

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Fremont Forever Fund: Our Area's Endowment Fund

How might the Fremont area change over the next ten years? Twenty-five years? Fifty years? What needs might emerge? What new opportunities will present themselves for this special place we call home?

Decades ago, few could have imagined the technology of today which students must access and master to be competitive in the workplace. Fewer still could have imagined how our communities would be called upon to respond to a 500-year flood let alone a global pandemic.

Fortunately, community foundations are unique in numerous ways. We have our nose to the ground; can find pockets of need within a community that national organizations might overlook; and discover outstanding local people and organizations who are doing significant work. Most importantly, we are uniquely positioned to mobilize financial resources toward urgent community challenges and promising solutions.

How? Primarily through funds like the Fremont Forever Fund, our communities' unrestricted endowment. Established with a single estate gift of \$53,000 in 1980, this fund is the "engine" that drives the foundation's competitive grantmaking and impact.

It's an unrestricted endowment fund, so while the income it earns is available annually to support vital programs and initiatives, the principal remains intact to grow over time. Forever! (See graphic below.)

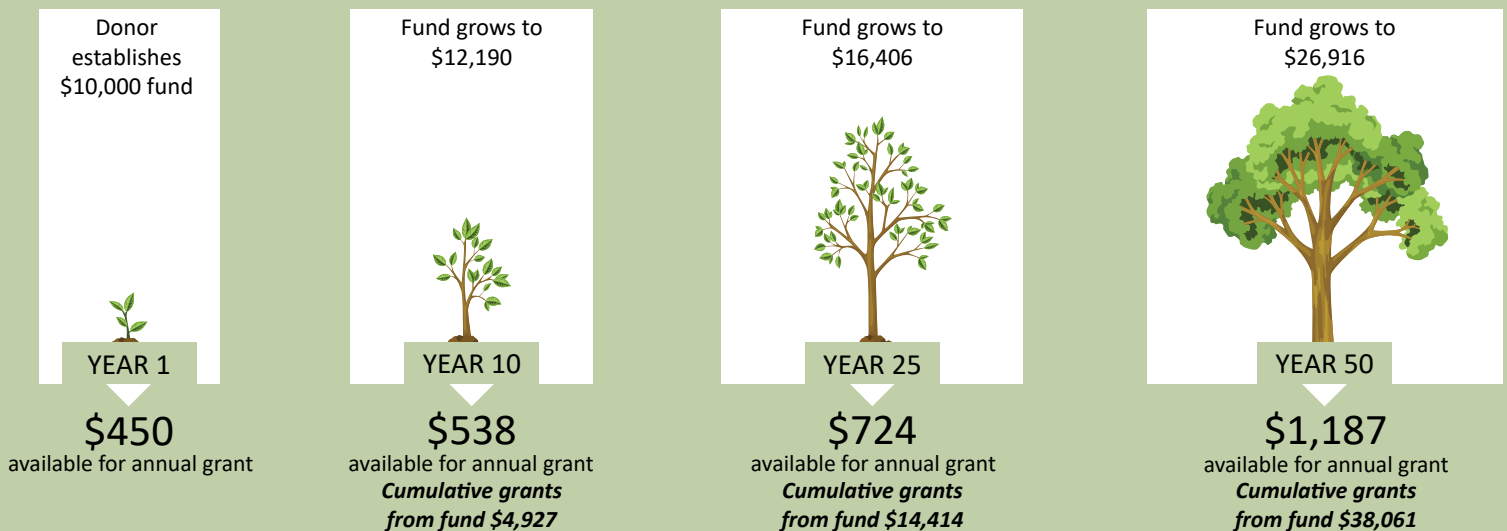
Grants enhance educational opportunity for area youth, promote cultural and recreational opportunities for area families, tackle critical community issues and much more.

Thanks to many donations and strong stewardship of invested assets, the Fremont Forever Fund stands today at almost \$9.2 Million. More importantly, it has awarded 687 grants totaling more than \$4.4 Million to projects and programs throughout the Fremont area.

Some of these grants have been "game-changers" for area nonprofits and community priorities. Learn about a few of them on page 4.

THE FOREVER VALUE OF ENDOWMENTS

This example shows how endowments grow over time, even as they generate annual grants.



Assumes 4.5% payout and 6.5%* rate of return.

*Note: The Foundation's investment portfolio returned 8.70% annually over the last three years, 9.77% over the last five years, and 7.71% over the past 10 years.



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

Terry McClain - President
 Jennifer Bixby - Vice President
 Caryl Johannsen - Secretary-Treasurer
 Bob Hillis - Past President

Patti Beebe
 Barry Benson
 Vanessa Brown
 Sid Dillon, Jr.
 Tanya Dillon
 Jane Dugan
 Brad Holtorf
 Joel Jelkin
 The Rev. Scott Jensen
 Cheryl Lamme
 Casey Meyer
 Adam Monke
 Steve Navarrette*
 Carol Nielsen
 Russ Peterson*
 Mark Prince
 Heidi Richmond
 Koni Shallberg
 Steve Swanson
 Tom Thomsen*

*Ex-officio

Melissa Diers - Executive Director
 Amy Vanek - Associate Director
 Leigh Feala - Advancement Associate



FACF is accredited with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations™ – the industry benchmark for excellence in philanthropic practice.



Grant Helps Keene Memorial Library Grow

A community hub for Dodge County residents with as many as 100,000 visitors annually, Keene Memorial Library (KML) has served Fremont and northeast Nebraska since 1901. And as the Fremont area grows, so too must the library expand its capacity and facilities to meet the evolving needs of area residents.

KML builds community through programs and special events. The library has been an essential public resource in times of community hardship. In addition to extensive youth programming including early literacy activities for the youngest readers, numerous programs for elementary school students, and literary sessions for teens as well as adults, KML also connects citizens to community resources with access to computers, the internet, and meeting space.

In February, the Fremont Area Community Foundation invested in the future of KML with a grant of \$100,000 toward the \$9.4 Million *Grow With Us* campaign. The project will provide structural expansion and renovation to meet space needs, technology advancements, enhanced accessibility, infrastructure improvements and future sustainability.

With an anticipated groundbreaking in Spring 2022, an expanded library will allow children and adults to experience much improved opportunities for learning and growth and better the Fremont area for years to come.

To support Keene Memorial Library’s *Grow with Us* campaign, give online at facfoundation.org, or send a check to the Fremont Area Community Foundation, 1005 E. 23rd Street, Suite 2, Fremont, NE 68025. Designate your gift to: KML *Grow With Us* Campaign.



FACF provides a \$100,000 grant to KML “Grow With Us” campaign. (From left: Fremont Mayor Joey Spellerberg, KML Board Member Linda McClain, FACF Executive Director Melissa Diers and KML Director Laura England-Biggs.

Thank You for Supporting Our Sustaining Drive!

As we continue to face all of the challenges and opportunities brought to us in 2021, we are more thankful than ever to have you by our side. Following are the individuals, families and businesses that have shown their support for the work of the Fremont Area Community Foundation by contributing to the Sustaining Drive for our 2020-21 fiscal year.**

CORNERSTONE — \$1,500 & up

Patti & Greg Beebe
Mikel & Kathy Broderson
Blake & Tanya Dillon
Sid & Patty Dillon
Bill & Jane Dugan
Ron & Helen Jensen
Dale Olson
Neil* & Bonnie Schilke

PACESETTER — \$1,000-\$1,499

David & Cynthia Christensen
Francis & Carol Emanuel
Mike & Janice Guillatt
Richard & Paula Hendriksen
Bob & Dian Hillis
David & Sheila Monke
Russ & Jennifer Peterson
Randall & Ramona Sanders
Larry Yost

PLATINUM — \$500-\$999

Mike & Karen Aerni
Daniel & Sue Anderson
Jennifer & J.J. Bixby
Vernon Brandert
Tim & Vanessa Brown
Michael & Pam Draemel
Larry & Cheryl Feala
Doug & Judy Heim
Sally Ganem & Dave Heineman
Brad & Cathy Holtorf
Caryl & Chuck Johannsen
Cheryl & Nick Lamme
Shawn & Susie May
Terry & Linda McClain
Steve & Julie Navarrette
Travis & Rosie Nelson
Steve & Cynthia Pike
Mark & Ann Prince
Joe & Nancy Sajevic
Monty & Lynnette Sellon
Rick & Mary Jo Spalding
Peg Steffensmeier
Steve Swanson
Dave & Karol Theophilus
Joanne Thietje
Gail M. Wallace
Dr. Tom & Carol* Waring
Jessup & Cristin Wilson

GOLD — \$250-\$499

Dr. Milo & Cheri Anderson
Dr. Rod & Debbie Basler
Barry & Jennifer Benson
Janice Bopp
Anne Boschult
Marlin & Marla Brabec
Lloyd & Betty Brooks
Linda & Keith Chapman
Don & Dorothy Charleston
Melissa & Kirk Diers
Robert & Patricia Diers
Jim & Karen Dunker
Sherie Ebers
Ken & Susie Ferrarini
Brett & Kristine Fischer
Ron & Rita Freeman
Gerry & Rhonda Gdowski
Dolores A. Getzschman
Ron & Pete Getzschman
Jeff & Joan Hawthorne
Jerry & Mary Hendrickson
David & Glenda Hingst
Rick & Sue Hollendieck
Steve & Marsha Hull
Vernelle F. Karsk-Werblow
Ron & Susie Kranz
Keith Lallman
Jan Lutz
Ken & Alice McElhose
Scott & Patty Meister
Loren Nothwehr
Vince & Kerstin O'Connor
Roger & Pam Pannier
Rich Pearson & Priscilla Wilson
Mervin & Gail Peck
Russell & Jetty Rabeler
Alan & Arlene Reeh
Kathy & Bill Rhea
Cathy & Bill Saeger
Darlene G. Saeger
Tom & Marka Sawyer
Ron & Margaret Schultz
Joe & Diana Twidwell
Curt & Eunice Warren
Ron & Cindy Weaklend
Winfield & Marty Weber
Jim & Bonnie Williams

SILVER — \$150-\$249

Doug & Angie Backens

Dennis Behrens
Cindy & Mike Coffman
Jason & Leigh Feala
Charles & Marilyn Gordon
Carl A. & Barb Greunke
Dave & Barb Hanen
Don* & Barbara Johnson
Larry & Irene Johnson
Marilyn Kock
Glen & Connie Langemeier
Duane & Judi McKenzie
Bob & Michele Missel
Nanette Missel
Bob & Maggie Mundy
Todd & Ronda Niehaus
Jerry & Judy Nielsen
J. Evan & Carolyn Nordstrom
Dick & Jill Norenberg
Alice Nott
David & Kathleen Pinkall
David & Becky Poppe
Molly Rainey
T. Scot & Lori Robertson
Darlene Smith
Tom & Trudy Tamke
Tom & Sheryl Thomsen
Linda Williams
Bob & Janet Yanike

BRONZE — \$100-\$149

Carman Baker
Ken & Pat Beebe
Fred & Kay Brown
Steve & Paula Campbell
Ed & Diana Christoffersen
Ray & Marilyn Clapper
Marilyn K. Clark
Jim & Sherri Eddie
Bryce & Kay Exstrom
Marcia Fouraker
James & Lavonne Furstenau
Cherry Gocken
Angie & Jeff Hazen
Don & Jan Hinds
Russ Hoetfelker
Rhoda Holstine
Henry Iske
Carrie Kiger
John Konecky
Marty & Jacquie Koolen
Jack* & Shirley Larsen
Chris & Mary Beth Leaver

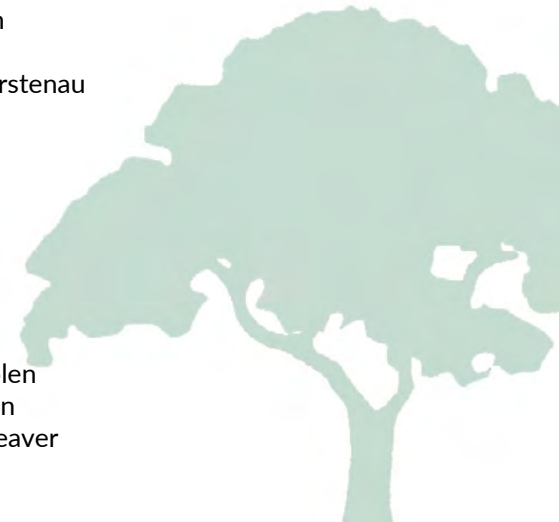
Raymond C. Ludwig
Steve & Mary Narans
Dan Nelson
Elizabeth Petersen
Douglas R. Raichle
Dr. Bob & Sue Roesch
Earline Ronhovde
John & Lori Sajevic
Skip & Judy Sawyer
Emilee Scheer
Dr. Alcyone Scott
Robert & Janet Steenblock
Steve Tellatin
Ward & Emily Wageman
Don & Gloria Wegman
Dan & Kathy Wiesen
Tom & Deanna Wolf

MEMBER — up to \$99

Diane Bade
Bob & Linda Bendig
Jean Bloom
Catherine Chapman
Timothy Connor
David* & Faith Dunn
Milton Emry
Ruth Fischer
Joe & Kristin Henkenius
Richard Hirschman
Rick & Jan Hobza
Byron & Bonnie LaMont
Amy & Bob Vanek
Bob & Tess Welstead
Susan Westerholt

*Remembered forever.

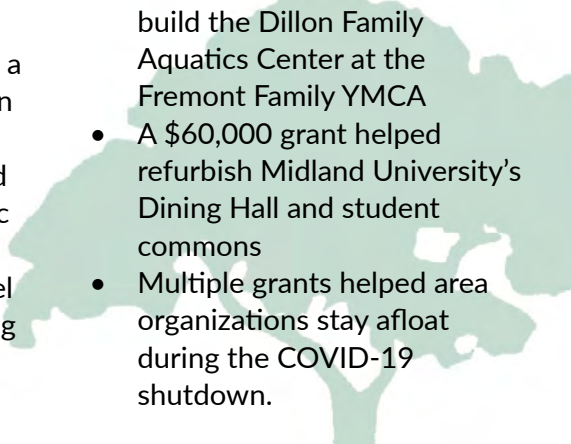
**July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.



Fremont Forever Fund “Game-Changing” Grants

Some are small, some large, but all were transformative for area nonprofits. Over 680 grants have been awarded from our unrestricted endowment since 1980. Following are a few that were “game-changers.”

- A grant of \$3,000 helped establish the Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity
- A grant of \$10,000 established Care Corps’ LifeHouse homeless shelter
- A \$200,000 grant and \$200,000 loan helped save a struggling Midland Lutheran College in 2010
- A grant of \$100,000 helped build the North Bend Public Library
- A \$50,000 grant helped fuel relief and recovery following the 2019 flood
- A grant of \$68,000 helped expand the Fremont Area Art Association
- A grant of \$10,000 helped build the Youth Sports Complex in Arlington
- A grant of \$20,000 helped create a Youth Sports Complex in Scribner
- Numerous grants have helped enhance facilities, technology and programming at all area schools
- A \$100,000 grant helped build the Dillon Family Aquatics Center at the Fremont Family YMCA
- A \$60,000 grant helped refurbish Midland University’s Dining Hall and student commons
- Multiple grants helped area organizations stay afloat during the COVID-19 shutdown.



Thanks to These Businesses for Their Support!

PLATINUM - \$1,000 and up
 Christensen Lumber
 Don Peterson & Associates
 First National Bank - Fremont
 First State Bank & Trust Co.
 Fremont Electric, Inc.
 Guillatt & Associates
 Methodist Fremont Health
 Pinnacle Bank
 Rosenbauer Aerials, LLC
 S2 Refuse and Recycling
 Sawyer Car Wash
 Valmont Industries
 Wholystone Farms

GOLD - \$500 - \$999
 Abe Krasne Home Furnishings
 Bixby Financial Services
 Gifford Realty, Inc.
 INSPRO, Inc.
 Kelly Group, Inc.
 Swanson Insurance/Real Estate, Inc.
 Taylor & Martin
 Williams Ag Corp.

SILVER - up to \$499
 A-Plus Tree Service
 Anesthesia Care Specialists
 Dodd Engineering
 Fremont Area Chamber
 Fremont Dental Group
 Fremont Eye Associates, PC
 Gene Steffy’s Chrysler Care Center
 Getzschman Heating, Inc.
 OfficeNet, Inc.
 Rader Photography
 Scribner Bank
 Shaw, Hull & Navarrette, CPAs, P.C.
 Wiechman Pig Co., Inc.



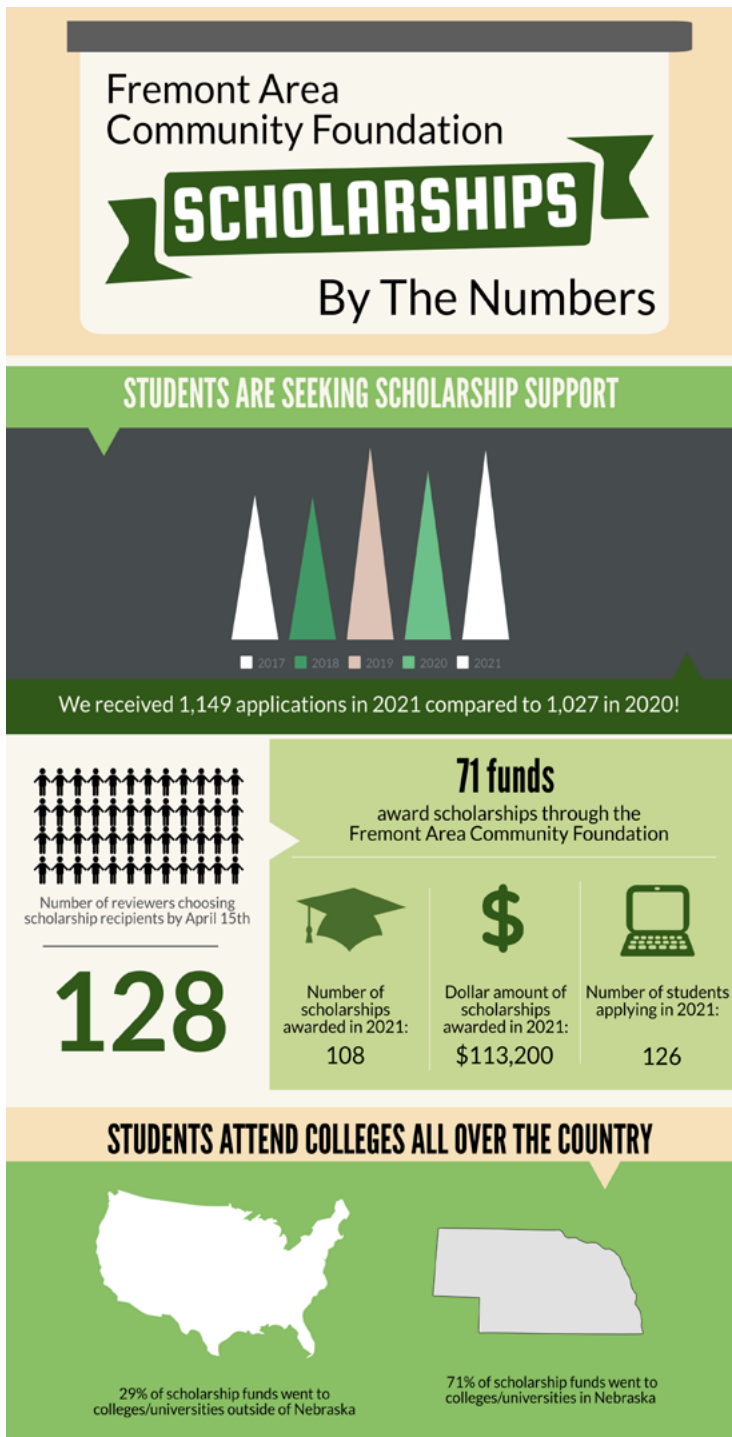
The Fremont Area Community Foundation Board of Directors

Front row, from left to right: Adam Monke, Jennifer Bixby (Vice President), Cheryl Lamme, Heidi Richmond, Carol Nielsen, Steve Swanson, Vanessa Brown. **Back row, from left to right:** Rev. Scott Jensen, Patti Beebe, Caryl Johannsen (Secretary-Treasurer), Casey Meyer, Bob Hillis (Past President), Barry Benson, Terry McClain (President), Koni Shallberg, Brad Holtorf, Mark Prince. **Not pictured:** Tanya Dillon, Sid Dillon, Jr., Jane Dugan, Joel Jelkin, Steve Navarrette,* Russ Peterson,* Tom Thomsen.*

*Ex-officio

Over 100 Scholarships Awarded to Fremont Area Students

The number of Fremont area youth seeking financial assistance to attend college continues to grow. One hundred and eight scholarships were awarded to students this past spring, thanks to generous donors inspired to help young people pursue their academic aspirations. Seeking a variety of majors at two- and four-year colleges and universities, students received more than \$113,000 in financial aid for the 2021-2022 academic year.



Funding Highlights: COVID Relief and Response

A number of organizations and collaborations received vital funding this year and last to help the Fremont area respond to the impact of COVID-19. Following are just a few examples.

Midland University/Nebraska Methodist College. A \$10,620 grant to fund emergency CNA training to supplement the number of critical care workers available to Fremont area hospitals and clinics during the pandemic.

The Fremont Diaper Bank. Located at the Fremont Area United Way (FAUW) office under the FPS Sixpence Program, this usually well-supported resource for families found itself in dire need of diaper supplies. Traditionally, the bank relies upon donation drives spearheaded by area businesses to stock its coffers, but COVID restrictions made that impossible this year. Instead, a \$10,000 grant from FACF is providing 52 weeks of diaper supplies.

Fremont Public Schools. Working with community partners involved in the Fremont Area COVID-19 Response Taskforce, a foundation grant helped assemble 6,500 weekend food backpacks for FPS students living with food insecurity. (See photo above.) The backpacks supplemented school district supplies which were insufficient to meet demand for the entire school year.

Our 2021 Grantees

Since its inception in 1980, over \$36 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 fiscal year alone, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$1.6 Million in competitive, COVID-19, flood recovery, donor-advised fund and other grants. Listed below are competitive grants awarded so far this year from the Fremont Forever Fund and Lester A. Walker Fund.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Dodge County—\$1,500 for promotion of local event.

Arlington Dog Park—\$11,400 to help construct a dog park on an empty lot blighted by the 2019 flood.

Arlington Leslie Downs American Legion Post 71—\$10,000 to help finish the Arlington Veterans Memorial Wall which honors the military service of more than 350 people from Arlington, the surrounding communities and across the U.S.

Arlington Public Schools—\$1,500 to help students create three raised beds in the school's courtyard to learn life skills such as planting and harvesting.

Care Corps' LifeHouse—\$100,000 to help remodel the food pantry and part of the shelter, create additional shelter space, and fund ongoing food security efforts.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties—\$10,000 for the organization's Rural Emergency Services Program to provide rent, security deposit, utility, and propane assistance to those who are homeless or near homeless in Northern Saunders County.

Digg Site Productions—\$50,000 for the renovation of the historic Empress Theatre in Downtown Fremont.

Dodge County REACT—\$2,500 to provide volunteers much-needed cold-weather and safety gear.

FITGirl, Inc.—\$12,000 to fund the EmpowerU After School program at Johnson Crossing Academic Center which aims to build girls' and boys' positive self-image and interest in lifetime physical fitness.

Fremont Area United Way—\$10,000 to restock the Fremont Diaper Bank for area families in need.

Fremont Rural Fire Protection District #8—\$11,000 for technical rescue equipment needed in cases of flooding, grain bin rescue and fire.

Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA)—\$25,000 to support virtual and in-person programming to residents of the Fremont area.

John G. Neihardt Foundation—\$9,800 to fund strategic planning for the organization's board of directors.



Underprivileged preschoolers in the Fremont area will have a chance to learn and play a variety of stringed instruments through the Omaha Conservatory of Music String Sprouts program.

Keene Memorial Library—\$100,000 for the *Grow With Us* campaign which aims to expand and improve the library's facilities and services.

Nebraska Mediation Center—\$7,000 to support the Restorative Justice Intervention program, including Victim-Youth Conferencing, which emphasizes accountability for the youth offender and ultimately reduces youth involvement in the juvenile court system.

Neligh Park Inclusive Playground—\$10,000 to the West Point Community Foundation to support the creation of an inclusive playground in West Point.

Omaha Conservatory of Music—\$7,000 for the String Sprouts program, which introduces violin, viola, cello and bass instruction to underprivileged Fremont area preschoolers.

Saunders County Youth Services—\$10,000 to help provide in-home mental health therapy to youth under age 10 and adults who reside within the FAFAC grant area.

Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Center—\$10,000 for central air conditioning in the gymnasium.

Village of Nickerson—\$1,500 to support the town's sesquicentennial celebration.