

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BRINGING GOOD ENERGY  
TO OUR COMMUNITIES



**FirstEnergy**

**FirstEnergy**<sup>®</sup>

# Message from Chuck Jones



Bringing good energy to our communities means more than delivering safe, reliable, clean and affordable electricity to our customers – it’s about our sustained efforts to improve the quality of life where we live and work.

These efforts include making significant investments through FirstEnergy and the FirstEnergy Foundation in grants and corporate giving, which provide vital support to community-based organizations across our service area. They also involve the many volunteer contributions of our employees, who lend their time and talents to assist hundreds of organizations and thousands of people each year.

In addition, we work with community leaders to help further civic, economic and social priorities. We also support programs that promote diversity and inclusion, advance an educated workforce, and further key environmental initiatives focused on creating a more sustainable future.

As this brochure illustrates, FirstEnergy is truly dedicated to making a positive difference in the communities we’re privileged to serve. It’s a commitment we have honored for more than a century and one continually expressed in virtually every facet of our business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chuck Jones  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# Investing in Our Communities

FirstEnergy's roots run deep in the communities where we live and work. Our employees share a strong commitment to supporting the development of our neighborhoods and reaching out to those in need.



## OUR GIVING PRIORITIES

Our charitable efforts focus on initiatives that parallel our business interests to:

### Help improve the vitality of our communities and support key safety initiatives

- We are committed to helping our communities, and the people who live in them, succeed.
- We support programs that enhance the safety of our employees, customers and communities.

### Promote local and regional economic development

- We support quality of life and economic development initiatives, as well as projects that bolster community growth and stability.

### Support employee leadership and volunteer interests

- We encourage employees to take on challenging leadership roles in the community.
- We provide financial support to qualifying organizations where employees volunteer or hold leadership positions.

### Advance an educated workforce

- We provide financial support to professional development programs, literacy and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

### Promote diversity and inclusion initiatives

- We advance diversity and inclusion in our communities through targeted grants and our support for educational programs.

We've built a strong reputation for supporting and encouraging volunteerism among our employees and for distributing financial resources for the greater good of our communities. We use a strategic approach to community support that promotes the most effective use of our resources.

We choose to support 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations in the following areas:

- Civic and community groups
- Health and human services agencies through the United Way
- Higher educational institutions
- Cultural and arts institutions

We're dedicated to building productive relationships with organizations that address needs within these categories in our communities.



### CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

We strongly encourage and proudly support participation in professional organizations and invest in numerous professional memberships. Our company and employees are active in industry and professional organizations, as well as chambers of commerce and economic development groups. These memberships strengthen the social and economic fabric of our communities and advance the personal and professional development of our employees.

### CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

We support many well-qualified organizations that enrich the quality of life in our communities. Whether it's the United Way or a local charitable agency, our corporate contributions are directed toward organizations and projects dedicated to improving the environmental, economic, social, educational and cultural aspects of our communities.

### EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteer efforts by our employees are enthusiastic and inspiring. Following are just a few examples of how our employees contribute their time and efforts to community-based services:

- Employees regularly share their time and talents at local food pantries, distributing food and raising funds to provide quality social services for the entire community.
- Our employees are passionate about charitable giving. Among many other activities, employees outfit children with coats and book bags, cook meals at homeless shelters, and participate in a number of fundraising events to support a wide range of charitable organizations and people in need.
- Across our service territory, our employees volunteer with local Habitat for Humanity chapters to build simple, affordable, energy-efficient homes, helping make home ownership possible for limited-income families in the communities we serve.
- Employees also collect toys, clothing and other items for children from low-income families.
- From employee volunteers working with local veteran groups to fundraising support for active duty troops, FirstEnergy employees have a tradition of supporting our troops and veterans.





### **HARVEST FOR HUNGER**

Thanks to extensive efforts by our employees and retirees, we are energized by friendly fundraising competitions and various food sales that take place every March to support community food pantries. At the end of each campaign, the company is among the largest contributors to local food banks in all our communities. All contributions remain in the communities where they are raised, providing millions of meals to neighbors in need.

### **UNITED WAY**

The FirstEnergy Foundation, employees and retirees contribute generously to United Way to help ensure the safety and health of the communities we serve. We have long been strong supporters of the organization's annual campaigns and have been consistently recognized by United Way for our efforts.

In addition, hundreds of FirstEnergy employees have volunteered their time in United Way's "Days of Action" by painting homes, trimming trees and shrubs, performing minor repairs and cleaning up trash. This activity promotes the spirit and value of volunteerism and team building. Our employees see firsthand how their United Way contributions are put to work by the nonprofit agencies that rely on these donations.

### **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Teachers in our communities count on our support through much-needed grants and educational materials.

Lending a hand to teachers in our local schools is one of FirstEnergy's longtime traditions. For example, we work to promote electrical safety, career development and literacy initiatives, as well as education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The FirstEnergy Educational Advisory Council – a panel of elementary, middle and high school teachers and administrators – helps us create and select timely and relevant educational materials that we provide to local schools and community groups.

FirstEnergy awards STEM grants to educators and youth group leaders in our communities. Hundreds of grants have funded projects ranging from electric safety, magnetism and robotics to the physics of kites, superconductors and high-speed transportation.

In addition, we donate equipment such as computers, monitors and other resources to benefit schools and nonprofit groups.



## BRINGING GOOD ENERGY TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Our success is inextricably linked to our stakeholders and the communities we serve. In that sense, our commitment to support the greater good is more than just the right thing to do – it’s strongly aligned with our business objectives.

The enthusiasm of our employee volunteers and the funding provided through the FirstEnergy Foundation make meaningful changes in people’s lives. FirstEnergy proudly supports these worthwhile and rewarding efforts.

## THE FIRSTENERGY FOUNDATION

Funded solely by FirstEnergy Corp., the FirstEnergy Foundation awards grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt health and human services agencies, educational organizations, cultural and arts programs and institutions and civic groups throughout our service area and in communities where we conduct business.

To bolster personal philanthropy, the FirstEnergy Foundation supplements the generous donations made by FirstEnergy employees by matching their contributions to qualifying educational, cultural, youth, civic and health and human services organizations.



## FUNDING PROCESS

Grant requests should be discussed with the local management of our FirstEnergy companies and the staff of the FirstEnergy Community Involvement Department. The requests are then evaluated by the Contributions Committee of the Foundation and are budgeted annually. A list of local management contacts and the FirstEnergy Foundation Grant Application form are available on the FirstEnergy website – [www.firstenergycorp.com/community](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/community).

Generally, the minimum eligibility requirements for applications include:

- Qualification as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization as defined by 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
  - Copy of the IRS exemption letter must be attached to the proposal
- Being located in the FirstEnergy service area or where we conduct business
- Compliance with the basic Standards in Philanthropy, as described by the National Information Bureau regarding board composition, purpose, program expenses, promotion, fundraising, accountability and budget

## LIMITATIONS

Since the FirstEnergy Foundation is unable to support all worthwhile programs, it generally does not consider funding for:

- Direct grants to individuals, or to political or legislative activities
- Organizations that receive significant public tax funding
- Fraternal, religious, labor, athletic or social organizations – unless the contribution is earmarked for an eligible program or campaign open to all beneficiaries, including those not affiliated with the host organization
- National or international organizations
- Organizations already supported by federated campaigns, such as affiliates supported by United Way
- Research
- Equipment purchases
- Loans or second-party giving, such as endowments, debt retirement or foundations
- Public or private schools (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade)
- Organizations defined as a 509(a)(3) public charity

The FirstEnergy Foundation's Contributions Committee reserves the right to review all contribution requests and to revise eligibility requirements.

While applications are considered throughout the year, proposals are evaluated by Sept. 1 for the next calendar year.

**REQUESTS SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

Dee Lowery, President  
FirstEnergy Foundation  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, OH 44308-1890

**QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The Contributions Department  
330-384-5780  
[www.firstenergycorp.com/community](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/community)



*We generate goodwill,  
transmit knowledge  
and deliver support.*

**FirstEnergy**<sup>®</sup>