



A monthly e-publication offering a snapshot of key issues impacting philanthropy, our community and the foundation's agenda.

Strategic Focus Areas

PHILANTHROPY

[Foundations Look to Program-Related Investments \(PRI\)](#)



The John R. Oishei Foundation has allocated more than \$12 million to fund PRI projects that boost the impact of their grant making while incurring relatively small risk.

[Nearly 341,000 Non-Profits Face Revocation of Tax Status](#)



More than 21 percent of non-profit organizations in the United States could lose their tax-exempt status if they don't file their proper tax forms with the IRS.

[Individual Charitable Giving Fell in 2009](#)



A new report says individual charitable giving in 2009 fell 4.9%, following a similar decline in 2008 when giving was down by 6.0%. Analysts, however, remain optimistic for growth in charitable giving in 2010.

[House Passes Extension on Charitable Tax Breaks](#)



The House of Representatives approved legislation allowing people age 70 ½ and older to continue giving up to \$100,000 a year tax-free from their IRAs through the end of 2010.

SELF SUFFICIENCY

[Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters](#)



A report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation highlights that four out of five fourth-graders from low-income families are not proficient in reading.

[Percentage of High-Poverty Public Schools Rises](#)



A report published by the U.S. Department of Education found that the percentage of high-poverty schools (75% or more of their student base eligible for free or reduced lunch) rose from 12 to 17% between 2000 and 2008.

[Better Wages Needed to Help Buffalo Battle Poverty](#)



The Partnership for the Public Good found 125,000 workers in Western New York are in occupations paying less than \$20,000 annually making it difficult for Buffalo to turn the corner in its battle with poverty.

REGIONAL ASSETS

[One Step Closer to a War of 1812 Trail in Black Rock](#)



The Niagara River Greenway Commission endorsed the proposal for developing a multi-purpose trail highlighting spots in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood with ties to the War of 1812.

[Construction of Waterfront Parkway Nearly Complete](#)



The \$50 million dollar project to turn Fuhrmann Boulevard into a waterfront parkway is on schedule to be completed this fall, creating a new destination point for walkers, bicyclists, fishermen and other waterfront users.

[South Park Avenue to Undergo Revitalization](#)



\$2.3 million targeted for the revitalization of South Park Avenue will include new street lighting, sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks and 400 new trees to line the avenue.

[Ship Canal Commons will Transform Steel Site to Park](#)



Over \$9.4 million in funding has been secured to develop a multifaceted park encompassing 20 acres surrounding the Union Ship Canal on the city's south waterfront.



NEIGHBORHOOD REVIVAL



[Local Greenhouses Give Gardeners a Head Start](#)



With the support of Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo a pilot seedling program provided over 5,000 plants free of charge to community gardens spread across the city, providing a cost-effective means for growing healthy vegetables.

[Text-A-Tip: Empowering Citizens to Make Buffalo Safer](#)



Dialing in on a generation more comfortable with texting than making anonymous phone calls, the Buffalo Police Department is providing citizens another way to report criminal activity.

[A Shared Resource with the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo](#)

For comments or suggestions please contact Curtis Robbins (crobbins@oisheifdt.org)

COMMUNITY HEALTH

[Child Mortality Rates Down Worldwide](#)



In a recent report assessing 187 countries, the mortality in children under the age of 5 has dropped from 11.9 million deaths in 1990 to an estimated 7.7 million deaths in 2010.



[Challenges Ahead for Non-Profit Hospitals](#)



The future of non-profit hospitals rests on information technology and smart growth strategies, to improve quality and reduce costs in an era of heightened reform.

ENVIRONMENT

[Green Concepts for Buffalo Parking Ramps](#)



Buffalo parking officials intrigued by the recent concept of urban windmills believe that several city-owned parking ramps may be ideal sites to harness renewable energy.

[Energy Master Plan to be Completed for NYS Thruway](#)



C.J. Brown Energy of Buffalo has been contracted to develop an energy master plan along 70,000 acres of Thruway and canal right of way to evaluate solar / wind power opportunities.

[Have Organizational Values Gone Missing?](#)



Article examines how the Nature Conservancy's funding relationship with BP has compromised their position in protecting the environment.