

## FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

### Offering Fremont Youth a Skilled Future

The new Fremont High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center is a far cry from your grandparents' shop class.

Instead of building a shelf or rebuilding a lawn mower machine, students are building a new house or performing maintenance on automobiles. Unveiled this fall, the CTE Center is preparing students to step into high-demand trade jobs upon graduation, building on the school's goal of preparing all students for a bright future.

Located on the northeast corner of the high school, the approximately 8,000-square-foot facility houses a welding/metal fabrication lab, automotive/diesel tech lab, construction/electricity lab, health occupation lab, CAD/CAM lab and robotics/automation lab. It also has a commons area, classroom and staff offices. A grant of \$35,000 from the Fremont Area Community Foundation helped outfit the automotive/diesel tech lab with hand tools and

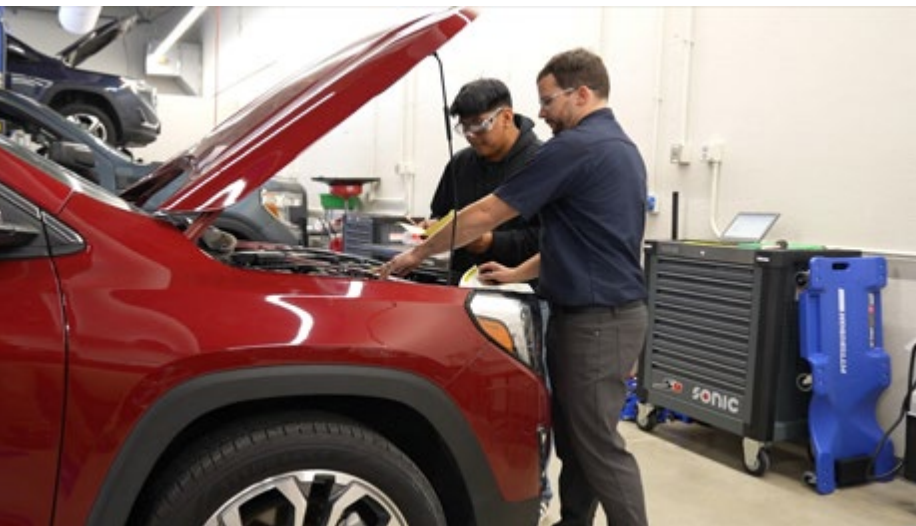


*Fremont High School students get hands-on experience building walls for a new Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity house (pictured above). The new automotive/diesel tech lab (pictured below) features modern equipment for students to use as they learn how to repair cars. The Fremont Area Community Foundation provided grant funding for both projects.*

tool carts. And a second grant of \$20,000 is funding materials needed for the construction of walls being built by FHS students for a new Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity house.

A pilot program between FHS and the local Habitat chapter, students completed interior and exterior framing for Habitat for Humanity's latest house build at 423 N I St. The students will then put up the walls and show Fremont Habitat officials their work before everything is broken down and moved to the property.

The goal of this joint project is to create an ongoing program in which students get real life, hands-on experience in construction tech, and Habitat benefits from additional volunteer labor.





The mission of the Fremont Area Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life by connecting donor interests with community needs and serving as a leader and catalyst in the development of solutions.

### Board of Directors and Staff

Jennifer Bixby - President  
Caryl Johannsen - Vice President  
Koni Shallberg - Secretary-Treasurer  
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\*Ex-officio

Melissa Diers - Executive Director  
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Excellence, Accountability, Impact.™

The Fremont Area Community Foundation is accredited with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™—the industry benchmark for excellence in philanthropic practice.



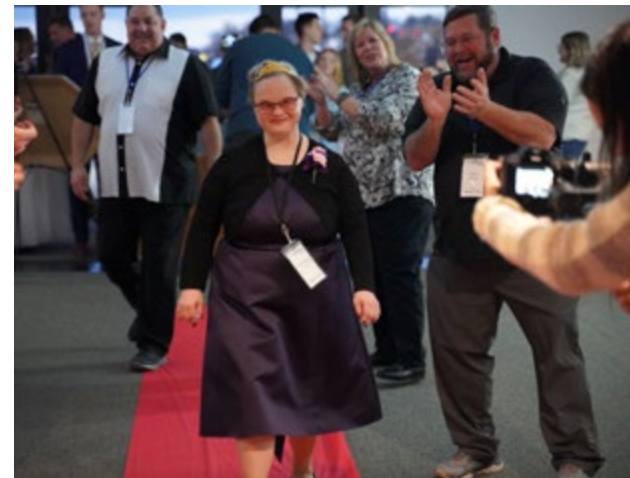
## A Night to Shine

### *FACF Grant Helps Local Event Deliver a Night to Remember*

Night to Shine of Fremont is an unforgettable prom night experience for people age 14 and older with special needs. Organized by the Fremont Church of the Nazarene, the annual event aims to provide both participants and their caregivers a night to "be celebrated and loved."

This year, 173 guests dressed up in prom-like attire and were pampered with hair, makeup, nails, shoe shines, crowns and flowers. They dined in a safe, independent atmosphere with a volunteer buddy as their host. And the evening included limo rides, pictures, a grand red carpet entrance, music, dancing and karaoke.

The evening also offered a separate respite area for the care takers of the guests where they could relax, get a massage and enjoy fellowship with each other.



*Matt (in top photo) and Kimberly (pictured above) enjoyed their chance to walk the red carpet during the 2024 Night to Shine event.*

Over 200 volunteers helped pull off the event this year, and organizers say participating in the evening made an impact on them as well. Many had their own stories to tell. One volunteer, according to Erin Bussen, church coordinator and Growing Hearts Academy director, shared that "one young man wasn't singing but kept hanging out by the karaoke stage. He asked if he could just say something. The volunteer handed him the mic and he said 'This is the best night ever. I am having the time of my life.'"

A grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation has helped fund several annual Night to Shine events.



# Thank You for Supporting Our Sustaining Drive!

As we work to meet challenges and embrace opportunities in our area, we are so very thankful to have you by our side. Following are the individuals, families and businesses who have provided financial support for the work of the Fremont Area Community Foundation by contributing to the Sustaining Drive for our 2023-2024 fiscal year.\*\*

## CORNERSTONE — \$1,500 & up

Anonymous  
Mikel & Kathy Brodersen  
David & Cynthia Christensen  
Tanya & Blake Dillon  
Patty & Sid Dillon, Jr.  
Michael & Pam Draemel  
Jane & Bill Dugan  
Ron & Helen Jensen  
Betty Larsen\*  
Sheila & David Monke  
Dale Olson  
Russ & Jennifer Peterson

## PACESETTER — \$1,000-\$1,499

Janet Brabec  
Marlin & Marla Brabec  
Charlie & Mary Lou Diers  
Francis & Carol Emanuel  
Sam & Jessica Heineman  
Robert & Dian Hillis  
David & Kimberly Mitchell  
Dave & Karol Theophilus  
Paul & Mary Wachter  
Tom Waring

## PLATINUM — \$500-\$999

Mike & Karen Aerni  
John & Nancy Beilke  
Jennifer & J.J. Bixby  
Vernon Brandert  
Alan & Beth Brewer  
Vanessa & Tim Brown  
Randy & Shelly Eikmeier  
Larry & Cheryl Feala\*  
Ken & Susan Ferrarini  
Larry & Mary Flamme  
Dolores Getzschman  
Scott & Judy Getzschman  
Leo & Jean Hanson  
Sally Ganem & Dave Heineman  
Brad & Cathy Holtorf  
Caryl & Chuck Johannsen  
Larry & Irene Johnson  
Chris & Mary Beth Leaver  
Terry & Linda McClain  
Drs. Tom & Evelyn McKnight  
Fred Mytty  
Steve & Julie Navarrette  
Mervin & Gail Peck  
Steve & Cynthia Pike  
Mark & Ann Prince  
Heidi & Brett Richmond

Joe & Nancy Sajevec  
Randall & Ramona Sanders  
Tom & Marka Sawyer  
Dr. Monty & Lynnette Sellon  
Joey & Ashley Spellerberg  
Steve Swanson  
Gail M. Wallace  
Jessup & Cristin Wilson  
Larry & Beverly Yost

## GOLD — \$250-\$499

Milo & Cheri Anderson  
Doug & Angie Backens  
Robert & Linda Bendig  
Barry & Jennifer Benson  
Janice Bopp  
Lloyd & Betty Brooks  
Linda Chapman  
Melissa & Kirk Diers  
Robert & Patricia Diers  
Sherie Ebers  
Gary & LuAnn Ehmcke  
Brett & Kris Fischer  
Ronald & Rita Freeman  
Gerry & Rhonda Gdowski  
Marilyn Gordon  
Doug & Judy Heim  
Jerry & Mary Hendrickson  
Dick & Paula Hendriksen  
Rick & Sue Hollendieck  
Dick & Anita Kentopp  
Ron & Susie Kranz  
Glen & Connie Langemeier  
Ken McElhose  
Scott & Patty Meister  
Adam & Sarah Monke  
Gaylord & Vali Mussman  
Todd & Rhonda Niehaus  
Dick & Jill Norenberg  
Alice Nott  
Roger & Pam Pannier  
Rich Pearson & Priscilla Wilson  
Myrna Puls\*  
Russell & Jetty Rabeler  
Alan Reeh  
Kathy & Bill Rhea  
Scot & Lori Robertson  
Cathy & Bill Saeger  
Skip & Judy Sawyer  
Kent & Karen Speicher  
Tom & Trudy Tamke  
Joe & Diana Twidwell

Ron & Cindy Weaklend  
Winfield & Marty Weber  
Dan & Kathy Wiesen  
Jim & Bonnie Williams  
Tom & Misti Wolf

## SILVER — \$150-\$249

Jean Anderson  
Steve & Pam Barr  
Cindy & Mike Coffman  
Jim & Karen Dunker  
Leigh & Jason Feala  
Carl\* & Barb Greunke  
Gerald & Lynette Harnisch  
Jeff & Joan Hawthorne  
Steve & Marsha Hull  
Mark & Melissa Johannsen  
Paul & Liz Johnson  
Marilyn Kock  
Martin & Jacquie Koolen  
Martin & Lois Krohn  
Robert & Cheryl Larsen  
Duane & Judi McKenzie  
Bob & Maggie Mundy  
Carol & Rob Nielsen  
Vince & Kerstin O'Connor  
David & Kathleen Pinkall  
Molly Rainey  
Earline Ronhovde  
John & Lori Sajevec  
Ben & Melissa Sasse  
Martin & Charleen Sears  
Mary Siebler  
Judy Vitters  
Bob & Janet Yanike

## BRONZE — \$100-\$149

Ken & Pat Beebe  
Gary & Denise Bolton  
Fred & Kay Brown  
Thom and Barbara Christensen  
Marilyn Clark  
Jim & Sherri Eddie  
Dr. Bryce & Kay Exstrom  
Patsy Fittje  
James & Lavonne Furstenau  
Paul & Mary Glowacki  
Cherry Gocken  
Rick & Jan Hobza  
Rhoda Holstine  
Carrie Kiger  
Marilyn Kock

Joanne Lehman  
Raymond C. Ludwig  
Steve & Mary Narans  
Elizabeth Petersen  
David & Becky Poppe  
Steve & Debbie Riley  
Richard & Deanna Schlenz  
Darlene V. Smith  
Don\* & Gloria Wegman  
Deanna Wolf  
Gerry & Sara Wulf

## MEMBER — up to \$99

Jean Bloom  
Catherine Chapman  
Tim & Susan Connor  
Faith Dunn  
Ruth Fischer  
Joseph & Elizabeth Griffin  
Joe & Kristin Henkenius  
Richard Hirschman  
Byron & Bonnie LaMont  
Faith Perry  
Jon & Darla Strenger  
Amy & Bob Vanek

\*Remembered forever.

\*\*July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024.

## Stay Connected!

Would you like to receive regular updates on how the FAF is making the Fremont area a better place to live, work and play?

"Like" us on Facebook, follow @facfoundation on Instagram, and sign up to receive our newsletters! Visit our website at [www.facfoundation.org](http://www.facfoundation.org), scroll down and enter your email address in the "Sign up for our Emails" box. You can also sign up by contacting us at 402-721-4252 or [info@facfoundation.org](mailto:info@facfoundation.org).



## Variety is the Spice of...Giving!

When you're getting ready to make a contribution to a fund at the community foundation or other charity, don't automatically reach for your checkbook! Here are other (and typically more tax-savvy) options to consider.

### Marketable securities

Gifts of long-term appreciated stock to a donor-advised or other type of fund at the community foundation is always one of the most tax-savvy ways to support favorite charitable causes because capital gains tax can be avoided. Gifts of publicly-traded stock, for example, are easy to transfer to a fund. The community foundation team can provide you and your clients with transfer instructions to make the process simple.

As is the case with a cash gift, the community foundation will provide a receipt for tax purposes, and the gift of stock will be valued at the shares' fair market value on the date of transfer. When the community

foundation sells the shares, the proceeds flow into your fund without any reduction for capital gains taxes. This is because the community foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and therefore does not pay income tax. That would not have been the case, however, if you had sold the stock first and then transferred the proceeds to your fund; you would owe capital gains tax on the sale. Especially in cases where you have held the stock a long time and it's gone up significantly in value, the capital gains hit can be big.

### QCDs from IRAs

As always, keep in mind that the Qualified Charitable Distribution ("QCD") is a very smart way to support charitable causes. If you are over the age of 70 ½, you can direct up to \$105,000 (in 2024) from your IRA to certain charities, including a field-of-interest, designated, unrestricted, or scholarship fund at the community foundation. If you are subject to the rules for Required

Minimum Distributions (RMDs), QCDs count toward those RMDs. That means you avoid income tax on the funds distributed to charity. Plus, keep in mind that leaving your IRA to your fund through a beneficiary designation is a very tax savvy move, so be sure to discuss this option with our team and your tax advisors.

### Life Insurance

Don't overlook life insurance as an effective charitable giving tool, whether by naming your fund at the community foundation as the beneficiary or, in the case of whole life policies, naming the fund as beneficiary and transferring the policy itself. If you transfer a policy, you may be able to make annual, tax-deductible contributions to the community foundation to cover the premiums.

These are just a few alternative assets to consider donating rather than cash. Contact Melissa at the community foundation for more information about these and others!



**The Fremont Area Community Foundation  
Board of Directors**

### Front row, from left to right:

Sam Heineman, Jennifer Bixby (President), Koni Shallberg (Secretary-Treasurer), Mark Prince, Carol Nielsen.

**Back row, from left to right:** Terry McClain (Past President), Erika Martinez, David Mitchell, Caryl Johannsen (Vice President), Rev. Scott Jensen, Tanya Dillon, Steve Swanson. **Not pictured:** Amber Barton, Patti Beebe, Vanessa Brown, Bob Hillis,\* Casey Meyer, Steve Navarrette,\* Russ Peterson.\*

\*Ex-officio

## Thanks to These Businesses for Their Generous Support!

### PLATINUM - \$1,000 and up

Fremont Electric  
Guilliatt & Associates  
Methodist Fremont Health  
Nye Health Services  
Pinnacle Bank  
RVR Bank  
Valmont Industries

### GOLD - \$500-\$999

Don Peterson & Associates  
Getzschman Heating, LLC  
Gifford Realty, Inc.  
Kelly Group, Inc.  
Rosenbauer Aerials, LLC  
Swanson Insurance/Real Estate, Inc.  
Taylor & Martin  
Wiechman Pig Co., Inc.  
Williams Ag Corp.

### SILVER - up to \$499

Allied Appliance  
Ameriprise Financial Services  
Arps Red-E-Mix, Inc.  
Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce  
Gifford Construction  
Platte Valley Bank  
Rader Photography  
Scribner Bank  
Shaw, Hull & Navarrette

## Fremont Forever Friends

Hats off to the following Fremont Forever Friends who have created their own unrestricted endowment funds to support FAF grantmaking!

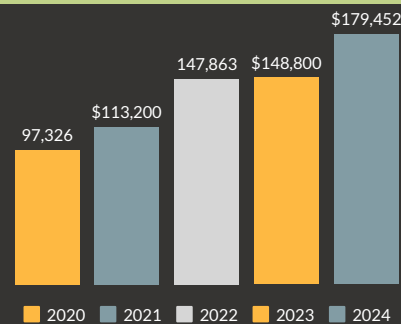
Keith & Linda Chapman Fund  
Tanya and Blake Dillon Family Endowment  
RVR Bank Giving Fund  
Todd and Shannon Hansen  
Family Endowment Fund  
Libby and John Headid Endowment Fund  
Robert and Dian Hillis Endowment Fund  
Roger and Pam Pannier Charitable Fund  
Peg and Steve Pribnow Family Fund  
Darlene G. Saeger Charitable Fund  
Neil and Bonnie Schilke Endowment Fund  
Wikert Endowment Fund  
Tom and Deanna Wolf Endowment Fund

## Fremont Area Community Foundation

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## By The Numbers

### INVESTING IN STUDENTS & THE GREATER DODGE COUNTY AREA



Since 1993, \$1,551,927 has been awarded in scholarships to 1,385 students!



## NEW FUNDS

### AWARDED IN 2024

Altrusa of Fremont Scholarship  
Emily Brown Memorial Scholarship  
Jeanette Carpenter Roberts Scholarship  
Verdell Gnuse Memorial Scholarship  
Andy Mruz Memorial Scholarship  
Martha Wicklund Velasco Scholarship

## 87 funds

award scholarships through the Fremont Area Community Foundation



Number of students applying in 2024:  
**162**



Number of applications received:  
**1,402**



Number of scholarships awarded in 2024:  
**136**

## WHO ARE THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS?

### 2024 RECIPIENTS ARE FROM:

Archbishop Bergan HS  
Arlington High School  
Cedar Bluffs High School  
Fremont High School  
Logan View High School  
North Bend Central High School  
Tekamah-Herman High School

75% attend college in-state!

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE PURSUING CAREERS IN:

**10%**  
Skilled Trades

**13%**  
Agriculture

**16%**  
Education

**20%**  
Health Care

## Our 2024 Grantees

Since 1980, over \$38 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 past year alone, the foundation has awarded over **\$3.6 million** in these categories. Listed below are competitive grants awarded so far this year from the Fremont Forever Fund, the Lester A. Walker Fund, the Fremont Forever Friends' funds and Field of Interest funds.

**American Cancer Society-Dodge County Relay for Life**—\$1,500 to help promote the annual event.

**Aspire for Greatness**—\$25,000 for after-school programs.

**Arlington Public Schools**—\$7,500 to provide basic needs for students.

**Banister's Leadership Academy**—\$15,000 to support after school programming.

**Care Corps' LifeHouse**—\$45,000 to shore up food pantry supplies.

**CASA of the Midlands**—\$30,000 to help provide a strong community support program for children in the court system; \$1,500 for operational support in Washington Cty.

**City of Lyons**—\$11,000 to help provide lifesaving medical equipment throughout the community.

**Community Action Partnership-Lancaster/Saunders Counties**—\$10,000 to provide rent and utility assistance along with case management for families in need.

**Cuming County Fair Foundation**—\$15,000 for a new livestock building.

**DAV Joseph C. H. Bales Chapter #18**—\$15,000 for needed improvements to the DAV building.

**Dodge County Fair Foundation**—\$50,000 for a new event center at the Dodge County Fairgrounds.

**ESU #2**—\$8,415 for a SpotCheck Vision Screener to be used throughout ESU #2 school districts.

**Fremont Archery Inc.**—\$3,000 to introduce the sport of archery to children coping with cancer.

**Fremont Area Chamber Foundation**—\$1,000 for Leadership Midland program.

**Fremont Church of the Nazarene**—\$1,000 for 2024 Night to Shine event.

**Fremont Family YMCA**—\$100,000 for capacity building and sustainability planning.

**Fremont Health Foundation**—\$40,000 for new radiation equipment.

**Fremont Public Schools**—\$35,000 for tool sets in the auto lab in the new Career and Technical Education Center.

**Fremont Presbyterian Church**—\$1,500 for 2024 Summer Lunch Program.

**Heartland Workers Center**—\$10,000 for continuing literacy classes for English language learners.

**Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy**—\$11,340 to bring Miniature Equine Onsite Learning to Fremont youth.

**Life Choices**—\$1,500 for enhanced computer technology.

**Midland University**—\$22,500 for improvements to Moller Field, home of the Midland University and Fremont Moo baseball teams.

**National Inventors Hall of Fame**—\$5,000 to provide STEM Summer Enrichment for Fremont area children.

**Nebraska Mediation Center**—\$1,500 for software.

**North Bend/Morse Bluff Area Community Veterans Park**—\$5,000 to help revitalize the landscape.

**Old Poor Farm**—\$10,000 for operational support to offset the impact of inflation and help feed and care for the animals.

**R.E.S.P.E.C.T 2**—\$5,000 to bring "Building Health Relationship Skills Through Theatre" to Fremont Public Schools.

**Rise Above Gymnastics, Inc.**—\$15,000 to upgrade flooring and a vault runway so youth competitors are safe.

**The Set Me Free Foundation**—\$10,000 to provide human trafficking prevention education for staff at Fremont Public Schools and other area nonprofits.