Grant Assists Patriotic Display

For years, area residents have appreciated the growing patriotic display—now approximately 350 American flags lining a 3.5-mile strip of Military Avenue between Clarkson and Johnson Road.

Every Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veterans Day, as many as 40 volunteers gather to put up and then take down each of the flags that once adorned the caskets of deceased veterans. They were donated by family members to fly along the Avenue of Flags and represent the men and women who served and sacrificed—from World War I to the current day.

When not on display—the other 361 days of the year—the flags are safely stowed away in four new trailers, thanks in part to a recent grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. The 14-foot trailers replaced older, wooden trailers that, after 40 years, had served their tour of duty. Fremont artist Doug Rasmussen (pictured below, left, with Chris Madsen, a commander with the Avenue of Flags) hand-painted different representations to honor all branches of the military on the nose part of the trailers, and local graphic designer Jen Helget designed the military-themed wraps that go around each trailer.

So now the trailers themselves reflect the patriotic spirit of the Avenue of Flags. The Fremont Area Community Foundation is proud to support this Fremont tradition.
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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Grant Fights Dementia with Music

As we all know from hearing that song associated with a first love or special experience, music is profoundly linked to personal memories. In fact, our brains are hardwired to connect music with long-term memory.

Even for persons with severe dementia, music can tap deep emotional recall. Beloved music often calms chaotic brain activity and enables the listener to focus on the present moment, regain a connection to others, and gain improved quality of life from listening to personal music favorites.

Fremont High School senior Anya Morosov, one winner of the Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Contest, set out to provide this opportunity for area individuals struggling with dementia. With the help of a $1,000 Foundation grant, Anya partnered with staff at The Heritage at Shalimar Gardens in Fremont to enable the nursing home to become a Certified Music & Memory Care Facility.

Today, Shalimar residents like Alice Feist (pictured above with Shalimar life enrichment director Riley Faulkner, left, and Morosov) are wearing their iPods and enjoying the music of Elvis Presley, Glen Miller, Johnny Cash and others.

“One of our patients, Alice . . . came out of her apartment listening to her iPod and she was dancing down the hallway. It about put us in tears.”

"It was really cute," said Faulkner. “One of our patients, Alice . . . came out of her apartment listening to her iPod and she was dancing down the hallway. It about put us in tears.”

To learn more about Anya's project and other Youth Philanthropy Contest winners, visit our website at www.facfoundation.org/communityinvolvement.
Scholarships Awarded to Area Students

Eighty-six scholarships were awarded to students this past spring, thanks to the generous support of donors inspired to help Fremont-area young people pursue their academic aspirations. Seeking a variety of majors at two-year and four-year colleges and universities, students received more than $76,000 in financial aid for the 2016-17 academic year.

To learn more about creating a scholarship or receiving one, please contact Melissa Diers at (402) 721-4252.

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 by email at info@facfoundation.org or calling 402-721-4252.

Website:
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Celebrating Our 2016 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 2016.

Archbishop Bergan Catholic School—$1,500 to provide CPR, AED and First Aid Training for staff members.

Autism Action Partnership—$3,250 to support “Circle of Friends”—a program designed to enhance understanding and acceptance of youth with disabilities—at Fremont Public Schools.

Care Corps—$43,400 to assist in providing skilled case management services for homelessness prevention.

City of North Bend—$2,500 to support the replacement of the city park pavilion.

Dodge County 4-H Foundation—$10,000 for the expansion and improvement of the livestock pavilion and restrooms at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Scribner.

Dodge County Historical Society—$50,000 toward the “Restore the Top” Roofline Balustrade Project.

Fremont Area Art Association—$28,000 toward the purchase of the building adjacent to Gallery 92 West, which will be renovated for classroom/studio space.

Fremont Area Safety and Security Alliance—$4,000 toward safety and security training for area organizations.

Fremont Avenue of Flags—$10,000 for a new flag storage trailer.

Fremont Soccer Club—$1,500 for a scholarship fund to help local youth in need afford participation in the club.

Good Neighbor Community Health Center—$46,634 toward the Fremont Dental Health facility expansion.

Lutheran Family Services—$22,220 toward the “Building Bridges Out of Poverty” programming in Fremont.

Midland University—$30,000 for updating technology, SMARTBoards and notebooks for the Education Department and Teacher Education Program.

Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership—$1,500 for the redesign of the NENCAP website.

Prague Improvement and Maintenance Project—$10,000 to assist with replacing park equipment.

Rebuilding Together-Platte Valley East—$20,000 toward the construction of home accessibility ramps.

The Bridge—$5,400 to replace the organization’s phone system.

Three Rivers Public Health Department—$1,500 for executive training at the 2016 National Behavioral Health Conference.

Uniquely Yours Stability Support—$6,500 to assist with the Financial Support Services Program.

Washington County Friends of the Fair—$15,000 for the renovation of the restrooms in the community building at the Washington County Fairgrounds.