continued financial support, families are helped and encouraged along their unprecedented journey. Thank you for being the hero that makes it possible for families to be empowered to be their child's best advocate!

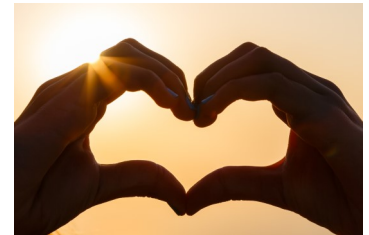


Jill Hrinda-Patten

*You created miracles,
giving beloved kids a sense of
security and the ability to learn and
thrive in their environments.*

Your passion has

*Enabled the new generation to
become leaders,
entrepreneurs, educators, and so
much more!*



Students sitting with backpacks holding American flags

- ### In This Issue
- Note from Executive Director
 - How Will Your Donations Impact Erie County Students?
 - What is a PWE?
 - Erie Gives
 - Youth Envision Summit
 - Erie Gives Check Form



Students raising their arms with the words "Thank You for your Donations!" above their heads.

How Will Your Donations Impact

Erie County Students?

Mission Empower's Programs

Youth Envision: A youth-lead program for grades 8th to 12th where youth explore their strengths, give back to the community through volunteering, develop their leadership capabilities and set goals for high school and beyond. The year-long program kicks off with a three day Youth Summit that creates an inclusive environment to help youth learn and practice skills that will help them meet their full potential and achieve their dreams!

Advocacy: Supporting, coaching and mentoring families who have infants, toddlers, children, youth and young adults having the full range of disabilities through providing one to one help to better understand the special education system; support at Individual Education Plan (IEP)s, Evaluation Report (ER) or any other school meetings; virtual or in person trainings that empower families to be their child's most informed advocate; parent leadership opportunities to help shape the systems that children and youth interact with. **Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, staff are here for you to assist in your families' journey!**

Mission Employment: In collaboration with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Mission Empower works with students to provide **paid work experience** and help explore career paths. To help pave the way for employment, Mission Employment provides vocational exploration, hard and soft skills training, such as creating resumes and conducting interviews, and on the job experience to high school students. Students connect their interests, skills and goals with career possibilities.

PWE

What is a Paid Work Experience?

Mission Empower collaborates with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation with helping students seek out their interests of what kind of a job career they might like to investigate and see if it will be a choice they would pursue.

- Seeking different job interest of the students
- Networking with different business throughout Erie County
- Finding a match that will give the students a working opportunity
- Student receive a stipend to experience a professional occupation path and find out what type of training will be needed.
- A hands-on experience with a job coach to influence work ethics.
- Results are students get the knowledge of their interests for a career.
- Mission Employment can be a reference for the students and help them assist them to a profession.



Students helping a customer at a CVS store

Erie Gives 2020

<https://www.eriegives.org/>



Your donation will support the

2020 YOUTH SUMMIT

Youth Envision

Create lasting friendships while participating in activities to learn self advocacy skills and discover your unique gifts and talents to build a brighter future for yourself within your community!

What You Need to Know:

Day and Time: Checks will be accepted on Monday, August 10th . The online event takes place on **Tuesday, August 11th. You have 12 hours to make your donation between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EST.**

Gift Amount: The minimum gift is **\$25**. There is no limit to the amount of money you may give. There is no limit to the number of organizations you can donate to in a transaction.

Credit Cards: Only Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be accepted. The credit card processor charges a nominal fee per transaction. The Erie Community Foundation does not receive any fees. Sorry, credit card gift cards will not be accepted.

Checks: Donors can write a check for their Erie Gives donation

- Checks must be made out to **The Erie Community Foundation**. All check donations must be accompanied by a [Check Donation Form](#) (include yellow form with provided envelope) and can be mailed to Mission Empower by **Friday, August 7th.** or
- Checks must be delivered to The Erie Community Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507) no later than **Monday, August 10.**

Prorated Match: The Erie Community Foundation and our sponsors will enhance donors' gifts by providing a prorated match to each gift made to a nonprofit.

Your Receipt: You will receive an email receipt of your gift, which you should retain for tax purposes. Unless you choose to remain anonymous, your donor information will be sent to the appropriate organizations



Mission Empower receiving Erie Gives Check 2013

Mark
Data

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Erie Gives, which has raised over \$26M in its history.

- **Monday, August 10th**
Checks need to be delivered at Erie Community Foundation
- **Tuesday, August 11th**
Online Donation
8am – 8pm
- **Wednesday—Friday,**
August 12th -14th
Youth Summit



Youth Summit
August 12th, 13th & 14th
9 AM – 4 PM

Lake Erie Arboretum @ Frontier Park
 1501 West 6th Street, Erie PA 16501
 Check www.missionempower.org for youth to register!

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services

Mission Empower

1611 Peach St Suite 120

Erie, PA 16501

(814) 825-0788

advocate@missionempower.org

Visit us on the web at
www.missionempower.org

An Update From Director of Mission Employment's Desk!

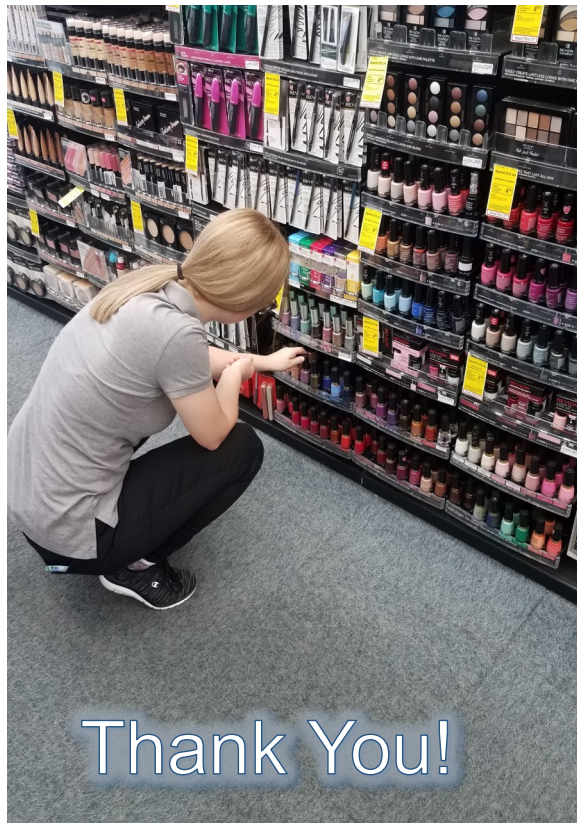
Interview with Gracie Bessetti About Her PWE



Norma J Lewis

Q. When you worked with Mission Empower at the CVS store, What was the most important skill you learned?

A. “The most important skill was Customer Service. It has made a difference working where I am now. I am working at Freeport Restaurant as a hostess. At first when working at CVS , I was shy because I didn't know who I would be talking to, but after a couple weeks, I would engage with the customers to see if they needed help. Another skill I learned was understanding how the business worked from the front of the store to the inventory in the back room. I enjoyed learning and getting a foundation on how to conduct myself in a job atmosphere. “



Thank You!

Q. What is your future goal?

A. “I am in a 10 month program at Great Lakes learning to be a vet assistant tech. I will graduate in November of 2020. “

“Thank You Mission Empower for having a program to build a great job experience and give me confidence to be prepared for my future.”