



# ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

## Who We Are.

A non-profit service agency that provides resources, support and technical assistance to neighborhood groups throughout Erie County. We offer regular training opportunities and workshops; notification of funding opportunities and assistance with funding applications; research and distribution of best practice information; education on services available to neighborhood residents; connections to key community partners, i.e. law enforcement, code enforcement, social service agencies, faith-based organizations and schools; provision of technical assistance at individual neighborhood group meetings.

## What We Do.

Since June 2014 the NRO has accomplished the following:

- Held a series of informational workshops, based on feedback from residents on what topics are of most interest to them, on topics such as Combating Drugs, How the Justice System Works, Capacity Building, Grant Writing and Home Security and Situational Awareness.
- Produced a number of publications, including a Neighborhood Safety Toolkit, Grant Writers Handbook and an Organizer's Handbook for Neighborhood Coordinators.
- Awarded 29 Neighborhood Mini-Grants to assist neighborhood groups with carrying out projects and activities that they determined would have a positive effect on their community.
- Sponsored the first-ever Good Neighbor Awards to recognize individuals, groups and businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to making their community a better place to live
- Launched a new website ([nroerie.org](http://nroerie.org)) to share information with a wider audience.
- Established relationships with an ever-increasing number of community partners to coordinate efforts, work toward common goals and develop comprehensive strategies for revitalizing neighborhoods.
- Increased the number of our neighborhood group partners from 11 to more than 25, while extending our services to a growing number of communities such as Corry, Wattsburg, McKean and Millcreek.

## Neighborhood Resource Organization

The NRO is a component of Unified Erie, a county-wide violence reduction initiative that employs a three-prong approach of Prevention, Enforcement and Reentry to address the root causes of problem behaviors. In 2012 Unified Erie developed a clear plan with proven strategies for preventing crime, known as the Erie County Community Action Plan (CAP). This comprehensive plan is backed by data and fully supported by law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels. The NRO was created in June 2014 to implement strategies identified in the CAP to reclaim our neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for our fellow residents.

Over the past 2 years the Neighborhood Resource Organization (NRO) has had a tremendous impact on the well-being of neighborhoods and communities in Erie County by working directly with neighborhood groups and residents that are committed to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their communities.

However, we are now at a critical point where we need the support of the community to continue our efforts. The initial grant funding that got us up and running is winding down and we are facing the very real possibility of reducing services and staff at a time when we are just beginning to hit our stride. **Please consider a donation to the NRO so that we can continue to provide training, technical assistance and resources to neighborhoods in Erie County.**

[DONATE](#)

# 2015-16 YEAR IN REVIEW

## JULY 2015

The NRO executive director was a guest presenter for the first Community Awareness Forum hosted by the Crime Victim Center.

Developed a "How to be a Good Neighbor" booklet for neighborhood groups to distribute to residents.

## AUGUST 2015

Launched new NRO website.

## SEPTEMBER 2015

Announced the first annual Good Neighbor Awards to recognize individuals and organizations making positive impacts in their communities and celebrate their accomplishments.

Produced the NRO's initial Annual Report with the assistance of a Communications Makeover grant from the Nonprofit Partnership.

## OCTOBER 2015

Produced our third handbook, The Organizer's Handbook for Neighborhood Coordinators.

## DECEMBER 2015

Hosted first annual Good Neighbor Awards Ceremony in December 2015 recognizing 11 individuals, groups and businesses nominated by the community for their work in their neighborhood.



### NRO SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

The NRO developed a survey tool to gather information from members of various Neighborhood Watch Groups and Associations and community partners to better evaluate the work of the NRO and its effect on the community. Here are just some of our results, the full report can be found on our website.

[VIEW SURVEY RESULTS](#)

**62.1%** **HAVE YOU USED THE NRO FOR ANY SERVICES OR CONSULTING?**  
*29 responses*  
**YES 62.1%**      **NO 37.9%**

**68.2%** **RATE YOUR SATISFACTION WITH THE NRO ON THE FOLLOWING:**  
*23 responses*

- Overall satisfaction: ..... **Very Satisfied 68.2%**
- Ease of access to services: ..... **Very Satisfied 57.9%**
- Knowledge/expertise of NRO staff:..... **Very Satisfied 73.7%**
- Assistance by staff:..... **Very Satisfied 64.7%**
- Length of time between requesting ..... **Very Satisfied 66.7%**  
and receiving services:

**42.1%** **HOW LONG HAVE YOU USED THE NRO'S SERVICES?**  
*19 responses*

<b>12 or more months</b>	<b>42.1%</b>
<b>6-12 months</b>	<b>36.8%</b>
<b>Less than 3 months</b>	<b>21.1%</b>

**JANUARY 2016**  
 Hosted a Combating Drugs in your Community workshop.  
 Published the Millcreek Township edition of the Neighborhood Safety Toolkit.

**MAY 2016**  
 The NRO is actively working with over 25 neighborhood groups and is being referred by law enforcement partners, other neighborhood groups and community partners.

**APRIL 2016**  
 Partnered with Country Fair convenience stores to host 13 individual neighborhood events during the summer of 2016 that brought neighbors together, promoted community policing with local law enforcement agencies, encouraged information sharing by social service agencies and raised a minimum of \$300.00 for each participating neighborhood group.

**APRIL 2016**  
 Held the first in a series of Home Security workshops. This workshop will be replicated throughout Erie County in the summer and fall.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

Knights of St. John  
South Erie Turners  
American Legion Post 773  
Erie Elks Lodge #67  
Bianchi Motors  
Bonnell's Collision  
Northwest Savings

Grainger Foundation  
Erie Insurance Giving Network  
Nonprofit Partnership  
Erie Community Foundation  
PA Commission on  
Crime and Delinquency  
Country Fair

## 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD MINI GRANT AWARDS

**\$641.35**

EAGLE Neighborhood Watch:  
Community Garden at St. Matthews  
Lutheran Church; Bike helmets for youth.

**\$1,000.00**

Wattsburg Area Action Group: Della Bayle  
Park Revitalization.

**\$999.91**

Boulevard Park Association (formerly  
Strong Vincent): T-shirts, Neighborhood  
Watch Decals, Important Numbers magnets,  
Neighborhood Watch banner.

**\$1,000.00**

SNOOPS Neighborhood Watch: Dumpster  
Day, Friendship Park flowers, and arbor.

**\$1,000.00**

Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch:  
Gazebo for Pebble Lake Park.

**\$1,000.00**

East Ave/Hess Ave Neighborhood Watch:  
Wooden Benches, supplement National  
Night Out.

**\$1,000.00**

Eastside Neighborhood Association: Light  
up Neighborhood, 100 LED outdoor light  
bulbs, neighborhood survey, and door  
hangers.

**\$750.00**

East Bayfront Neighborhood Watch:  
Gateway Gardens, Foot of Holland, Bump  
outs on Parade St, Foot of Wallace St.

**\$995.76**

Glenwood Heights Neighborhood Watch:  
High Tech Surveillance Camera (portable).

**\$968.95**

Eastside Eagles: Beautification, lawn mower,  
weed trimmers, leaf blower.

**\$1,000.00**

City of Corry Neighborhood Watch:  
Supplement National Night Out.

**\$1,000.00**

Burton Diehl Neighborhood Watch:  
Emergency Numbers magnets, yearly flyer  
mail out, postage.

**\$1,000.00**

Academy Neighborhood Association:  
Project Growth, Dog Waste Bag Dispenser  
for Bakers Field, Little Free Libraries,  
supplement National Night Out.

**\$950.00**

Little Italy Neighborhood Watch:  
Dumpster Day

