



December 14, 2011

Dear Friends,

Your past commitment to Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) has allowed us to meet the requirement to show a one-to-one match of local dollars as we receive federal money through our national status. We sincerely thank you and ask that you consider making a year-end contribution to the important work of Freedom's Frontier.

Your support for Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) is invaluable in helping us reach our goals. The national commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War has helped to bring focus to events that took place on our very soil.

During 2011, working with partners, FFNHA has accomplished the following:

- Moved into renovated headquarters in the historic Carnegie Building in Lawrence, Kansas.
- Conducted technical assistance/educational agendas at each bi-monthly partnership meeting held throughout the area. Meeting attendance continues to be 50-75.
- Provided content for the field journal and speakers for an educational tent at Symphony in the Flint Hills in Wabaunsee County, Kansas, with an audience of 3,000.
- Received an American Battlefield Protection Program grant to create a preservation plan for the Lone Jack Battlefield. Julie McPike, FFNHA Program Coordinator, will facilitate the grant.
- Developed a FFNHA exhibit for the Carnegie Building. Opening night attracted more than 170 visitors. A fundraiser reception raised over \$3,000 to support FFNHA operations.
- Hired FFNHA's second employee, Sonia Smith, as a Finance and Development Assistant with the major responsibility of managing the new Interpretive Grant Program.
- Distributed among partner sites a Heritage Map printed with Kemper Foundation sponsorship.
- Launched a Web site, redeveloped with grants from the Southeast Kansas Prosperity Foundation and Kansas Tourism, that provides partners an opportunity for micro-sites.
- Adopted a Case Statement to help partners and board members communicate the story of FFNHA to potential funders and new partners.
- Cosponsored a scholarly symposium on the Border War held at the Kansas City Public Library and organized by scholars and professors of history Diane Mutti-Burke, UMKC, and Jonathan Earle, KU.
- Announced the establishment of The Tacha Freedom Award, to be given in recognition of Founding Chair Judge Deanell Reece Tacha's contributions to FFNHA.



Freedom's Frontier began as a grassroots effort to highlight our important, nationally significant stories in eastern Kansas and Western Missouri. These stories of struggles over freedom on the frontier remain relevant today as FFNHA Board members and partners continue to collaborate to conserve, interpret and preserve them for future generations.

In 2012 we will:

- Work with partners to disburse interpretive grants to fund projects which tell the stories of our partner sites, and connect to significant FFNHA stories and themes.
- Administer a National Park Foundation Impact Grant that utilizes existing heritage area partnerships, and will forge a new partnership with local Boys and Girls Clubs, to create a week-long Civil War to Civil Rights educational experience.
- Continue to raise public awareness of the mission and stories through outreach, with goals of increased Web hits and site attendance, and ten new partnerships.
- Begin to standardize the process of gathering and analyzing benchmarking data.
- Increase heritage area knowledge of nonprofit capacity building by encouraging partners to participate in workshops, professional development and organizational self-assessment.
- Create a comprehensive plan for gateway, wayfinding and interpretive signage.
- Employ interns, partners and vendors to develop Web site features, including: more robust micro-sites, enhanced use of new media and an updated video.
- Develop and implement the Tacha Freedom Award recognizing outstanding work focused on FFNHA themes by heritage area high school students in Missouri and Kansas.

We have appreciated your support in helping to set a good foundation for development of our National Heritage Area in the future. Your continued support is important to the mission of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

Wishing you Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Dillingham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Dillingham  
Chairman