



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Connecting Erie Families to Serve One Another

# OUR ORGANIZATION

---

**Erie Uplink is a 501(c)3 non-profit in Erie, serving only Erie**

- Programs built around the unmet needs of students and families in Erie
- Primarily serve those students/families who meet the criteria for free & reduced lunch assistance
- Provide temporary assistance to those in crisis situations





# OUR INSPIRATION

---

Erie Uplink was founded in 2011 by three Erie women: Lexi Cire, Lisa Knudsen and Stephanie Short.

“All three of us mothers, at various times, witnessed needs that were going unmet in our community. We knew we could make a difference, so Erie Uplink was born.”



# OUR VISION

A community of caring in Erie where folks work together to empower and assist one another in times of need.

# OUR MISSION

To help link those who “have” with those who may be in need. We are Erie people, helping Erie people.



## ASSISTANCE

Provide support and resources to fulfil the basic life needs of Erie students, families and senior citizens.



## CONNECTION

Link residents to one another by providing volunteer opportunities through our programs.



## COMMUNITY

Build a sense of community through shared experience and care for one another.



# OUR FOCUS

---

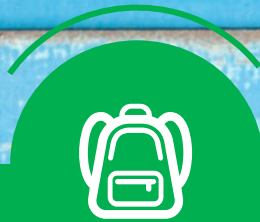
**Erie Uplink relies solely on financial contributions and donated items from the Erie community.**

- Food and clothing drives held annually by churches and local schools
- Various fundraisers done in conjunction with local businesses
- Non-paid founders, administrators and volunteers mean low overhead

Linking Erie residents together



# OUR PROGRAMS



**TIGER PACKS**  
Backpacks filled with food, winter items, toiletries and school supplies sent home with students during long weekends/holiday breaks.



**COLLEGIATE CROSSINGS**  
We sponsor first generation college students to receive counseling for post-secondary education.



**SUMMER LUNCH**  
Free hot lunches served in partnership with SVVSD and activities provided by community volunteers.

# TIGER PACK PROGRAM

## Feed 'em like tigers!

Tiger Packs are backpacks filled with food for students who do not have enough to eat on holidays/long breaks. They also contain other items of need such as hygiene products, school supplies, hats and gloves during winter months and even Christmas stockings over the Holiday Break. Additionally, we provide a Tiger Hot Lunch account for those in need (\$700 per year) as well as a Tiger Pantry at the high school where students can “shop” discreetly for snacks and personal care items (\$1400 per year).



**110**

Average students  
enrolled per year



**\$286**

Benefit provided  
per student/year

**\$33,527** Annual benefits provided

(includes Tiger Pantry and Tiger Hot Lunch accounts)





# COLLEGIATE CROSSINGS PROGRAM

Many students have the desire to go to college but have no idea where to begin to make this dream a reality. In partnership with Collegiate Crossings, students receive guidance on class selection, essays, resumes, financial planning, timelines, deadlines and more to successfully enroll in higher education that is suited to their needs. We focus on at-risk children, many below the poverty line, and first generation college students.



**6**  
Students  
served



**\$3200**  
Value per  
student

**\$19,200** Provided to date



# SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

2018 was the inaugural year for this program which is a partnership with the St. Vrain Valley School District to provide free hot lunches to students through the USDA Summer Meals Program. Erie was the only town in the district to include meals for seniors and adults at no charge through a donation from Erie Uplink. Held M-Th June through July, the lunches are a community event, bringing together residents of all ages to share a meal and fun group activity.



**200+**  
Volunteers



**1,240**  
Meals served

**\$725** Provided for senior/adult meals





# OUR VOLUNTEERS

## Erie people helping Erie people

Through Erie Uplink programs, residents of all ages come together to support their community. Among groups that regularly serve are church groups, local businesses, school teams, clubs and families.

Making an impact on our community



660

Volunteers  
have served



2200

Community  
service hours



# OUR PARTNERSHIPS

## Utilizing community resources

Erie Uplink also partners with local businesses and community establishments for programs and events. In fact, the Erie Community Library will play a large role in our Summer Lunch Program next year, attending weekly to promote literacy.

Our valued partners:



- Erie Community Center
- Erie Community Library
- SVVSD
- Calvary Bible Church
- Orchard Church
- Living Faith Fellowship
- Impact Rock Church
- A Precious Child
- A Woman's Work
- Collegiate Crossings
- Sweets/The Old Mine
- Chick-fil-A



## OUR IMPACT

### Linking is the key

With an operating budget of \$15,092, we provided programs that valued more than \$53,000 by “linking” with community partners and more than 660 volunteers to maximize our impact.

The bottom line:



**\$15,092**

Operating Budget

**\$53,000**

Value of programs  
provided to the  
community

# ERIE STATISTICS

---



**\$112,000**

2017 Median Household Income  
*Source: ErieCO.gov*



**125**

Cost of Living Index (COLI)  
*Source: areavibes.com*



**278**

Number of students at EHS, EMS and  
EES on Free & Reduced Lunch  
*Source: CO Dept. of Education*

## Breaking through barriers

Erie has unique challenges that can present a barrier to daily life needs for those with special circumstances or facing crisis. Erie Uplink serves these residents who would otherwise be “under the radar” in our thriving community.



# UNIQUE CHALLENGES

## 01 GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATION

Reduced proximity to community-based assistance programs and affordable resources.

## 02 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Lack of public transportation options creates a barrier to resources and employment

## 03 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Increased housing costs have led to couch surfing, kinship care and multi-family living

## 04 LIMITED RESOURCES

Erie lacks the community resources available in more established municipalities

## 05 LACK OF EMPLOYERS

There are few local employment options for those without transportation

## 06 AFFORDABLE ACTIVITIES

Parents with limited financial resources have few options for their kids

# OUR REQUEST

Erie UpLink expanded operations significantly this year to serve a growing Erie population, including a new 1,200 student school. We have outgrown our free storage space and our operating budget of \$15,092 in 2017 has nearly doubled. A grant of \$5,000 from the Town of Erie would allow us to continue to grow and fulfill our mission of serving Erie families in need, as shown here.

# 10

**ADDITIONAL TIGER PACK  
ENROLLMENTS**  
*(\$286 value per student/year)*



# 100

**SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM  
SENIOR MEALS**  
*(\$3.75 cost per meal)*



# 1

**ADDITIONAL COLLEGIATE  
CROSSINGS SCHOLARSHIP**  
*(\$1800 cost per student)*





## New Shoes

---

Thank you so much for the new shoes. They are very cute! Thanks for the food too! It's always so yummy.



## Emergency Assistance

---

Thank you so much for helping make a better day for our community. The gift cards are perfect. We are so grateful!



THANK  
YOU



## Calvary Bible Church

---

Thank you for all you have done through Erie Uplink. It is a wonderful outreach and blessing to our community!



## Tiger Packs

---

Thank you so very much for all the help. The backpacks were a blessing. Kept my boys in healthy snacks and meals.



## Location

77 Erie Village Square, #280  
Erie, Colorado 80516



## EMAIL

[erieuplink@gmail.com](mailto:erieuplink@gmail.com)



## WEBSITE

[www.erieuplink.org](http://www.erieuplink.org)

