

# New leader rejoins the Ohio philanthropic field



## Beth Pongracz Maiden

Executive Director

Erie County Community Foundation

### Best advice I ever received:

"Be the person who can be counted on. Be reliable. Your word is your honor."  
Wise words from my dad.

### Three goals for 2016

- 1) To learn the Erie County community.
- 2) To read 10 non work-related books – I'm on no. 5!
- 3) To try a new and fun activity each month.

### What's surprised me so far:

How friendly everyone in Erie County has been and how welcoming. Also, that the community foundation is in a very unique position to work collaboratively with local family foundations and really make an impact.

### What I do when I'm not at work:

I serve on the Board of Directors of Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, chairing the External Affairs Committee, and I'm very involved with both my high school and college alma maters in alumni activities. My husband, Warren, and I love exploring our region and great state to find the best craft beer and vineyards.

### What I'm reading:

After a long stretch of only reading non-fiction, I just completed *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, a heartbreaking and touching novel.

### Who I'm following on Twitter or blogs I subscribe to:

I've followed friend Kris Putnam-Walkerly @Philanthropy411 for years. A news junkie, I also follow @WashingtonPost, @NYTimes and @NPR, plus @JimmyFallon for a daily dose of humor.