The Fremont Forever Fund: *Our Area’s Endowment Fund*

How might the Fremont area change over the next ten years? Twenty-five years? Fifty years? What needs might emerge? What new opportunities will present themselves for this special place we call home?

Decades ago, few could have imagined the technology of today which students must access and master to be competitive in the workplace. Fewer still could have imagined how our communities would be called upon to respond to a 500-year flood let alone a global pandemic.

Fortunately, community foundations are unique in numerous ways. We have our nose to the ground; can find pockets of need within a community that national organizations might overlook; and discover outstanding local people and organizations who are doing significant work. Most importantly, we are uniquely positioned to mobilize financial resources toward urgent community challenges and promising solutions.

How? Primarily through funds like the Fremont Forever Fund, our communities’ unrestricted endowment. Established with a single estate gift of $53,000 in 1980, this fund is the "engine" that drives the foundation’s competitive grantmaking and impact.

It’s an unrestricted endowment fund, so while the income it earns is available annually to support vital programs and initiatives, the principal remains intact to grow over time. Forever! (See graphic below.)

Grants enhance educational opportunity for area youth, promote cultural and recreational opportunities for area families, tackle critical community issues and much more.

Thanks to many donations and strong stewardship of invested assets, the Fremont Forever Fund stands today at almost $9.2 Million. More importantly, it has awarded 687 grants totaling more than $4.4 Million to projects and programs throughout the Fremont area.

Some of these grants have been “game-changers” for area nonprofits and community priorities. Learn about a few of them on page 4.

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**THE FOREVER VALUE OF ENDOWMENTS**

This example shows how endowments grow over time, even as they generate annual grants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fund Growth</th>
<th>Annual Grant</th>
<th>Cumulative Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 1</td>
<td>Donor establishes $10,000 fund</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>Cumulative grants from fund $4,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 10</td>
<td>Fund grows to $12,190</td>
<td>$538</td>
<td>Cumulative grants from fund $14,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 25</td>
<td>Fund grows to $16,406</td>
<td>$724</td>
<td>Cumulative grants from fund $38,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 50</td>
<td>Fund grows to $26,916</td>
<td>$1,187</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumes 4.5% payout and 6.5%* rate of return.

*Note: The Foundation’s investment portfolio returned 8.70% annually over the last three years, 9.77% over the last five years, and 7.71% over the past 10 years.*

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

1005 E. 23rd Street, Suite 2, Fremont, Nebraska 68025 • (402) 721-4252 • www.facfoundation.org
Grant Helps Keene Memorial Library Grow

A community hub for Dodge County residents with as many as 100,000 visitors annually, Keene Memorial Library (KML) has served Fremont and northeast Nebraska since 1901. And as the Fremont area grows, so too must the library expand its capacity and facilities to meet the evolving needs of area residents.

KML builds community through programs and special events. The library has been an essential public resource in times of community hardship. In addition to extensive youth programming including early literacy activities for the youngest readers, numerous programs for elementary school students, and literary sessions for teens as well as adults, KML also connects citizens to community resources with access to computers, the internet, and meeting space.

In February, the Fremont Area Community Foundation invested in the future of KML with a grant of $100,000 toward the $9.4 Million Grow With Us campaign. The project will provide structural expansion and renovation to meet space needs, technology advancements, enhanced accessibility, infrastructure improvements and future sustainability.

With an anticipated groundbreaking in Spring 2022, an expanded library will allow children and adults to experience much improved opportunities for learning and growth and better the Fremont area for years to come.

To support Keene Memorial Library’s Grow with Us campaign, give online at facfoundation.org, or send a check to the Fremont Area Community Foundation, 1005 E. 23rd Street, Suite 2, Fremont, NE 68025. Designate your gift to: KML Grow With Us Campaign.
Thank You for Supporting Our Sustaining Drive!

As we continue to face all of the challenges and opportunities brought to us in 2021, we are more thankful than ever to have you by our side. Following are the individuals, families and businesses that have shown their support for the work of the Fremont Area Community Foundation by contributing to the Sustaining Drive for our 2020-21 fiscal year.**

**CORNERSTONE — $1,500 & up**
- Patti & Greg Beebe
- Mikel & Kathy Broderson
- Blake & Tanya Dillon
- Sid & Patty Dillon
- Bill & Jane Dugan
- Ron & Helen Jensen
- Dale Olson
- Neil* & Bonnie Schilke

**PACESETTER — $1,000-$1,499**
- David & Cynthia Christensen
- Francis & Carol Emanuel
- Mike & Janice Guilliatt
- Richard & Paula Hendriksen
- Bob & Dian Hillis
- David & Sheila Monke
- Russ & Jennifer Peterson
- Randall & Ramona Sanders
- Larry Yost

**PLATINUM — $500-$999**
- Mike & Karen Aerni
- Daniel & Sue Anderson
- Jennifer & J.J. Bixby
- Vernon Brandert
- Tim & Vanessa Brown
- Michael & Pam Draemel
- Larry & Cheryl Feala
- Doug & Judy Heim
- Sally Ganem & Dave Heineman
- Brad & Cathy Holtorf
- Caryl & Chuck Johannsen
- Cheryl & Nick Lamme
- Shawn & Susie May
- Terry & Linda McClain
- Steve & Julie Navarrette
- Travis & Rosie Nelson
- Steve & Cynthia Pike
- Mark & Ann Prince
- Joe & Nancy Sajevic
- Monty & Lynnette Sellon
- Rick & Mary Jo Spalding
- Peg Steffensmeier
- Steve Swanson
- Dave & Karol Theophilus
- Joanne Thietje
- Gail M. Wallace
- Dr. Tom & Carol* Waring
- Jessup & Cristin Wilson

**GOLD — $250-$499**
- Dr. Milo & Cheri Anderson
- Dr. Rod & Debbie Basler
- Barry & Jennifer Benson
- Janice Bopp
- Anne Boschult
- Marlin & Marla Brabec
- Lloyd & Betty Brooks
- Linda & Keith Chapman
- Don & Dorothy Charleston
- Melissa & Kirk Diers
- Robert & Patricia Diers
- Jim & Karen Dunker
- Sherie Ebers
- Ken & Susie Ferrarini
- Brett & Kristine Fischer
- Ron & Rita Freeman
- Gerry & Rhonda Gdowski
- Dolores A. Getzschman
- Ron & Pete Getzschman
- Jeff & Joan Hawthorne
- Jerry & Mary Hendrickson
- David & Glenda Hingst
- Rick & Sue Hollendieck
- Steve & Marsha Hull
- Vernelle F. Karsk-Werblow
- Ron & Susie Kranz
- Keith Lallman
- Jan Lutz
- Ken & Alice McElhose
- Scott & Patty Meister
- Loren Nothwehr
- Vince & Kerstin O’Connor
- Roger & Pam Pannier
- Rich Pearson & Priscilla Wilson
- Mervin & Gail Peck
- Russell & Jetty Rabeler
- Alan & Arlene Reeh
- Kathy & Bill Rhea
- Cathy & Bill Saeger
- Darlene G. Saeger
- Tom & Marka Sawyer
- Ron & Margaret Schultz
- Joe & Diana Twidwell
- Curt & Eunice Warren
- Ron & Cindy Weakland
- Winfield & Marty Weber
- Jim & Bonnie Williams

**BRONZE — $100-$149**
- Carman Baker
- Ken & Pat Beebe
- Fred & Kay Brown
- Steve & Paula Campbell
- Ed & Diana Christoffersen
- Ray & Marilyn Clapper
- Marilyn K. Clark
- Jim & Sherri Eddie
- Bryce & Kay Exstrom
- Marcia Fouraker
- James & Lavonne Furstenau
- Cherry Gocken
- Angie & Jeff Hazen
- Don & Jan Hinds
- Russ Hoetfelker
- Rhoda Holstine
- Henry Iske
- Carrie Kiger
- John Konecky
- Marty & Jacquie Koolen
- Jack* & Shirley Larsen
- Chris & Mary Beth Leaver
- Raymond C. Ludwig
- Steve & Mary Narans
- Dan Nelson
- Elizabeth Petersen
- Douglas R. Raichle
- Dr. Bob & Sue Roesch
- Earline Ronhovde
- John & Lori Sajevic
- Skip & Judy Sawyer
- Emilee Scheer
- Dr. Alcyone Scott
- Robert & Janet Steenblock
- Steve Tellatin
- Ward & Emily Wageman
- Don & Gloria Wegman
- Dan & Kathy Wiesen
- Tom & Deanna Wolf

**SILVER — $150-$249**
- Doug & Angie Backens
- Dennis Behrens
- Cindy & Mike Coffman
- Jason & Leigh Feala
- Charles & Marilyn Gordon
- Carl A. & Barb Greunke
- Dave & Barb Hanen
- Don* & Barbara Johnson
- Larry & Irene Johnson
- Marilyn Kock
- Glen & Connie Langemeier
- Duane & Judi McKenzie
- Bob & Michele Missel
- Nanette Missel
- Bob & Maggie Mundy
- Todd & Ronda Niehaus
- Jerry & Judy Nielsen
- J. Evan & Carolyn Nordstrom
- Dick & Jill Norenberg
- Alice Nott
- David & Kathleen Pinkall
- David & Becky Poppe
- Molly Rainey
- T. Scott & Lori Robertson
- Darlene Smith
- Tom & Trudy Tamke
- Tom & Sheryl Thomsen
- Linda Williams
- Bob & Janet Yanike

**MEMBER — up to $99**
- Diane Bade
- Bob & Linda Bendig
- Jean Bloom
- Catherine Chapman
- Timothy Connor
- David* & Faith Dunn
- Milton Emry
- Ruth Fischer
- Joe & Kristin Henkenius
- Richard Hirschman
- Rick & Jan Hobza
- Byron & Bonnie LaMont
- Amy & Bob Vanek
- Bob & Tess Welstead
- Susan Westerholt

*Remembered forever.*

**July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021.**
Fremont Forever Fund “Game-Changing” Grants

Some are small, some large, but all were transformative for area nonprofits. Over 680 grants have been awarded from our unrestricted endowment since 1980. Following are a few that were “game-changers.”

- A grant of $3,000 helped establish the Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity
- A grant of $10,000 established Care Corps’ LifeHouse homeless shelter
- A $200,000 grant and $200,000 loan helped save a struggling Midland Lutheran College in 2010
- A grant of $100,000 helped build the North Bend Public Library
- A $50,000 grant helped fuel relief and recovery following the 2019 flood
- A grant of $68,000 helped expand the Fremont Area Art Association
- A grant of $10,000 helped build the Youth Sports Complex in Arlington
- A grant of $20,000 helped create a Youth Sports Complex in Scribner
- Numerous grants have helped enhance facilities, technology and programming at all area schools
- A $100,000 grant helped build the Dillon Family Aquatics Center at the Fremont Family YMCA
- A $60,000 grant helped refurbish Midland University’s Dining Hall and student commons
- Multiple grants helped area organizations stay afloat during the COVID-19 shutdown.

Thanks to These Businesses for Their Support!

PLATINUM - $1,000 and up
- Christensen Lumber
- Don Peterson & Associates
- First National Bank - Fremont
- First State Bank & Trust Co.
- Fremont Electric, Inc.
- Guilliat & Associates
- Methodist Fremont Health
- Pinnacle Bank
- Rosenbauer Aerials, LLC
- S2 Refuse and Recycling
- Sawyer Car Wash
- Valmont Industries
- Wholestone Farms

GOLD - $500 - $999
- Abe Krasne Home Furnishings
- Bixby Financial Services
- Gifford Realty, Inc.
- INSPRO, Inc.
- Kelly Group, Inc.
- Swanson Insurance/Real Estate, Inc.
- Taylor & Martin
- Williams Ag Corp.

SILVER - up to $499
- A-Plus Tree Service
- Anesthesia Care Specialists
- Dodd Engineering
- Fremont Area Chamber
- Fremont Dental Group
- Fremont Eye Associates, PC
- Gene Steffy’s Chrysler Care Center
- Getzschman Heating, Inc.
- OfficeNet, Inc.
- Rader Photography
- Scribner Bank
- Shaw, Hull & Navarrette, CPAs, P.C.
- Wiechman Pig Co., Inc.

The Fremont Area Community Foundation Board of Directors

Front row, from left to right: Adam Monke, Jennifer Bixby (Vice President), Cheryl Lamme, Heidi Richmond, Carol Nielsen, Steve Swanson, Vanessa Brown. Back row, from left to right: Rev. Scott Jensen, Patti Beebe, Caryl Johannsen (Secretary-Treasurer), Casey Meyer, Bob Hillis (Past President), Barry Benson, Terry McClain (President), Koni Shallberg, Brad Holtorf, Mark Prince. Not pictured: Tanya Dillon, Sid Dillon, Jr., Jane Dugan, Joel Jelkin, Steve Navarrette,* Russ Peterson,* Tom Thomsen.*

*Ex-officio
Over 100 Scholarships Awarded to Fremont Area Students

The number of Fremont area youth seeking financial assistance to attend college continues to grow. One hundred and eight scholarships were awarded to students this past spring, thanks to generous donors inspired to help young people pursue their academic aspirations. Seeking a variety of majors at two- and four-year colleges and universities, students received more than $113,000 in financial aid for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Funding Highlights: COVID Relief and Response

A number of organizations and collaborations received vital funding this year and last to help the Fremont area respond to the impact of COVID-19. Following are just a few examples.

Midland University/Nebraska Methodist College. A $10,620 grant to fund emergency CNA training to supplement the number of critical care workers available to Fremont area hospitals and clinics during the pandemic.

The Fremont Diaper Bank. Located at the Fremont Area United Way (FAUW) office under the FPS Sixpence Program, this usually well-supported resource for families found itself in dire need of diaper supplies. Traditionally, the bank relies upon donation drives spearheaded by area businesses to stock its coffers, but COVID restrictions made that impossible this year. Instead, a $10,000 grant from FACF is providing 52 weeks of diaper supplies.

Fremont Public Schools. Working with community partners involved in the Fremont Area COVID-19 Response Taskforce, a foundation grant helped assemble 6,500 weekend food backpacks for FPS students living with food insecurity. (See photo above.) The backpacks supplemented school district supplies which were insufficient to meet demand for the entire school year.
Our 2021 Grantees

Since its inception in 1980, over $36 million in grants have been awarded from the Fremont Forever Fund, donor-advised funds, scholarships and other funds administered by the Fremont Area Community Foundation. This fiscal year alone, the Foundation has awarded nearly $1.6 Million in competitive, COVID-19, flood recovery, donor-advised fund and other grants. Listed below are competitive grants awarded so far this year from the Fremont Forever Fund and Lester A. Walker Fund.

**American Cancer Society Relay for Life Dodge County**—$1,500 for promotion of local event.

**Arlington Dog Park**—$11,400 to help construct a dog park on an empty lot blighted by the 2019 flood.

**Arlington Leslie Downs American Legion Post 71**—$10,000 to help finish the Arlington Veterans Memorial Wall which honors the military service of more than 350 people from Arlington, the surrounding communities and across the U.S.

**Arlington Public Schools**—$1,500 to help students create three raised beds in the school's courtyard to learn life skills such as planting and harvesting.

**Care Corps’ LifeHouse**—$100,000 to help remodel the food pantry and part of the shelter, create additional shelter space, and fund ongoing food security efforts.

**Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties**—$10,000 for the organization’s Rural Emergency Services Program to provide rent, security deposit, utility, and propane assistance to those who are homeless or near homeless in Northern Saunders County.

**Digg Site Productions**—$50,000 for the renovation of the historic Empress Theatre in Downtown Fremont.

**Dodge County REACT**—$2,500 to provide volunteers much-needed cold-weather and safety gear.

**FITGirl, Inc.**—$12,000 to fund the EmpowerU After School program at Johnson Crossing Academic Center which aims to build girls’ and boys’ positive self-image and interest in lifetime physical fitness.

**Fremont Area United Way**—$10,000 to restock the Fremont Diaper Bank for area families in need.

**Fremont Rural Fire Protection District #8**—$11,000 for technical rescue equipment needed in cases of flooding, grain bin rescue and fire.

**Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA)**—$25,000 to support virtual and in-person programming to residents of the Fremont area.

**John G. Neihardt Foundation**—$9,800 to fund strategic planning for the organization’s board of directors.

**Keene Memorial Library**—$100,000 for the Grow With Us campaign which aims to expand and improve the library’s facilities and services.

**Nebraska Mediation Center**—$7,000 to support the Restorative Justice Intervention program, including Victim-Youth Conferencing, which emphasizes accountability for the youth offender and ultimately reduces youth involvement in the juvenile court system.

**Neligh Park Inclusive Playground**—$10,000 to the West Point Community Foundation to support the creation of an inclusive playground in West Point.

**Omaha Conservatory of Music**—$7,000 for the String Sprouts program, which introduces violin, viola, cello and bass instruction to underprivileged Fremont area preschoolers.

**Saunders County Youth Services**—$10,000 to help provide in-home mental health therapy to youth under age 10 and adults who reside within the FACF grant area.

**Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center**—$10,000 for central air conditioning in the gymnasium.

**Village of Nickerson**—$1,500 to support the town's sesquicentennial celebration.