Inspiring Youth:
**Boy’s Project Hits Home Run**

The Neil and Bonnie Schilke Fields baseball complex received a nice upgrade to its 14-and-under Nighthawks field, thanks to a $2,000 grant provided by the Fremont Area Community Foundation (FACF)—and the sweat equity and vision of Bergan High freshman Brenton Pitt.

Pitt, a member of the 13AA Nighthawks Select baseball team, applied for the grant last spring as a way to receive financial backing for his Boy Scouts’ Eagle Scout project. Becoming an Eagle Scout is the highest possible honor available in Boy Scouts.

For his project, Brenton constructed two pitching bullpens over the summer that were built on the Nighthawks field.

“Bullpens are needed as a place for pitchers and catchers to warm up prior to entering games,” Brenton said in a letter he wrote to the foundation during the grant application process. “My combined love of Scouting and baseball was the driving force behind my vision for my Eagle Scout project.”

The bullpens will benefit not only the teams that play on those fields now, but also future generations of players.

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**Youth Philanthropy Contest Underway**

“Philanthropy” is a big word. But it simply means “giving of your time, talents and treasure for the benefit of all.”

More than 200 area youth 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.

Visit www.facfoundation.org to learn more.
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.

Grant Funds Tools For New Diesel Academy

A substantial grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation is lessening the financial burden placed upon students enrolled in this year’s inaugural Fremont Area Diesel Academy.

The $25,000 grant awarded to the Metropolitan Community College Foundation (MCCF) is helping fund tools needed to teach students enrolled in the Fremont Area Diesel Academy, a program open to Fremont area junior and senior-level high school students.

The Fremont Area Diesel Academy helps students earn both high school and college credit while gaining valuable industry skills.

According to MCCF, “the demand for skilled diesel technicians cannot be overstated.” The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 12% job growth in this field from 2014 through 2024, compared to an average of 7% of all jobs in all industries.

“The Fremont Area Diesel Academy advances our shared priorities to support activities which provide educational benefits in Fremont,” said Todd Hansen, Executive Director of MCC’s Fremont Center. “Our current high school career academies and advisory boards work closely with local employers and organizations to provide industry-relevant training programs.”

“We are pleased to support this innovative educational opportunity for our area youth,” said Melissa Diers. “Preparing our young people for success in life and vocation, ideally right here at home, is vital for a successful community. We are happy to be a partner in the collaborative effort to bring this program to the Fremont area.”
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 2016-17 fiscal year (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017). Thank you for your support! It enables the Foundation to make a bigger impact in our community.

**CORNERSTONE** — $1,500 & up
Anonymous
Alan & Beth Brewer
Blake & Tanya Dillon Family
Sid & Patty Dillon
Rob & Pam Kreikemeier
Dave & Sheila Monke
Paul & Debbie Parkert
Neil & Bonnie Schilke
Marv Welstead

**PACESETTER** — $1,000-$1,499
Jane & Bill Dugan
Jack & Judy Ekeler
Mike & Janice Guillatt
Dick & Paula Hendriksen
Bob & Dian Hillis
Travis & Rosie Nelson
Fern & Dale Olson

**PLATINUM** — $500-$999
Mike & Karen Aerni
Barry & Jennifer Benson
J.J. & Jennifer Bixby
Vernon Brandert
Wendell & Theresa Bruner
Michael & Patricia Callahan
David & Cynthia Christensen
Randy & Shelly Ekmeier
Glen & Nancy Ellis
Brad & Cathy Holtorf
Rod & Cyndy Koerber
Les & Christine Leech
Terry & Linda McClain
Helen Monke
Steve & Julie Navarrette
Joe & Nancy Sajevic
Randy & Ramona Sanders
Rick & Mary Jo Spalding
Gene & Peg Steffensmeier
Dave & Karol Theophilus
James & Carole Tremain
Dr. Tom & Carol Waring
John & Cristin Wilson

**GOLD** — $250-$499
Dr. Milo & Cheri Anderson
Skip & Jean Anderson
Anonymous
Steve & Pam Barr
Dr. Rod & Debbie Basler
John & Nancy Beilke

**SILVER** — $150-$249
Curtis & Patricia Batten
Ken & Pat Beebe
Dr. Richard & Sheryl Bergstrom
Patrick & Judy Booth
Anne Boschu
Lisa Braasch

**BRONZE** — $100-$149
Anonymous
Lloyd & Betty Brooks
Robert & Pat Diers
Jason & Leigh Feala
Carl & Barb Greunke
Todd & Shannon Hansen
George & Sylvia Hermone
Don & Barbara Johnson
Larry & Irene Johnson
Vernelle F. Karsk-Werblow
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Mike & Kathy Soderberg
Kent & Karen Speicher
Richard & Judy Vitters
Dan & Kathy Wiesen
Wallace H. Wolfe

**MEMBER** — up to $99
Ron & Diane Anderson
Robert & Linda Bendig
Jean Bloom

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Thanks to These Businesses for Their Support!

**PLATINUM - $1,000 and up**
- Charlie Diers Ford-Lincoln-Mercury
- First National Bank Fremont
- First State Bank & Trust Co.
- Guilliatt & Associates
- Hormel Foods Corporation
- Nye Health Services
- Pinnacle Bank
- Sid Dillon Chevrolet Fremont
- Valmont Industries

**SILVER - up to $499**
- Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
- Boschult Engineering Co.
- D&T Shirtified, LLC
- Dodd Engineering & Surveying
- Dodge County Title & Escrow
- Fremont Dental Group
- Getzschman Heating, LLC
- Holiday Inn Express/Younes Hospitality
- Jetters Plumbing
- Howard & Sharon Krasne
- O&W Brabec Rentals
- OfficeNet, Inc.
- Park Professional Group
- Sawyer Car Wash
- Scribner Bank
- Shaw, Hull & Navarrette, CPAs, P.C.
- U.S. Bank
- Phil Wood-Wealth Partners
- Wiechman Pig Co.

**GOLD - $500 - $999**
- Bixby Financial Services
- Christensen Corporation
- Don Peterson & Associates
- Fremont Beef Company
- Fremont Contract Carriers, Inc.
- Fremont Health
- Fremont Rotary Club
- INS PRO Insurance
- Kelly Group, Inc.
- Leonard Management
- Pediatric Partners, LLC
- Swanson Insurance

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Our Board of Directors

**Front row:** Patti Beebe, Marv Welstead,* Jennifer Bixby, Cheryl Lamme

**Second row:** Kate Heineman, Caryl Johannsen, Toni Ver ing, Robert Hillis (Vice President), Dee Bang, Cindy Coffman, Gaylord Mussman

**Third row:** Greg Haskins (President), Sid Dillon, Jr., Jessup Wilson, Barry Benson, Mark Prince, Rev. Scott Jensen, Steve Navarrette,* Russ Peterson

**Not pictured:** Jane Dugan, Brad Holtorf, Terry McClain (Secretary-Treasurer), Donna Meismer, Sheila Monke, Joe Sajevic, Steve Swanson, Tom Thomsen*
Grant Helps Refurbish FHS Theater

The Fremont Area Community Foundation was pleased to support a collaborative effort to upgrade Fremont High School’s Nell McPherson Theater—a grassroots fundraising endeavor called the ENCORE! Campaign.

Over the last 60 years, the theater has hosted countless student-led performances, community chorus groups, town hall meetings, public speakers and debates.

And while it has served its purpose, the facility was in need of technological, structural and modern upgrades to continue functioning as a 21st century performing arts center.

Local residents and parents spearheaded the effort to raise dollars to upgrade the sound system, lighting, rigging, curtains, bathrooms and entrance areas.

Now nearing completion, the ENCORE! Campaign renovation project promises to continue the rich and meaningful tradition of music, theater, fine arts and academic disciplines for current and future students, families and residents of the Fremont area.

Grant Aims to Address Fremont’s “Community Cats”

Feral cats have an average of 1.4 litters per year, with an average 3.5 live births in each litter. That equals 4.9 kittens per year, per female feral cat. A pair of breeding cats and their offspring can produce 420,000 kittens over a seven-year period.

By spaying and neutering just one male and one female cat, more than 2,000 unwanted births can be prevented in just four years—and more than 2 million in 8 years.

A newly formed group called Catz Angels Rescue Effort (CARE) is working to address the feral cat—or “community cat”—population issue in Fremont, with help from an FACF grant.

The group is using a Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) approach—a humane, non-lethal alternative to the trap-and-kill method of controlling cat populations, and making progress within the community.

To date, nearly 200 feral cats have been spayed/neutered through the program, making it “a valuable resource to the community,” according to Brian Newton, Fremont City Administrator.

To support CARE, go to facfoundation.org, click on the “Donate Now” button, “Support a Specific Fund,” and select “Catz Angel Rescue Effort Fund.” For more information, email catzangelsrescueeffort@yahoo.com.

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?

“Like” us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and sign up to receive our e-Newsletter! Visit our website at 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.
Celebrating Our 2017 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 almost $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 2017.

The Bridge—$1,500 mini-grant for the Dodge County Collaborative Team Community Resource Fair.

Boy Scout Troop #109—$2,000 to construct pitching bullpens on NightHawks Field.

Care Corps—$1,310.10 to help underwrite expenses for staff members to attend a case management conference.

Catz Angels Rescue Effort (CARE)—$10,000 for a Trap/Spay-Neuter/Release/Adopt program to address the Fremont area’s feral cat population.

Cornbelt Diabetes Connection, Inc.—$1,000 to support free screenings provided by the Mobile Diabetes Center.

The Digg-Site Productions—$5,000 for its “Film It” summer documentary film workshops for area youth.

Dodge American Legion Post #122—$1,500 grant to use for replacement of the air conditioner in the Veterans Club.

ESU #2—$5,000 for the “All Minds Matter” workshop held at Midland University featuring Liz Murray.

Fremont Band Boosters—$1,500 mini-grant for their 2017 band trip.

Fremont Creative Collective—$8,000 for a community study regarding potential development of technological, entrepreneurial and artistic endeavors.

FPS Encore Campaign Committee—$60,000 to help renovate the Fremont High’s Nell McPherson Theater.

Fremont Public Schools Foundation—$10,000 for a mobile digital display board and sound system for Appleget Field.

Fremont Public Schools Foundation - $7,500 in mini-grants for world traveler Dean Jacobs’ writing workshops at Bell Field, Milliken Park, Howard, Grant, Washington and Clarmar Elementary Schools.

Keep Fremont Beautiful—$1,500 mini-grant for its Continuous Community Education Project.

Logan-View Elementary School - $1,500 for a writing workshop with world traveler Dean Jacobs.