



# VOICE

*News from the Fremont Area Community Foundation*

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Volume 20, No. 1

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## Fremont Area Community Foundation, Inc.

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## New Endowment Challenge Grant Program Offered to Five Local Non-Profit Organizations

The Fremont Area Community Foundation is stepping up to support the community beyond providing competitive grants. The Foundation is offering a new pilot program to encourage the development of endowment funds. "Last fall, the Board of Directors recognized the impact that the economic downturn might have on our local non-profits. Our goal is to encourage the growth of endowment funds because they serve as savings accounts for organizations when times are tough," said Kristine Gale, executive director of the Foundation. "If annual support for non-profits begins to drop, it immediately impacts the services and programs that organizations can offer. An endowment fund can provide extra support for them."

The "Building for the Future" campaign is offering matching grants of \$10,000 to five local non-profit organizations to either begin a new endowment fund with the Fremont Area Community Foundation or to grow an existing endowment fund with the Foundation. The organizations will have one year to raise new funds to receive the match of \$10,000. "We selected Care Corps, Inc.; Crisis Center for Domestic/Sexual Abuse;

Jefferson House; Friends of Fremont Area Parks, Inc.; and Fremont Opera House, Inc. to participate in this pilot program," said Tom Thomsen, president of the Foundation. "It was a challenge to select the first five organizations, but all five have strong Board of Directors and volunteers to help them be successful in this challenge. We also know that three of the organizations are seeing increased demand on their programs. The Friends of the Parks and Opera House organizations provide programs that increase our community's quality of life which is exactly the mission of the Foundation. Our hope is that the organizations will be successful in raising their match and we can continue this program to different organizations each year."

The Fremont Area Community Foundation believes that endowment funds are a key vehicle to ensuring the long-term future of an organization. It is a way for donors to extend the impact of their gifts. Endowment funds are permanent funds held in perpetuity for the organization. The income generated from those funds is used to support the organization and its programs. For more information, visit [www.facfoundation.org](http://www.facfoundation.org).

## Hooper Area Community Foundation Meets Challenge Grant for New Endowment Fund

David Hingst, president of the Hooper Area Community Foundation, announced that they have raised the funds to meet a \$5,000 challenge grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. The Fremont Area Community Foundation matched dollar for dollar the funds raised to start a new endowment fund of \$10,000 for the Hooper area. "This endowment fund provides people a way to give back to the Hooper area. This permanent fund will generate income to make grants for years to come," Hingst said.

Tom Thomsen, president of the Fremont Area Community Foundation, noted this challenge grant is a great addition to the Foundation's affiliate funds. "Our Board feels it is our role to invest in the future of the communities of Dodge County. We make this investment not only through grants but through administrative support for their own

Foundation. This endowment fund will provide another opportunity for Hooper area residents to invest in their community," Thomsen said.

Once an endowment fund is established, it is available for those who might wish to make estate or other gifts to their community. The money is invested for growth, and the earnings are used for grants. The new endowment fund will be held at the Fremont Area Community Foundation, but it will be restricted to support the Hooper area. The Hooper Area Community Foundation Board will recommend what grants to award from the fund. "This is a great opportunity for our community to come together to work on projects to benefit our quality of life," Hingst said.

For more information on the Hooper Area Community Foundation, go to [www.facfoundation.org/hacf.htm](http://www.facfoundation.org/hacf.htm) or contact David Hingst at 654-2516.

*The mission of the Fremont Area Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life by connecting donor interests with community needs.*

## Foundation Awards Recent Grants

*The following are community grants from the Fremont Area Community Foundation:*

- **Howells Historical Society** – Exterior restoration of the Howells Museum – A grant of **\$750** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund to repaint the southern facade of the building.
- **Chamber of Commerce Foundation of the Fremont Area** – Business Development Center and Hall of Fame Exhibit expansion – A grant of **\$50,000**, given over three years, was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund to expand business development services and provide a historical reminder of the past business icons in the area.
- **Chamber of Commerce Foundation of the Fremont Area** – School to Career Program in Cedar Bluffs – A grant **\$1,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund to expand the School-to-Career program in Cedar Bluffs.
- **Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity** – Houses 42, 43, 44, 45 and privacy fence - A grant of **\$10,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward the construction of four houses and wood privacy fences for nine homes.
- **Scribner Area Foundation** – Teen Spaces project at Scribner Public Library – A grant of **\$2,774** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund for the development of a teen/young adult area at the Scribner Public Library.
- **Cedar Bluffs Public Schools** – A last dollar grant of **\$10,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund for the purchase of a computer numerical controlled router and plasma cutter.
- **Nebraska Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation** – Fremont Area Partnership for the Education and Employment of Court Involved Youth – A grant of **\$7,480** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund to add a GED component to the Vocational Rehabilitation juvenile program.
- **Scribner American Legion Post 121** – Flag Courts of Honor – A grant of **\$2,000** was given from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward the purchase of replacement flags for the boulevard and cemetery display during special occasions. The flags are in memory of departed veterans in the area.
- **Rebuilding Together Greater Fremont Area** – Rehabilitation of 10 homes in the area – A grant of **\$5,250** was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. The grant is for the costs associated with refurbishing homes for elderly and disabled home owners in the Fremont area.
- **Chamber of Commerce Foundation of the Fremont Area** – Greater Fremont Area Career Day – A grant of **\$1,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward the costs associated with Greater Fremont Area Career Day for Fremont area high school sophomores.
- **Heartland Volleyball Club, Inc.** – “Double the Club” Project – A grant of **\$2,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward the project to double the number of athletes playing club volleyball in the Fremont area.
- **District 16 Adult Drug Court** – Training for the Drug Court team – A grant of **\$5,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward additional training for the drug court team and incentives for the same program.
- **Friends of the Fremont Area Parks** – Johnson Park Re-Tree Program – A grant of **\$10,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward the costs of replacing trees around Johnson Lake, and establishing an Arboretum for the community and Fremont Middle School.
- **Dodge County “kidZone” Committee** – Dodge County kidZone Project – A grant of **\$1,000** was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation Fund toward the costs associated with expanding the kidZone play area at the Dodge County Fairgrounds.
- **Dodge County 4-H Foundation** – Citizenship/Community Beautification/Horticulture Education Program – A grant of **\$2,000** was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation Fund toward the program, which includes purchasing planters which will be assembled and cared for by volunteers in the area.
- **Logan View Public School** – New Main Server – A grant of **\$2,000** was awarded from the Lester A. Walker Fund toward the purchase of a new main server, which will serve as the foundation for the school's computer network.
- **Keene Memorial Library** – Every Student Needs a Card Project – A grant of **\$7,500** was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation Fund to assist with funding for library cards for students who live outside Fremont city limits but attend Fremont Public Schools.
- **Northeast Nebraska Family Health Services** – Young Moms and Children Support Group Presentation Materials – A last dollar grant of **\$1,000** was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation Fund toward the cost of purchasing a laptop computer and LCD projector.



## North Bend Elementary School 'P is for Pallota' Presentation

Several North Bend Elementary School students joined Jerry Pallota, nationally known children's book author, for lunch after his presentation, "P is for Pallota." Pallota's appearance in North Bend was made possible in part by a \$700 grant from the North Bend Area Community Foundation. He spoke to all the students during the morning, tailoring his entertaining presentation to the different age groups. Also pictured are Jim Havelka, NBCPS superintendent, and Karen Zietlow, elementary principal.

## Book of Memories

Donors may establish a lasting memorial to honor the memory of a friend or relative, or to honor a special occasion, such as retirement, through a gift to the Book of Memories. The name of the person honored is inscribed in the "Book of Memories," an attractive, leather-bound volume displayed at the Keene Memorial Library.

### In memory of:

Marie Bartling  
Paul Basler  
William C. Becher, Jr.  
Shirley Hipke Boysen  
Lloyd Carlson  
June Christensen  
Calvin E. Coleman  
Mary Jo Dart  
Morace Dritley  
William R. "Bill" Emanuel  
Rebecca Perry Hardcastle  
Dr. Harold Hirsh  
Dwight Hollins  
Marlon Jones  
Orland V. Mahnke  
Dr. William McGinness  
Don Mueller  
Donald E. Mundy  
Tom R. Peterson  
Martin F. Pfeifer  
Marie Robb  
Elsie Greenwood Robbins  
Ray Rowe  
Dorothy Shaw

Lydia Stohs  
Les Torrens  
Randy Trahan  
Dorothy H. Ulbrick  
Wayne B. Weber  
Roma R. Wieser  
Godfrey M. Wieser, Jr.  
Bill Willeford  
Donald D. Williams  
Ruth Yenney  
John Zimola

### In honor of anniversary:

Neil & Bonnie Schilke  
Jean & Marv Welstead

### In honor of birthday:

Mike Cochrane  
Marv Welstead

### In honor of:

Faye Hill  
Ken & Sharon Nielsen  
Bob & Sandy Nielsen  
Ron Nielsen

## A Message from the President



With the national news being filled with so much negativity which impacts our lives in so many ways, perhaps a look to the positive side would be welcome. This is not to say that we are not aware of what the stock market has done to the Foundation's investments. The Foundation has taken steps, which were actually begun several months before the stock market took a nosedive last October, and has retained the services of an investment consultant. He will help the Board of Directors and our investment managers in evaluating our investments and adjusting our asset allocation when the investment climate so dictates. He will also provide advice and consult in the processes we use to invest the donations which are entrusted to us. We have great confidence in our investment managers, but we also recognize that we must use every resource available in this complex arena to keep our investments safe and productive in these difficult economic times. We hope that our new investment consultant will significantly add to our knowledge and help us make good investment decisions.

You have read in the *Tribune* about the Foundation's new "Building for the Future" endowment challenge grant program. It challenges five charitable organizations in this community to match a \$10,000 grant, and grow or establish their endowments with a total of \$20,000. They must raise \$10,000 of new money on their own to receive the match. This is certainly a win-win situation for all involved.

We are also pleased to report that our annual Business Supporter and Sustaining Membership drives were very successful and met last year's giving. We are optimistic about the future of the Foundation because we have tremendous community support, great donors and recognize that the Fremont area is a great place to live, work, raise and educate our children.

Tom Thomsen, FACF President

## Kortan Joins FACF Board of Directors

The Fremont Area Community Foundation announces the addition of Ron Kortan to its Board of Directors. Kortan replaces Jeff Arnold who has taken a new position with the Fremont National Bank. "We appreciate Jeff's contributions to the Foundation during his time on the Board," said Tom Thomsen, president of the Fremont Area Community Foundation's Board of Directors.

Kortan has been with the Fremont National Bank since March of 2000. He was recently promoted to Assistant Vice-President/Trust Officer. Previously, Kortan was a school counselor for 18 years. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors of the Fremont Parks and Recreation Department and a member of the Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity Selection Committee.

Kortan is married and his wife, Karen, is a third grade teacher at Bell Field Elementary. They have two children, Vanessa and Alex, and reside in Fremont.

"Ron's experience in banking and education will certainly benefit the Foundation. He is a great addition to our Board," Thomsen said.

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## Upcoming Application Deadlines

Scholarship applications are now being accepted through April 1, 2009, for most scholarships offered through the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Scholarships are available for current year graduating seniors, non-traditional students and for those students continuing their education. Please visit our Web site for applications and details about each scholarship offered.

The next grant application deadline is April 15, 2009. The guidelines and application form are available from our Web site at [www.facfoundation.org](http://www.facfoundation.org).

## *Thanks To Everyone Who Contributed to the Sustaining Membership Drive*

The 2009 Sustaining Membership Drive was successful in reaching our goal. Thank you to all of you who responded for the generous contributions to this campaign. The Sustaining Membership Drive is used to assist with our operational costs so the Foundation can use our unrestricted endowment funds for the grants we are able to give in the community.



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