

*Connecting community needs with convictions of the heart*

## PRESERVING & IMPROVING *History*

Beloved, but badly aging.

There's just no other way to describe the Newaygo Area District Library, which has been at the heart of this community since it opened its doors in 1915 as the Newaygo Carnegie Library.

Space is so cramped in the Newaygo area's public library, the children's section in the basement has just one table and four small chairs.

What's more, the library is inaccessible to anyone who can't make it up — or down — the two flights of stairs it takes to get to the books and other services. In winter, library-users have a treacherous walk from the parking lot around to the library's only entrance in the front of the building.

And that's just for starters.

This year the very future of the library was in doubt. Unless a millage for operating funds was passed in 2010, the agreement forming the library district would expire at the end of the year, leaving the library with only enough funding to be open a few hours a week and no hope of

improving the building.

But the people of Newaygo took a long look at the venerable old landmark and decided it was time to do something to save it. They knew as important as the library has been to Newaygo's past, it is even more essential today.

In August 2010, Newaygo area residents passed a district-wide millage to save their library. With operating funds secured and buoyed by a \$200,000 grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the people have embarked on a \$1.1 million capital fundraising campaign to add on, enhance and improve the library.

"The Foundation's grant made people think it was possible," says Dennis Caplis, the library's director. "It gave the project credibility." In 1914, legendary philanthropist Andrew Carnegie provided the same boost when he donated \$5,000 to help build the library that still stands at 44 N. State Street.

For the past 95 years, the residents of the Newaygo community have relied on their library, ever changing to meet the people's needs. This year, they made sure it had a future.



*The Newaygo Area District Library, pictured here in 1916, has a bright new future.*

## CREATIVE *Collaboration*

For one glorious night in August, a night destined to make both history and art, music converged with poetry at the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts.



Ballet intersected with photography.

Dancers, musicians and a poet shared a stage — not in New York City or Portland, Ore., where most make their homes — but in Fremont where, in an unprecedented collaboration of the arts, the ensemble debuted an original ballet called “Satellite Empire.”

It was Kevin Draper’s idea, a creative force who splits his time between Fremont and New York City. He asked Troy Schumacher from the New York City Ballet to choreograph a ballet influenced by Draper’s poetry set to music by two musicians from Oregon.

And then there were the dancers to bring the project to life: six professionals, artist-athletes from the New York City Ballet.

There’s never been anything like “Satellite Empire” on the Dogwood stage before, but the Fremont Area Community Foundation believed in its intrinsic worth — and provided the financial piece of the picture.

People are still talking about that night at the ballet, the spirit the artists brought to town, the energy and creativity they engendered.

And it hasn’t dissipated. The Dogwood and the Satellite Gallery Arts Retreat promise there’s a next time. In the spring, there will be something new: a fusion of vocal music, poetry and dance.

## MEETING CHALLENGES OF *Rural Living*

Melanie Lattin is a single mom, working full time as the assistant manager at Dollar General in White Cloud, going to Baker College at night to get an education.

“I’m trying to make something of my life,” she says.

But last year, Lattin hit a big bump in the road. In her words, her car “klunked out on me.” She couldn’t get to work. She had no way to school.

About the same time, Angie Chase, a widowed mother of two adult children and a 10-year-old still at home, was facing similar transportation woes. She was hired part time by Five CAP Headstart in Grant, on the condition that she make the 26-mile roundtrip to White Cloud High School every day to pick up the students’ lunches. But her tires went bad, and the job she desperately needs was in jeopardy.

Thanks to the Used Car Ministry of the Fremont Service Committee of the Muskegon Christian Reformed Church Classis, neither woman’s story ends there.

Lattin was able to purchase a new car, and Chase got new tires with the help of the ministry, which receives a grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Sheri L. Byers, the ministry’s executive director for seven years, points to the “special challenges of living in a rural community with no public transportation” to fill the gaps.

“Without a car, you can’t get to a job,” she says. “We’re helping people become self-sufficient ... and improve their standard of living.”

## BREAKING DOWN *Barriers*

You should have been at the first annual "Hookin Up Heroes" event at Newaygo State Park when 30 disabled veterans — some in wheelchairs; others who could barely walk under their own power — went fishing --some for the first time in many many years.

"It was," says Susan J. Reagan, Deputy Supervisor and grant-writer of the Muskegon River Water Ways Trail and Launch Development project based in Bridgeton, "beyond our wildest dreams." Great Lakes Lift Company provided demo-units for the event of both the EZ Dock canoe/kayak launch unit that Bridgeton wants to use, as well as a prototype deck "bridge" unit that allowed the disabled fishermen to transfer from the dock to the fishing craft. Their generosity combined with the commitment of hundreds of sponsors and volunteers, pulled together an amazing event.

But then everything about this ambitious project, designed "to break down the barriers" that keep "the unserved, dis-

abled and mobility challenged" from enjoying the great outdoors, is nothing short of life-changing.

Like the day a woman with arthritic knees and another with crippling fibromyalgia went kayaking, riding the river's current toward rising independence. Or a family with a disabled child experienced the unexpected, everyday miracle of taking a canoe.

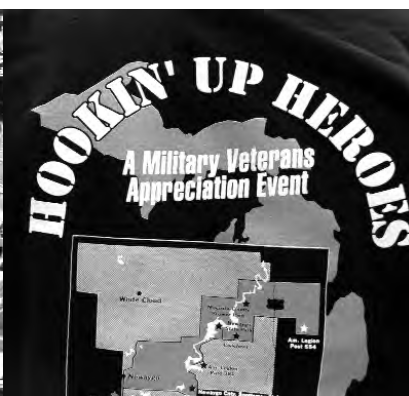
That's the beauty of the EZ Dock launch unit, funded by a grant from the Fremont Amazing X Charitable Trust. With its attached wheelchair transfer bench, the unit makes possible what others take for granted.

The Muskegon River Water Ways Trail and Launch Development project is still a work in progress, with funding from various sources being secured. The launch unit is an integral part, "an unbelievable gift to the community."

And it goes a long way toward completing the project's ultimate goal: making the river accessible to all.



*The "Hookin Up Heroes" event was a huge opportunity to introduce the greater Newaygo County community to the enormous possibilities and "gift of freedom" that could be given by supporting endeavors such as Bridgeton's Waterways Trail project. Our EZ Dock unit & our waterways project were the "inspiration" that triggered an avalanche of public outpouring and changed a simple annual fishing derby into a very personal tribute and commitment to our military veterans and their families -- It promises to become an even bigger effort with a permanent group being established and on-going public awareness and fundraising efforts. (Bridgeton was honored to participate in the event, and intends to continue to do so in the years to come!) ~Susan J. Regan*



## INTRODUCING NEW FOUNDATION *Funds*

### NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

The Newaygo Public School Educational Advancement Foundation transferred its assets to an Advised Fund at the Fremont Area Community Foundation. The transfer will reduce the former private foundation's administrative expenses, and allow the advisors to concentrate on the educational benefits to Newaygo Public Schools. Donors to the fund may now benefit from the Michigan State Tax Credit and the Foundation's memorial match. The fund will continue to provide scholarships to Newaygo graduates and educational enhancements to Newaygo Public School classrooms.

#### FRANCES FAHRER

Frances Fahrer spent 90 years in Newaygo County, living in Big Prairie Township, Fremont, and White Cloud. She assisted many county residents with housing through her work at United States Department of Agriculture – Farmers Home Administration in Fremont. Her estate gift provided for a fund at the Foundation to help protect, preserve, and sustain land resources in Newaygo County with a preference to projects related to farmland resources including efforts that promote organic farming.



#### THE PERRY BOOHER - HESPERIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Despite the paralysis of polio, Perry Booher graduated from Hesperia High School, Ferris State University, and inspired hundreds of Hesperia students during his career as a Hesperia High School English teacher. A scholarship fund was established in Perry's memory in 1976. The Hesperia Education Association transferred the scholarship funds to the Fremont Area Community Foundation this year to continue Perry's legacy and benefit Hesperia School graduates.



#### DOYON AND VYVYAN POLLOCK

Vyvyan Pollock moved to Fremont during her retirement years to be near her daughter. Vyvyan became involved in and supported community activities. She wanted to ensure the long-term support of two important activities by establishing the Doyon and Vyvyan Pollock Fund for the support of the Fremont Area District Library and the Newaygo County Community Services Food Pantry.



#### REEMAN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Margaret Vanderwall has been a lifelong contributor to her community. Over the last 15 years, she has given to endowed funds at the Foundation to benefit some of her favorite charities. Margaret and her husband Al had been longtime members of the Reeman Christian Reformed Church and she wanted to ensure the long-term support of the church. This year, Margaret established an endowment fund that will permanently benefit the church.



## HELPING TO ENSURE

# Bright Futures

Newaygo County high school seniors may apply for a Community Foundation Scholarship from January 1 – March 15 at [www.tfacf.org](http://www.tfacf.org).

Last year, 78% of the applicants received a scholarship.

The Community Foundation ACT scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2010. 58 Newaygo County high school students who applied for a community foundation scholarship and met the ACT Benchmark scores of English 18, Math 22, Reading 21, and Science 24 received a scholarship of \$1,000 for 4 years. The Foundation implemented the scholarship because:

1. All students will be selected based on a common benchmark which is nationally recognized by most colleges as a significant predictor of college success.
2. Students, parents, educators, and the community will seek improved student educational achievement as measured by the ACT in order to receive the scholarship.

The Foundation hosted its 5th Annual College Night Out on September 27 at Fremont High School with over 40 colleges and branches of the armed services present to answer questions and provide financial aid information to hundreds of Newaygo County college prospects.

College Goal Sunday will be held February 13, 2-4 pm at Newaygo County RESA to assist students and parents complete the FAFSA (financial aid) form. Watch for details coming soon!

Robin Cowles will be managing the Foundation's scholarship program. Robin has worked at the Foundation for 15 years in finance and donor services and has assisted with scholarships in past years.

## GIFT *Annuities*

If you're looking for secure, stable income that provides a higher than average rate of return, now may be the time to consider a charitable gift annuity. On July 1, gift annuity rates increased for single-life annuitants through age 81 and two-life annuity rates at many ages.

Charitable gift annuities allow you to:

- \* Receive fixed payments for life regardless of market fluctuations—a portion of which may be tax free
- \* Gain an income tax deduction for 2010
- \* Help fund the causes you care about most, while turning a low performing asset into a reliable income stream for life

Here's a look at the updated charitable gift annuity rates (Based on Single Life)

| Age | Rate |
|-----|------|
| 65  | 5.5  |
| 70  | 5.8  |
| 75  | 6.4  |
| 80  | 7.2  |
| 85  | 8.1  |
| 90  | 9.5  |

To learn more about gift annuities contact Bob Jordan at 924-5350 or [rjordan@tfacf.org](mailto:rjordan@tfacf.org).



# CALVIN COLLEGE JANUARY SERIES 2011

## *at the Dogwood*

The Fremont Area Community Foundation and the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts are pleased to welcome the Calvin College January Series back to our community in 2011. Fifteen lectures will be presented at the Dogwood from 12:30-1:30 pm each day from January 5 through 25 over a live webcast from the event in Grand Rapids. Doors will open for the event at 12:00.

Lunch will be offered by the Foundation again this year for a donation. Donations will be taken at the door. Please call the Foundation at 231-924-5350 to reserve a lunch at least 24 hours in advance. Those attending are also welcome to bring their own lunch to enjoy during the presentation.

This year both the auditorium and the black box will show the presentation. Those eating lunch must be seated in the Black Box.

Books written by the speakers will also be available for purchase at the events courtesy of Country Squire in Fremont. If additional books are needed, Country Squire has offered to order them at a discounted price for interested individuals!

For detailed information on speakers, please visit [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january). This information is also available on the Foundation's site, [www.tfacf.org](http://www.tfacf.org) or the Dogwood site, [www.dogwoodcenter.com](http://www.dogwoodcenter.com).

We hope to see you there!

### CALVIN COLLEGE JANUARY SERIES 2011 SCHEDULE:

**Wednesday, January 5: Krista Tippett**

*Einstein's God: Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit*

**Thursday, January 6: Kelly Clark**

*Faith and Freedom in Contemporary China*

**Friday, January 7: Theary Seng**

*Daughter of the Killing Fields*

**Monday, January 10: Temple Grandin**

*All Kinds of Minds: The Importance of Developing Each Person's Unique Strengths*

**Tuesday, January 11: Andy Crouch**

*Playing God: Creativity and Cultural Power*

**Wednesday, January 12: Father Greg Boyle**

*Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*

**Thursday, January 13: Dr. Glenn Geelhoed**

*Mission to Heal*

**Friday, January 14: Ensemble Galilei with NPR's Neal Conan & Lily Knight**

*First Person: Seeing America*

**Monday, January 17: Nikki Toyama-Szeto in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Beyond Multi-Culturalism to True Community*

**Tuesday, January 18: Twesigye Jackson Kaguri**

*The Price of Stones: Building a School for My Village*

**Wednesday, January 19: Donald Worster**

*John Muir and the Religion of Nature*

**Thursday, January 20: Cal Ripken, Jr.**

*The Keys to Perseverance*

**Friday, January 21: Jessica Jackley**

*Harnessing the Power of Perspective: the Kiva Story*

**Monday, January 24: Sajan George**

*The Future of Education*

**Tuesday, January 25: Jean M. Twenge**

*The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE

# President

Stories? There are so many.

It's been nearly 23 years since I started working at this wonderful place we call Fremont Area Community Foundation, in what's turned out to be a dream job ... an opportunity way beyond my career expectations.

Many of you know that this is my final message for The Bridge. In January, I am retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation. I first walked through these doors in 1988 as the communications and program director. In the early 1990s, I took on the job of associate director before becoming President and CEO in 1994.

Stories? Everywhere I turn, I can see the difference the Foundation makes in people's lives. We can talk numbers, of course, and look at the finances. During the years I've been here, the Foundation has granted more than \$160 million to make this a better place in which to live. Our assets have grown from \$21 million to \$171 million.

Each one of those dollars has gone to serve the people of Newaygo County: families, students, adults, children, individuals in need, communities on the rise, our neighbors in search of better lives. To see the human investment we've made is truly humbling and inspiring.

When we look back and see what we've done in Newaygo County, we don't have to say: If only we'd done this; if only we'd believed in that. We paid attention to the dawning awareness that we, the Foundation, needed to serve the whole community.

In that, we are bound by a common mission and vision.

I want to emphasize that this is not about the work I've done, but what we've accomplished together. Philanthropy is a team sport. One person cannot do philanthropy alone.

It takes a remarkable board, passionate community partners, a dedicated staff, and most important, it takes our generous donors, the people who believe in the power of endowment.

As I take my leave, I would like to offer these parting thoughts and hopes, dreams and challenges:

- We have worked well together for a long time in this community, building as we have on a tradition of collaboration. In times of scarcity, some people become competitive instead of collaborative. I would hope that we would see the bigger picture and work toward being our better selves.

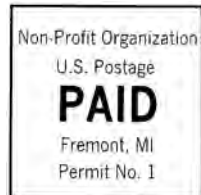
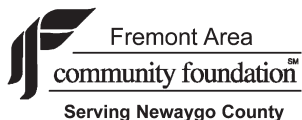
- Historically, Newaygo County has been a very generous community. With the passing of so many of our elders, I would ask the next generation — the people who make this their home — to become the next era of philanthropists. Give wherever your heart leads you. When you do, you'll receive the joy of giving, just as the generations before us did.

- Above all else, let's continue to build relationships. If we just get to know each other as neighbors, the world and all its challenges come into perspective a little more clearly. It makes it easier to remember our mission here at Fremont Area Community Foundation: connecting community needs with convictions of the heart.

With that, I want to thank you again for the honor of serving you — the community that's built Fremont Area Community Foundation — through the years.

Elizabeth "Libby" Cherin  
President and Chief Executive Officer





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**Grant Deadlines:**  
**February 15**  
**May 15**  
**September 15**

**Scholarship Deadline:**  
**March 15**

P.O. Box B  
Fremont, Michigan 49412

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**JASON HOUGHTALING MEMORIAL FUND**

*25th Anniversary*

Jason Houghtaling was only 14 when he lost his battle with cancer, but his legacy will live on forever.

Twenty-five years ago the Houghtaling family started the Jason Houghtaling Memorial Fund at the Foundation. For twenty-five years it has fulfilled its purpose to promote and support cancer research and provide emergency funding, or comfort money, to any child who is suspected of having cancer, diagnosed with cancer, or fighting a life threatening disease. Since the Fund's inception, over \$205,000 has been granted to our community to accomplish these goals.

"When an individual is in a battle against cancer, every moment counts," stated Paul Houghtaling. "My gift is a byproduct of the promise I made to my son, Jason, which is to do everything I can to prevent childhood cancer."

The stories about Jason and other children in Newaygo County fighting a life threatening disease are powerful. The impact the Jason Houghtaling Memorial Fund has made is remarkable. Thanks to the Houghtalings and many others in our community, generosity and commitment are alive and well in Newaygo County, For good. For ever.

