

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

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



Photo courtesy of Fremont Tribune

Brenton Pitt, far left, receives a \$2,000 check from Melissa Diers, Executive Director of FACF, while Troop Leader Chad Fuchs, FACF board member Cheryl Lamme and Neil Schilke, complex benefactor, look on.

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.



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.

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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.

"Preparing our young people for success in life and vocation, ideally right here at home, is vital for a successful community."

"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.

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Thanks to These Businesses for Their Support!

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Second row: Kate Heineman, Caryl Johannesen, Toni Vering, 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*

Our Board of Directors

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.



FHS choir students hold a “check” for \$60,000 from the foundation for renovation of the Nell McPherson Theater, flanked by FACF board members (left to right) President Greg Haskins, Dee Bang and Patti Beebe.

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.



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.

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.



Photo courtesy of Vic's Photography & Video

MainStreet of Fremont's Pop-Up Park at 5th & Park Venue

MainStreet of Fremont—\$3,500 for a temporary pop-up park in downtown Fremont.

The Merrymakers Association—\$3,360 for professional music entertainment at three area senior care facilities.

Metropolitan Community College Foundation—\$25,000 for Fremont Area Diesel Academy tools.

Midland University—\$60,000 for capital improvements in the dining hall and student commons.

Omaha Area Youth Orchestra—\$1,500 mini-grant for their In-School Music Enrichment and Equitable Access program.

Patriotic Productions—\$8,100 to support the Nebraska Vietnam Combat Veterans Flight to Washington, D.C.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. 2—\$4,250 for ten anti-bullying educational theater programs for Fremont students.

Salem Lutheran Church—\$10,000 to help establish the Fremont Area Handbell Ensemble.

VFW Post #8597, Dodge, NE—\$1,500 mini-grant for landscaping at the Veterans Memory Park.

West Point Community Foundation—\$10,000 for the West Point recreational trails project.