



Making GOOD WORK *Better*

Fremont Area Community Foundation
2015 Annual Report
www.facfoundation.org

THANK YOU for making our wo



\$20 million
in *community*
assets

\$400,000
invested in non-
profits in 2015

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ork possible



The Fremont area is our home, our mission, and our cause. By investing more than money, we make good work better.

So much good work is being done in the Fremont area. The Fremont Area Community Foundation amplifies that work, not just by providing grant funds to support it, but also by building connections, sharing what we've learned, and encouraging new thinking.

We invest in local projects that show promise of making a difference for years to come. In this year's Annual Report, we're highlighting a few new investments, plus looking back in time at examples of long-term impact.

The power of philanthropy is to shine a light on promising solutions. The right help at the right time can strengthen a program, secure its future, or broaden its vision and impact.

Read on to learn how your gifts to the Fremont Area Community Foundation make good work better, all across the Fremont area. Thank you for making a difference!



RUSS PETERSON
President of the Board



MELISSA DIERS
Executive Director

61 funds supporting the Fremont area

So many organizations do good work throughout the Fremont area. Our big-picture perspective supports their efforts and amplifies their impact.



Rebuilding Together is Building Capacity

A safe and happy home for everyone. Rebuilding Together's vision is its mission: to help the elderly, disabled, and other at-risk individuals and families throughout the Fremont area live safely and happily within their own homes. Rebuilding Together (RT) has been providing critical home repairs, modifications and improvements for low-income homeowners in the Fremont area since 2007. But now, through two recent grants from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the organization is building its capacity to serve a broader geographic area more efficiently and with greater impact.

A \$5,000 grant helped Rebuilding Together open a branch office in North Bend, and a \$10,000 grant helped the organization purchase a Volunteer Project Trailer outfitted with tools and construction supplies for use by volunteers. Having an equipped trailer reduces RT's reliance on paid contractors and provides hands-on education and job skills training for area youth and job-seekers looking for experience in the construction industry.

"Our project trailer (allows us) to carry tools, materials and supplies easily to ramp worksites at a lesser cost while the students ... receive hands-on training and the opportunity to provide a genuine community service," said Brad Wiese, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together.

The Hope Center for Kids: Filling the Gap

It started with the Summer Lunch Program. Supported by a Fremont Area Community Foundation grant two consecutive years and hosted by the Presbyterian Church, the program was designed to reduce the summer learning gap and feed hungry children, regardless of income level.

The program yielded positive results: children, who regularly participated in the Summer Lunch Program, scored six points higher in reading and about three points higher in math on standardized tests than their classmates.

The Hope Center launched in Fremont by partnering with the Summer Lunch Program. Children who enjoyed the summer educational program opted to try the Hope Center's afterschool program, designed for grades 5-8. Sessions were first held in the Fremont Church of the Nazarene, but in 2014 the program quickly reached capacity and the program was relocated to a new site—the former Whitmer Welding building on 23rd Street—in 2015.

A grant from FAFAC helped refurbish the 6,750-square facility that now features classrooms, a computer lab, and office space for staff.

“The research clearly shows the students who participate in the afterschool and summer programs score higher on reading and math tests than those who do not,” said Hope Center founder, the late Ty Schenzel. “We are excited that we'll have a place where kids can come and be kids and get the help they need to be successful students.”



Community Impact

Area residents living in poverty are getting equipped with new skills and fresh perspective, thanks to “Gettin’ Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World,” offered collaboratively by Lutheran Family Services, Uniquely Yours Stability Support, Care Corps, and a grant from FAF. This self-awareness class is part of the nationally renowned “Bridges Out of Poverty” community support program and helps low-income earners create their own plan for lifetime stability.





"It's been really powerful to see what Fremont is doing in terms of bringing different sectors into the conversation," said Bridges facilitator Jim Otte. "This is something that oftentimes is dealt exclusively with social services. To see the schools, the businesses, law enforcement, and other areas coming together to discuss how to address poverty in a community was terrific to see."

Photos courtesy of Fremont Tribune

BUILDING BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

If you didn't grow up in poverty, you may be unaware of the "hidden rules" that govern many aspects of life for the poor. People in poverty are often in survival mode, and support systems taken for granted by people in the middle and upper class are largely nonexistent. If a business, agency, or organization works with people living in poverty, a deeper understanding of their challenges—and strengths—provides opportunities to create partnerships and opportunities for success.

To facilitate this outcome, the Fremont Area Community Foundation and Fremont Area United Way joined together last fall to present a two-day workshop called *Bridges Out of Poverty*. Based in part on Dr. Ruby K. Payne's myth-shattering "A Framework for Understanding Poverty," the workshop presented tools and perspective to help those whose daily work connects them with people living in poverty.

Over 200 individuals representing healthcare, churches, nonprofit organizations, city government, and the business community attended the two-day workshop and acquired insight, perspective, and tools to more effectively impact poverty in our community.

Poverty in Fremont is continually growing, Shawn Shanahan, executive director of the Fremont Area United Way, recently told the Fremont Tribune. In 2015, statistics indicated that 28.4 percent of families with children under age 5 in Dodge County live in poverty. If the issue is unaddressed, by the time the poverty percentage reaches the 42 percent marker, people will start leaving Fremont to live in areas not facing the same problem, Shanahan said.



\$70,350
in scholarship
funds provided
to 59 students
with majors in
more than 35
different areas

SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 60 individuals, families, or groups that believe in the value of helping others achieve higher education have established scholarship funds at the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

The Fremont Area Community Foundation offers an annual scholarship program for high school seniors and current and returning college students in Dodge and surrounding counties. Our program includes more than 60 scholarship funds, each with different eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

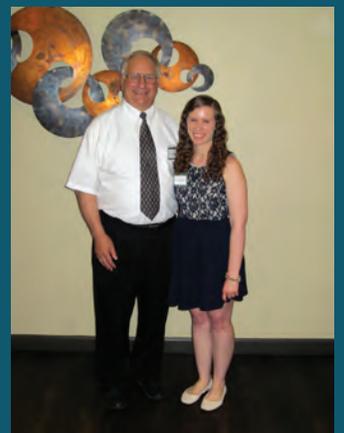
To learn more about the scholarships offered through the Fremont Area Community Foundation, visit www.facfoundation.awardspring.com.

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scholarship funds
helped students
achieve their
scholastic goals

“I want to thank you ...for once again contributing to my college education. It’s no secret that college expenses can be quite a burden, which is why I’m so appreciative of wonderful opportunities like this.”

~Amanda Ruether, 2014 Recipient of the Dr. Darleen Ritter and Skip Anderson Class of 1962 Scholarship



John Spangler, one of the founders of the Class of 1962 Scholarship, and Amanda Ruether are pictured at the 2014 FACF Scholarship Luncheon.

LASTING LEGACIES

Many individuals have left a legacy for the community they love by making a gift through their will to the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Through contributions of cash, securities, life insurance, IRA, memorials, or other bequests, many people—like Lester A. Walker and Dorothy R. Stangel—have taken steps to preserve the future of our area. Understanding that community needs change and new opportunities are constantly emerging, they have asked that their gifts be used to enhance the Foundation’s annual grant-making.

Since 1980, more than 750 grants totaling \$4.1 million have been made to 240 Fremont area organizations spearheading charitable initiatives.

LESTER A. WALKER

Truth, hard work, character, and community. These were the ideals valued by longtime Fremont benefactor Lester A. Walker, former owner and publisher of the Fremont Tribune for nearly 30 years.



Always a champion for community needs and improvements, Les oftentimes took the initiative to get important projects going. The impacts of his visionary thinking live on today. In 1947, he spearheaded the development of the Fremont Pack to provide returning veterans a job after the war. Within a year, it was sold to the George A. Hormel & Company. When Fremont’s old sewer line collapsed in 1952, Lester championed the creation of a modern sewage disposal plant—a facility that has served the Fremont area for over 60 years. And in the early 1950s, he helped establish the Community Chest, known today as the Fremont Area United Way.

“He was very smart and quick about things,” said daughter Jane Walker. “He could analyze anything and put it together and say ‘this is what needs to be done.’”

Les found a solution to furthering his lifelong philanthropy by establishing the Lester Walker Fund at FACF through his will. The Fund was created to augment the Foundation’s grant-making and, since its inception over 20 years ago, it has generated 267 grants totaling more than \$1.5 million to over 100 nonprofit organizations throughout Dodge, Cuming, Colfax, and Washington Counties and beyond.

DOROTHY R. STANGEL

Born in 1925, Dorothy Stangel was an only child raised in Columbus, Nebraska. She graduated in 1943 from Columbus High School and worked for her uncles in the Gass Haney Funeral Home and later for the Department of Labor in Columbus.



In 1965, Dorothy met and married Wilfred J. “Casey” Stangel in Dodge, and the couple made its home in Fremont. Dorothy worked for CF Industries until retiring in 1993 and was a member of Business and Professional Women and Daughters of Union Veterans. She was also a member of First United Methodist Church for nearly 50 years, an office volunteer, and a member of Mary Circle.

Preceded in death by her husband, Dorothy remained very close to her many nieces and nephews and their families.

Upon her passing in 2012, Dorothy included the Fremont Area Community Foundation among her heirs, directing that a percentage of her estate be used for unrestricted purposes. Her generous provision was added to the Fremont Forever Fund, to grow and generate much-needed funds for grant-making.

Through the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the legacies of Lester Walker and Dorothy Stangel will continue to empower lives in the Fremont area for generations to come.



Board of Directors

First Row: Martin Koopman, Christine Leech (vice-president/president-elect), Marv Welstead,* Russ Peterson (president), Jane Dugan, Tom Thomsen,* Dr. Greg Haskins (secretary-treasurer). Second Row: Brad Holtorf, Barbara Christensen, Sid Dillon, Jr., Cheryl Lamme, Terry McClain, Cathy Saeger. Third Row: Dr. Dick Hendriksen, Jessup Wilson, Barry Benson, Ron Kortan, Cindy Coffman, Toni Vering. Not pictured: Dee Bang, Todd Hansen, Bob Hillis, Sheila Monke, Gaylord Mussman, Steve Navarrette,* Dale Olson,* Kari Ridder, Joe Sajevic (*Ex-officio)

Photo by: Richard Rader

Summary of Financial Information

Consolidated Summary of Activities and Changes in Assets*

CHANGES IN ASSETS	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
Revenues, gains, and other support:		
Contributions	\$1,000,593	\$1,974,692
Interest, dividends, and other investment income	\$504,031	\$348,567
Administrative fees and other revenue	\$203,200	\$165,124
Net realized and unrealized gain/loss of investments	(\$77,888)	\$1,850,629
Grants returned	\$2,118	\$1,574
Life insurance net of cash value increase	\$7,151	\$25,740
Transfers from agency funds	\$3,000	\$110,437
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$1,642,205	\$4,476,763
Expenses:		
Grants and scholarships	\$641,698	\$1,114,583
Administrative expenses	\$283,176	\$241,735
Trustee fees	\$41,553	\$36,958
Support services and fees	\$405,951	\$290,349
Total Expenditures	\$1,372,378	\$1,683,625
Change in Net Assets	\$269,827	\$2,793,138
Net Assets beginning of year	\$20,450,933	\$17,657,795
Total Net Assets	\$20,720,760	\$20,450,933

*All information contained in this summary for year end 6/30/15 has been audited.



FREMONT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

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“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” ~ Anne Frank

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit
www.facfoundation.org

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