

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

2019 Flood Update: *Nebraska is full of heroes*

Senator Ben Sasse had it right when he said in a March 30th media release...“This is Nebraska. We’re resilient and just plain tough.”

And in the weeks and months following the historic 500-year flood event that gutted homes, displaced families and killed livestock, we were reminded of something else we are. Kind, generous and heroically committed to helping others in need.

The spirit of community was on full display from the earliest hours of the flood threat. Residents throughout the Fremont area came together to fill sandbags, ready shelters and gather supplies. Many who’d lost their homes to the floodwaters joined in the relief effort to help others. In just 48 hours, approximately 1,200 needs assessments of individuals and families—anyone displaced due to the flood—were completed thanks to the collaborative efforts of civic, church and nonprofit leaders.

Though the rivers have returned to their banks, the shelters have closed, and many residents have returned

to life as usual, the Greater Dodge County Long-Term Recovery Group is still hard at work. Comprised of representatives from faith-based, government, business and nonprofit organizations—including the Fremont Area Community Foundation—this collaborative continues to assist individuals and families as they navigate the red-tape of federal and state funding sources, repair their homes, and generally recover from disaster.

The work continues as does the need for volunteers and donations. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jacki at (402) 721-4157. If you would like to make a donation to help flood recovery, make a gift to our *Flood Relief & Recovery Fund*. And if you or someone you know was impacted by the flood and needs assistance, please contact a Disaster Case Manager at (402) 941-0075.



Photos courtesy of Fremont Tribune





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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North Bend Central students Alyssa Booze, Mya Stahl and Brooklyn Shaw work on seeding plants in the school's new greenhouse.

Grant Feeds Farm-to-Table Learning

Students attending North Bend Central (NBC) schools are engaged in hands-on learning through gardening, thanks to a recent grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation which helped the district build a fully-functioning greenhouse.

The greenhouse is an extension of the agriculture, math and science classrooms at NBC, providing teachers with opportunities for cross-curricular learning. In two Greenhouse Operations classes, students are responsible for greenhouse operations from seed to lunch tray. Students have a fresh start at the beginning of each school year with an empty greenhouse and end with a greenhouse full of vegetables and bedding plants. The curriculum includes: growing structures, plant science basics, plant growth, propagation and health, greenhouse business management and fruit and vegetable production.



NBC student Arissa Obershaw is shown with hanging flower baskets sold last spring to benefit the greenhouse.

Agriculture students use the greenhouse for plant science, crop science, agronomic science, biotechnology, horticulture and more. Science students use the hydroponics area of the greenhouse to learn about ecology. And math students get their chance as well...from determining pH in pre-calculus, modeling rate of growth in algebra, calculating water flow and fertilizer usage in geometry, and data collection and graphing in middle school.

Perhaps the best part? The fruits and vegetables grown—like tomatoes, lettuce and green beans—are placed on the school lunch menu so the youth get to enjoy the “fruits of their labor.”

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 2018-19 fiscal year (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019). Thank you for your support! It enables the foundation to make a bigger impact in our community.

CORNERSTONE — \$1,500 & up

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Blake & Tanya Dillon
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 Dan Nelson
 Frances M. Osbon
 John & Jean Rinde
 Emilee Scheer
 Bob & Tess Welstead
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Thanks to These Businesses for Their Support!

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 First National Bank Fremont
 First State Bank & Trust Co.
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 Nye Health Services
 Pinnacle Bank
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 Arps Red-E-Mix, Inc.
 Chris Sullivan Enterprises
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 Fremont Dental Group
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Photo by: Richard Rader

From left to right: Caryl Johanssen, Shawn May, Rev. Scott Jensen, Koni Shallberg, Gaylord Mussman, Jessup Wilson, Cheryl Lamme, Patti Beebe, Tanya Dillon, Terry McClain (Vice President), Sid Dillon, Jr., Mark Prince, Jennifer Bixby (Secretary-Treasurer), Barry Benson, Steve Swanson, Brad Holtorf, Bob Hillis (President), Heidi Richmond

Not pictured: Jane Dugan, Greg Haskins (Immediate Past President), Kate Heineman, Donna Meismer, Russ Peterson,* Steve Navarrette,* Joe Sajevic, Tom Thomsen,* Toni Vering

*Ex-officio

The Fremont Area Community Foundation Board of Directors

Grant Funds Inclusive Playground

A grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation was key to launching a fundraising effort to create an inclusive playground designed for children ages 2 to 12, to be located adjacent to Fremont's Splash Station water park.

The playground, spearheaded by the Fremont Noon Kiwanis Club, will feature amenities that all children can enjoy, regardless of their physical abilities. For example, the merry-go-round will be low to the ground, and access to other rides will be "at grade" for children in wheelchairs.

The Kiwanis Club committed its own money and is still fundraising for this project. The City of Fremont is providing the land for the playground and will own and maintain it upon completion. It's sure to be a much-appreciated community asset for families visiting the Splash Station and Johnson Lake area.

Anyone wishing to support the Splash Station Playground can make a gift online at: <https://www.facfoundation.org/splashstationplayground.html>



Members of the Fremont Noon Kiwanis Club accept a grant "check" from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to help create an inclusive playground next to Fremont's Splash Station.



Uehling Celebrates its New Charters of Freedom Park

What the Village of Uehling lacks in size (its population is about 223), it makes up for in vision and determination.

The Uehling Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Fremont Area Community Foundation, recently received a grant of \$10,000 to complete the town's Charters of Freedom Park—the first of its kind in Nebraska and only the 18th in the nation.

The nation's founding fathers penned The Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution, and The Bill of Rights which collectively are known as the Charters of Freedom. These three documents declare that we are an independent people, we are governed by a democratic republic, and we are secure in our freedom and rights as citizens of the United States of America. The new Uehling park features replicas of these documents which are etched in 1/4-inch bronze, kept under rigid glass and placed upon brick monuments.

"The effort of our Founding Fathers to create this great country is still evident in those documents," said Ron Lewis, facilitator for Foundation Forward, the nonprofit that builds Charters of Freedom settings throughout the country. "It's important that people—first understand them and then have an opportunity to see them."

Visit the Charters of Freedom Park at 5th and Elm Streets in Uehling.

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 2019 Grantees

Since its inception in 1980, over \$30 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 over \$586,000 in competitive and donor-advised fund grants. Listed below are competitive grants awarded from the Fremont Forever Fund and Lester A. Walker Fund during 2019.

American Cancer Society—\$1,500 to enhance marketing for the Relay for Life of Dodge County event.

American Legion Lewis Cerv Post 122, Dodge, NE—\$6,000 to assist with remodeling the restroom to make it more accessible for those with disabilities.

CASA of the Midlands—\$1,500 for start-up expenses to expand services to surrounding communities.

Disabled American Veterans—\$5,476 to fund a new sidewalk entrance for the Fremont facility.

Dodge County 911 Communication Center—\$1,500 for a new simulator for children to practice contacting 911 and talking with dispatchers.

Dodge County Fair Foundation—\$15,000 to help build the kidZone Animal Annex onto the current structure.

Fort Atkinson Foundation—\$20,000 designated to the upgrades to the Keelboat exhibit.

Fremont Area Art Association—\$10,000 to assist in the “Insulating the East Roof” project.

Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity—\$8,900 to purchase a trailer and tools to assist in construction and repair projects.

Fremont Avenue of Flags/Veterans Park—\$10,000 to Veterans Memorial Park to honor our nation’s veterans.

Fremont Public Schools Foundation—\$25,000 to help purchase and install a UHF Emergency Communication Radio System at FPS, Bergan and Trinity.

Friends of the Fremont Area Parks (on behalf of the Fremont Kiwanis Club)—\$25,000 to help build an inclusive playground adjacent to Fremont’s Splash Station.

John C. Fremont Days—\$450 to purchase a new computer.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska—\$10,000 to build foster care and prevention-focused supportive resources in the Fremont area.

MainStreet of Fremont—\$750 to support the “Sand Sculptures on Main” event.



Nebraska Shakespeare received an FACC grant to hold productions of “Othello” and workshops about the playwright at area schools.

Midland University—\$1,500 to support a Diversity and Inclusion Speaker Series.

Nebraska PTA/Clarmar PTA—\$8,000 to help fund a new playground structure.

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Inc.—\$5,000 to bring performances to schools in Dodge and Washington County.

Neihardt Foundation—\$1,142 to fund technology upgrades to the John G. Neihardt Center.

Patriotic Productions—\$1,500 to support the organization’s “Gary Puckett and The Union Gap” fundraising event.

Pioneer Amateur Radio Club—\$1,500 to help improve the technology and training of operators who aid the Dodge County Emergency Management Team in times of crisis.

Rebuilding Together-Platte Valley East, Inc.—\$15,000 to help with capacity-building and core support operations.

Trinity Lutheran School—\$10,000 to assist with a remodel project focusing on the school’s STEM program.

Uehling Area Community Foundation—\$10,000 to complete the town’s Charters of Freedom Park.