

Stanton Friends

Building for our youth, community, and future

We would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the latest information regarding the Stanton Friends education and wellness facility. In the last few months, a proposed site has been chosen, an architect has completed preliminary floor plans and design concepts, grants are currently being applied for, and we've kicked off the beginnings of a successful capital campaign-over \$425,000 has been pledged from over 120 donors in just three short months. This all has been done to build a facility the people of Stanton-young and old can use for child care, preschool, library, wellness, educational programs, and for overall fellowship among our community.

As this letter is being written there are two grants Stanton Friends has applied for, along with a third application, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant, close to being submitted. This particular grant could be very substantial dollar wise. This grant would allow us to build to FEMA specifications designated areas to be used as a community storm shelter for anyone in the community to use during severe weather, along with the peace of mind that when bad weather approaches our preschool and daycare children would be sheltered in a very safe place. Also, Stanton Friends is keeping a close eye on federal funding that could be coming available very soon for projects that are "shovel ready" in 2009.

The grants and potential 2009 funding mentioned above along with the fact that building materials have come down considerably the past few months are just a few of many reasons why it is so important for our campaign fund drive to keep moving and to grow our pledge amounts. As mentioned before, many grants will look at the degree of community support as one of their main deciding factors in determining if a project is worthy of their funds. All in all our committee is researching and planning to apply to over 30 grant agencies or charitable foundations.

Stanton Friends excitement continues to build as we see support coming in from both coasts and in-between by current residents, many alumni, and friends of Stanton.

With all this being said, we cannot emphasize to you and your family how important your pledge, big or small, can be to the success of this project becoming a reality. We're asking for your support. Can Stanton Friends count on you to be part of the Viking Center?

We hope you share in our excitement for what we believe will be an important asset to the community of Stanton for many generations to come.

To those of you who have already pledged, we thank you for your support, for those who are considering a pledge we have included a pledge card as an attachment. If have questions regarding the fundraising or the proposed facility, please feel free to contact any steering committee member at anytime or contact us via email at stantonfriends@myfmc.com, we would be happy to answer your questions and value your input, after all we are building this to be everyone's community center. Please review the building design concept, site location map, and site fact sheet that has been included.

Again, thank you for your continuing support to our community.

Sincerely,

Stanton Friends Steering Committee