Celebrating Our 2014 Grantees

More than $184,000 in grants has been awarded during 2014. The following organizations have received grants:

Fremont Family YMCA
$100,000 grant toward the construction of the Sid and Hazel Dillon Aquatic Center.

Digg Site Productions, Inc.
$15,162 for its “Film It: The World Inside and Out” project, which includes summer documentary film workshops for area youth interested in filmmaking.

Village of Cedar Bluffs
$5,000 grant toward the construction of a new playground in the city park.

Uehling Area Foundation
$7,500 toward the installation of a new digital sign on Highway 77.

Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska
$2,500 toward the costs of providing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to Girl Scouts at Camp Crossed Arrows.

Orchestra Omaha
$2,000 from the Lester A. Walker Fund for its “Carmina at the Holland” project. This provided an educational opportunity for Fremont musicians to perform at the Holland Performing Arts Center with students from other area schools.

Fremont Public Schools Foundation
$7,000 toward the “Project Fit America” initiative at Milliken Park Elementary School.

Fremont Public Schools
$25,000 for the enhancement of existing playgrounds to meet the safety and compliance requirements for three new preschool classrooms.

Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity
$20,000 grant from the Lester A. Walker Fund for the “All Under One Roof” campaign. The building provides a centralized location for the Habitat Homestore, administrative offices and construction area.

“All Under One Roof”

New Building Campaign for Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity

Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity finally has a home of its own, thanks in part to grants totaling $40,000 from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Last March, Habitat offices moved into the former Coca-Cola building at 701 E. Dodge St., and the expanded Habitat HomeStore opened under the same roof to customers the following month. The 14,000 square-foot building even has dedicated space for construction volunteers, now able to build cabinetry for Habitat homes during the off season and on rainy days.

Executive Director Joy McKay said the “All Under One Roof” campaign has given Habitat the elbow room it needs, and it improves communication and coordination among staff and volunteers—its greatest asset!
Scholarship Fund Honors Fremont High Track Coach

As a high jumper, Rick Hollendieck quickly learned that even your best days can end with misses. You might jump your personal record, and even break a meet record, but still your day ends with three misses – that’s the sport.

But it was the lessons his coach, Pat Murphy, relayed from those misses that stuck with Hollendieck and other Fremont High track athletes throughout their lives.

“Murph would use that and say ‘see that’s the way life is,’” said Hollendieck, who credits his friend as a good coach, a great mentor and – aside from his parents – the individual who had the biggest impact on his life.

Last spring, Hollendieck established the Pat Murphy Track and Field Scholarship at the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Other alumni added their support to the endowed fund that provides financial assistance to Fremont High School graduates who were active on the Track and Field Team.

Graduating senior Nathan Kyes, the first recipient of the Pat Murphy Track and Field Scholarship, intends to use the $1,000 award to attend Doane College where he plans to major in biology and pre-med.

“Scholarships are an important part of our program here at the Fremont Area Community Foundation,” said Melissa Diers, Executive Director. “We have over 50 scholarship funds that we manage and award each year, and when Rick approached us with this idea to honor Coach Murphy, we were more than happy to accommodate his wish. Donors establish scholarships for many reasons – to honor or memorialize a loved one, support an area of interest, or celebrate a life event. Whatever the inspiration, we’re always happy to apply our experience and expertise to help donors achieve their goals.”

Scholarships Awarded to Area Students

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of donors who were inspired to help young people pursue their academic dreams, FACF was able to award 76 scholarships totaling more than $66,000 in the Fremont area for the 2014-15 academic year.

To learn more about setting up a scholarship fund, please contact Melissa Diers at 402-721-4252.
2014 Marks the Centennial Anniversary of Community Foundations

One hundred years ago, the community foundation concept was born in the Midwest, giving rise to a new philanthropy, a new way of participating in community, and a new vision for the future.

Today, the Fremont Area Community Foundation (FACF) is one of more than 700 community foundations across the United States that invite people with a vision and a passion for community to create something together: For good. Forever. These organizations collectively manage more than $48 billion in assets and make grants of approximately $4.5 billion a year to improve life in their communities.

“In 2015, FACF will celebrate its 35th anniversary, commemorating the donors and volunteers whose generosity continues to make life better in the Fremont area,” said Melissa Diers, Executive Director.

Community foundations across the country are helping people invest in the future of the communities they care about. Trillions of dollars are expected to transfer from one generation to the next during the next 50 years. The philanthropic opportunity during this transfer has the potential to improve the quality of life through arts and culture, civic improvements, education, health and recreation, and social services. As place-based organizations that focus collective assets for good works, community foundations are helping people of all means give back and make a difference.

FACF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization providing donors a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving—so their gifts do good works within the community, forever.

Professional Advisor Q & A
With Steve Pribnow

Q. As you review your clients’ financial situations, why would you refer them to FACF to help them meet their philanthropic goals?
A. Occasionally, clients will bring up the subject of creating a private foundation. Although, as with almost any tax-implicated question, a private foundation might be the best answer for a particular client’s situation, there are many times when a donor-advised fund at the Foundation is a better choice for the client. The costs of setup and maintenance of a donor-advised fund are often less, usually much less than starting and maintaining a private foundation. And the Community Foundation provides professional management and oversight of the assets and disbursement policy at a very reasonable cost.

The Foundation can also provide a very useful charitable partner in estate planning techniques, such as charitable lead and remainder trusts or other split interest transfers. Local charitable groups replace the federal government as the recipient of part of the estate or gift. That is a very desirable trade-off in most peoples’ view.

Gifts to the Foundation can also easily facilitate using appreciated assets, often but not always securities, for very tax-favored results while allowing a wide array of charitable beneficiaries and also control of the timing of such gifts.

Q. How has FACF been helpful to your clients?
A. The Foundation has helped us implement all of the strategies outlined above. The staff of the Foundation is very helpful and very flexible in assisting individuals and other entities to maximize their tax benefits and target their charitable objectives. You cannot beat the personal service and touch the Foundation staff provides in customizing just the right strategy for every individual situation.

Q. What inspires your clients to give?
A. By far, the greatest incentive our clients speak of when planning or making gifts to or through the Foundation is their desire to give back to and share their abundance with the community in which most of them live and prosper. Most of them realize that they did not generate what wealth they have solely due to their own efforts, but rather their successes have been facilitated and made possible by the economic opportunity and infrastructure put in place by fellow community residents, past and present. And they wish to assist in future successes and quality of life for other local residents and residents to come.

Certainly, the tax and administrative benefits attained through gifts to the Foundation are also factors in their decisions to give, but nearly always these benefits simply enhance their primarily charitable objectives. It is always a pleasure to help wonderful givers magnify the usefulness of their gifts even further than they may have realized possible.
National Standards Accreditation Affirms Our Commitment to Excellence

The Fremont Area Community Foundation was recently reaccredited with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™. This accreditation, signified by the Seal shown here, indicates that the Foundation meets the highest standards for philanthropic excellence.

“This is a significant accomplishment,” said Dick Hendriksen, Past-President of the Board of Directors. “When people trust the Fremont Area Community Foundation with a charitable bequest, to establish a fund or set up an annuity, they do it knowing that the Foundation met rigorous standards for donor services, investment management, grantmaking and administration.”

“We’ve always worked hard to do good, right here in the Fremont area,” said Melissa Diers, Executive Director. “Achieving National Standards reaccreditation ensures that the Fremont Area Community Foundation has policies in place for financial stability and longevity, and affirms our continued commitment to our donors, grantees and community. We are a proven place to give.”

The accreditation program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. The Fremont Area Community Foundation’s documentation was reviewed by a community foundation expert from a panel appointed by the Community Foundations National Standards Board, a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations in Arlington, Va.

“The National Standards accreditation is an excellent validation of the work we do on behalf of our donors and our community,” Hendriksen said. “With the help of folks in the Fremont area, the Fremont Area Community Foundation has become a more effective partner for impacting the causes we all care about.”

Gifts of Grain
Support Your Community and Receive Tax Benefits

With another harvesting season just around the corner, consider a gift of grain to support your community.

A gift of grain allows you to fulfill your charitable intentions that could include supporting your home town, honoring a loved one, or addressing a community need. These types of gifts allow you to make a larger charitable gift while minimizing taxes.

The Fremont Area Community Foundation can accept gifts of grain directed to any new or established charitable fund. Gifts of grain may also be directed to any of our affiliates in Arlington, Hooper, North Bend and Uehling.

If you are interested in giving a gift of grain, contact Melissa Diers at mdiers@facfoundation.org or at 402-721-4252.

Hats Off to Marv Welstead on his recognition as a Fremont Nebraska Pathfinder!

Marv has volunteered on countless community projects and initiatives in the Fremont area. He was instrumental in founding the Fremont Area Community Foundation and has served as a board member for almost 35 years!