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For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark Nelson  
Freedom for Youth Ministries  
[mnelson@freedomforyouth.org](mailto:mnelson@freedomforyouth.org)  
515-282-4822

## **Freedom for Youth Ministries receives \$9,950 grant from Variety- the Children's Charity**

Freedom for Youth Ministries (FFYM) has received a \$9,950 grant from Variety- the Children's Charity to fund a landscaping project at the campus located in Des Moines on Hickman Road.

Freedom for Youth Ministries is a nonprofit organization serving the Des Moines Metro area with after-school programs for K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. FFYM also provides employment training for young adults between the ages of 16 and 25 through Freedom Blend Coffee, a full-service coffee shop.

The Variety grant will be used to transform the west side of FFYM's campus to make it a safe and inviting space for kids and volunteers. Plants, trees and other greenery will be added. The ground will be leveled and steps will also be added for easy access to use the space for play and small group settings. This renovation will also allow the ministry to offer gardening classes for youth and will be a space that volunteers and students can maintain together.

"We are delighted that Variety – the Children's Charity has partnered with us in beautifying our youth campus and providing future gardening opportunities for the children we serve. Their ongoing support over the years has had a significant impact in helping youth in our inner city." said Mark Nelson, Executive Director of Freedom for Youth Ministries.

Variety- the Children's Charity is dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged, at-risk and special needs children throughout Iowa. Grant funding is provided to programs and initiatives that directly impact the well-being of children. For more information on Variety grants and programs please visit [varietyiowa.com](http://varietyiowa.com).



**Left:** the project location before. **Right:** the proposed design for the project location.

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