

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

21st Century Learning: *Grant Provides Chromebooks*

This month, every 7th- and 8th-grader attending the Fremont Middle School received his/her own Chromebook computer for school work, thanks in part to a \$40,000 grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. This milestone extends the Fremont Public School district's one-to-one ratio of students to devices to include grades five through 12.

"It's a major accomplishment—and necessity," says Joe Sajevic, Executive Director of the Fremont Public Schools Foundation. "Nearly every activity and vocation today involves the use of some kind of computer technology. It's imperative that we prepare our youth for their future using all of the tools of 21st century learning."

The electronic devices allow for a professional line of communication between students and staff. Teachers can post homework assignments and



Photo courtesy of Fremont Public Schools

students can turn in these assignments electronically. A learning management system called Google Classroom empowers teachers with real-time student interaction inside and outside the classroom, bringing in more social and collaborative learning.

"With this technology at hand, our students are poised for success," said Sajevic.

Youth Philanthropy Contest Underway

More than 280 youth from nine area schools and six different communities have learned first-hand the benefits and impact of being a philanthropist since our first Youth Philanthropy Contest in 2014. Now area youth are lining up once again with new project ideas to benefit their community. Winners will receive up to \$1,000 to help make their projects a reality.

Pictured at left are members of the Wisner-Pilger Student Council who used their YPC grant to create a serenity garden in Pilger to beautify the community ravaged by the 2014 twin tornadoes. Learn more at facfoundation.org.





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.

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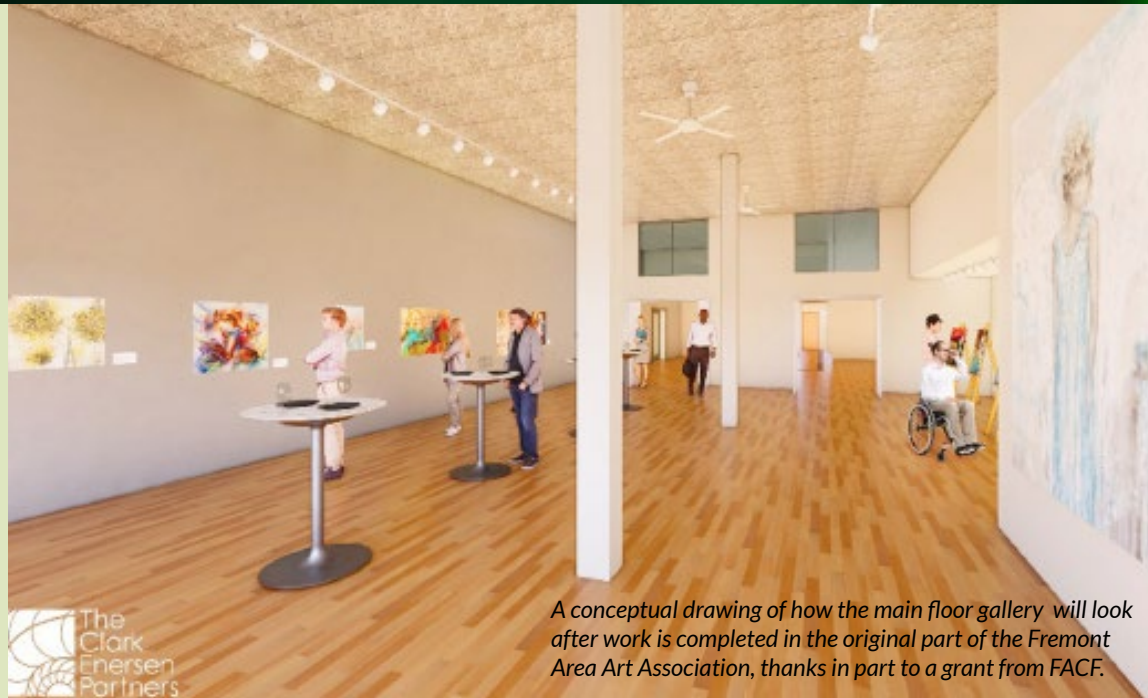
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Melissa Diers - Executive Director

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A conceptual drawing of how the main floor gallery will look after work is completed in the original part of the Fremont Area Art Association, thanks in part to a grant from FACC.

Grant Helps Expand Art Association

“Why not go out on a limb? That’s where the fruit is.”

This quote from Mark Twain is especially appropriate for the Fremont Area Art Association’s newest endeavor—a \$310,000 renovation and expansion of its Gallery 92 West home.

The result: a ground-level, fully accessible studio-classroom with a framing workroom and skylights to bring in lots of north, natural light. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) bathrooms and other main-floor handicap-accessible accommodations will make it easier for more people to take part in the organization’s many programs and opportunities. Especially the regulars.

“Why not go out on a limb? That’s where the fruit is.” – Mark Twain

Several artists, who come regularly for the open studio time on Tuesdays, have had difficulty climbing steps to the upstairs classroom. So they’ve been working in the ground-level gallery of the original art association building. Now, they can work in a studio with ground-level access.

“It’s more conducive to making art,” said Barbara Gehringer, Executive Director of the Fremont Area Art Association. “I think we’ll end up producing more artwork on those days than we have been.”

Artists will also appreciate the addition of lockers—where artists can store supplies—installed in the area situated in the former Rump’s Furnace & Hardware building which adjoins the original Art Association building at 92 W. Sixth St. An FACC grant of \$28,000 was provided in 2016 to help the organization acquire that adjacent space, and a recent \$50,000 grant is assisting the current expansion.

“All of (our) donors went out on a limb with us to buy that building and see what the space could become,” said Gehringer. “Now, the fruit of that labor is sweet indeed.”

Thank You for Supporting Our Sustaining Drive!

These individuals, families and businesses have shown their support for the work and programs of the Fremont Area Community Foundation by contributing to the Sustaining Drive for our 2017-18 fiscal year (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018). Thank you for your support! It enables the Foundation to make a bigger impact in our community.

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Photo by Richard Rader

Our Board of Directors

Front row: Barry Benson, Jennifer Bixby, Caryl Johannsen, Heidi Richmond, Robert Hillis (Vice President)

Second row: Greg Haskins (President), Kate Heineman, Marv Welstead, * Cheryl Lamme, Jane Dugan

Third row: Tom Thomsen,* Mark Prince, Toni Vering, The Rev. Scott Jensen, Donna Meismer, Brad Holtorf

Fourth row: Gaylord Mussman, Jessup Wilson, Steve Navarrette,* Sid Dillon, Jr., Terry McClain (Secretary-Treasurer)

Not pictured: Patti Beebe, Shawn May, Sheila Monke, Russ Peterson (Past President), Joe Sajevic, Steve Swanson

Grant Helps FHS Band March On

The largest organization on the Fremont High School campus, the FHS Band program has a proud tradition of excellence in all areas of band performance. A rigorous schedule of concerts, competitions, festivals, and other performances keeps the members of the band highly visible throughout the community of Fremont, state of Nebraska and beyond.

Now efforts are underway to make the Tiger Marching Band a competitive traveling unit again. Key to the undertaking is replacing old and outdated instruments and adding frontline percussion equipment to align the band with similar programs in the region. A recent community foundation grant of \$26,400 helped purchase eight new tubas to replace wind instruments in some cases 30 years old.

Through the use of high-quality, challenging music, sound instructional methods, and top-notch instrumentation, the Tiger Marching Band program will undoubtedly continue to set the standard of excellence on the field.

Moreover, the students who graduate from the program will continue to be life-long participants and patrons of the arts.



Grant Enhances Volunteer Efficiency, Engagement & Safety

Few nonprofits rely more on volunteer labor than the Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity. Since its formation in 1993, the Fremont chapter has completed 81 homes, providing safe, affordable housing for 424 individuals (including 282 children). This impact would have been impossible without volunteers who, last year alone, put in over 22,000 hours on the construction site, in the HomeStore, in the office or on committees.

Coordinating these vital efforts just became easier thanks to an FACH grant. Habitat now uses VolunteerHub—a volunteer management software program designed to recruit, manage and track volunteer efforts.

VolunteerHub allows Habitat to promote volunteer opportunities, register volunteers online, send reminder and follow-up emails, and even check volunteers in at the job site. A key feature is the software's ability to help Habitat track volunteer hours—key data which is required by some funding sources.

In addition to funding Habitat's VolunteerHub software, the FACH grant also provided a security system for the Habitat building, improving safety for HomeStore shoppers, volunteers and staff.

"We are thrilled to have the security system and VolunteerHub up and running," said Joy McKay, Executive Director of the Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity. "And so grateful for the Foundation's support!"

Stay Connected!

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

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Celebrating Our 2018 Grantees

Since its inception in 1980, over \$20 million in grants has been awarded from the Fremont Forever Fund, donor-advised funds, scholarships and other funds administered by the Fremont Area Community Foundation. This year alone, the Foundation has awarded more than \$600,000 in competitive and donor-advised fund grants. Listed below are competitive grants awarded from the Fremont Forever Fund and Lester A. Walker Fund during 2018.

The Bridge—\$750 to support the Dodge County Collaborative Team Community Resource Fair; \$3,825 to assist with fence installation for outdoor programming.

Dodge VFW/Post 8597—\$1,500 mini grant for decorative fencing at the Veterans Memory Park.

Fremont Area Art Association—\$50,000 for Phase I of its Expansion and Renovation Project.

Fremont Area Alzheimer's Collaboration—\$1,500 to support the Fremont Area Alzheimer's Farmers Market.

Fremont Avenue of Flags—\$25,000 to help construct a Veterans Memorial Park in Fremont.

Fremont Public Schools Foundation—\$40,000 to purchase Chromebooks for Fremont Middle School students; \$7,000 to purchase state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor "Project Fit America" equipment for Bell Field Elementary; \$2,592 to create calming stations at Linden Elementary; \$26,400 to purchase eight tubas for the Fremont High School Tiger Marching Band.

Fremont Rural Fire Department—\$3,500 to help purchase Class A Uniforms to outfit color guard.

Fremont Opera House, Inc—\$35,000 to repair exterior brick facade.

Friends of the Fremont Area Parks—\$1,500 mini grant for sun shade at Dog Park West (West Linden & Davenport).

Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska—\$2,500 to support 10 camp scholarships for girls in the FAFCF grant area; \$1,500 mini grant for the Uehling Park Improvement Project.

Hope Center for Kids-Fremont—\$18,000 to create a mentoring program for young people, ages 11-19, in Fremont.

Humanities Nebraska—\$3,000 to fund a six-week Prime Time Family Reading program at Keene Memorial Library.

North Bend Central Public Schools—\$10,000 to fund a fully functioning greenhouse for the Farm-to-School Greenhouse initiative.



Photo courtesy of Fremont Tribune

Fremonter Wyatt Spalding visited with Jen Lada of ESPN during the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle last July. A grant from FAFCF helped send Team Nebraska to the event.

Rebuilding Together Platte Valley East—\$3,000 to help purchase two Microsoft Surface Pro LTE tablets to help improve client intake, communications, and reporting and record-keeping.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.—\$17,200 to support educational programs on bullying, mental health, abuse, internet safety, dating violence and relationships for youth at FPS.

Scribner American Legion Auxiliary Post 121—\$1,500 to help fund the Gold Star Mothers' Grave Marker project.

Special Olympics Nebraska—\$1,500 mini grant to support Team Nebraska in the 2018 Special Olympics USA games.

Uehling Fire District #6—\$1,500 mini grant for emergency responder medical supply bags.

Winslow Fire Department—\$5,000 to help purchase pagers for firefighters.