

# Stanton Friends

*Building for our youth, community, and future*

## Dear Friends of Stanton,

We at Stanton Friends hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you a very Merry Christmas. As this holiday season is upon us, Stanton Friends have been very busy working towards making this tremendous dream a reality. The confidence in us to turn our vision of the Viking Center into a reality is extraordinary. We have heard from alumni and friends of Stanton far and wide as well as our own current residents.

Many of you have either heard first hand the vision of the Viking Center or have heard some of the proposed plan. We encourage you to log onto our website [www.stantonfriends.org](http://www.stantonfriends.org) to learn more details about our vision. Stanton Friends now have a complete feasibility study and have chosen a proposed site for the All New Viking Center.

We at Stanton Friends have spent months studying the challenges our community faces and we believe this center is what we need. With economic challenges of southwest Iowa, declining enrollment in our school, and bleak predictions regarding community growth in our area we feel this center is the turning key in the success of our community's future. We cannot over stress the importance of having a larger day care center which can handle the ever increasing need of providing first class care for our children. Today the daycare has one hundred forty children registered from all around Southwest Iowa. Add with that a Christian preschool that teaches and develops our pre-kindergarten children. Together, these two entities are essential in maintaining and growing our community.

We cannot sit by the wayside and watch our community diminish and our school be forced to consolidation. We are all affected by the uncertainty in the economy, which could lead one to think action is needed now more than ever to make sure our community is positioned to weather the storm it may face in the coming years. This is the position the Friends of Stanton have taken, we hope you agree. We cannot predict what the future holds for Stanton, but we can testify as to how special our community is. It's been said we do things here that are not done other places. The traditions and customs we carry on here and pass on from generation to generation are what make Stanton unique and fills so many of us with fond childhood memories.

Our goal is to raise 1.5 million in pledges by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. This is the amount needed to proceed with the process of applying for numerous grants. Three very important aspects we want to remind you regarding your pledge: 1) your pledge can be a five year pledge if you so desire, 2) your first payment will not be needed for 9-12 months and 3) your first payment will only be needed when the project is 100% committed to start building. Community support is vital in applying for and obtaining area matching grants. We know this is something we can do, and we can do it together-no gift is too small or too large-but the timing is everything. The amount you pledge today can be multiplied by the grants that we can obtain once we pull together and show our support for this project.

**In this season of giving we encourage you to think of the community as a whole, what a pledge on your part could do to benefit the entire community we love. We hope you share our enthusiasm and will show your support by making your pledge today. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.**

We thank those that have reached out to contact us, send a pledge or donation-we are on our way in making our vision become a reality. Included in this mailing is a concept drawing of the new Viking Center which includes the daycare, preschool, wellness center and community library.

## Happy Holidays from Stanton Friends



Stanton Friends

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