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<p>Auto Transmission Service</p> <p>\$129 Factory Transmission Fluid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace Transmission Fluid • Inspect Transmission or Filter (Extra if Needed) <p>Most Cars Expires 9/30/20</p>	<p>Coolant System Service</p> <p>Factory Coolant</p> <p>\$98 Drain & Refill up to 1 Gallon + Tax</p> <p>Most Cars Expires 9/30/20</p>
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 <p>Take HWY 880 Exit West Stevenson Blvd. Left Albrae St. or Exit West Auto Mall Right Christy St. Right Albrae St. Located behind Plastic Depot</p>	
<p>Text or call 510-207-5859 or 510-659-6920 24 Hour Phone Service</p> <p>41419 Albrae St., Fremont</p>	

Relay for Our Dream Fundraiser



SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA YEH

Every weekday for the last six months, 23-year-old Eric Wang has insisted his parents drive him to Friends of Children with Special Needs' (FCSN) East Bay Center. He needs to see for himself that the doors are closed. Born with autism, Eric doesn't understand Covid-19 upending his routine. He doesn't grasp why he can't attend in-person programs that he has attended for more than 10 years and where he finds his friends and staff who have become family to him.

FCSN launched distance learning in early April, two weeks after sheltering in place began, offering a minimum of five hours of classes daily. For children and adults with autism, screen learning just isn't the same. On almost every Zoom, 31-year-old Kevin asks: "When can I come back? When will we open?" As a result of the pandemic, FCSN, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is projecting a potential \$2 million funding loss in 2020-21, putting the 24-year-old organization at risk. Staff hours have already been cut.

To replace its annual fall gala fundraiser, FCSN launched "Relay for Our Dream" with a goal of raising \$250,000 by November 7. "With a virtual fundraiser," explains Wang, "we can reach even more people this year, increasing awareness about the needs and abilities of people with disabilities."

The relay can be created by individuals volunteering to contact circles of people they know to create a team of 10, with each person donating an amount of their choosing. FCSN hopes these individuals will be inspired to launch more teams of their own, creating a ripple effect. "Even a \$5 or \$10 donation will make a difference," says Anna Wang, Vice President of Local Programs and Community Relations and a co-founder of FCSN. Donations to the organization are tax-deductible.

The fundraiser culminates with an online gala on Saturday, November 7 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., with a capacity of 1,000 computer logins. FCSN will be honoring Nancy Bargmann, Director of California's

Challenges to Special Needs in Shelter-In-Place

Department of Developmental Services, an experienced administrator in the field of disability services, for her leaderships and support of individuals with special needs, families, providers and regional centers.

Matt Keller, formerly an ABC Channel 7 news reporter, will again serve as emcee for his fifth year. A 90-minute program will focus on FCSN's services through COVID-19. In addition, there will be musical entertainment by FCSN's Percussion Ensemble and the Dream Achievers Band. The band, prior to the pandemic, averaged 70 performances a year, primarily Bay Area but also in Washington, D.C., Canada, and Asia. On World Autism Day in April 2020 they launched weekly online concerts.

FCSN, headquartered in Fremont, operates programs in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties with community centers in Fremont and San Jose. The nonprofit began in 1996 when 10 immigrant Chinese families came together to provide educational and enrichment experiences for their children. During the pandemic, FCSN has expanded its volunteer programs to offer one-on-one tutoring in any interest area, from dancing to math and robotics to Toastmasters International.

"Just like our students who keep asking when they can come back," says FCSN Executive Director Sylvia Yeh, "we are asking how long we can last, how long FCSN can survive, losing staff, cutting services. We need support, and we hope the community will reach out to help."

To participate in the fundraiser, contact FCSN at (510) 739-6900 ext. 3305 or online at <http://fcsn1996.org/gala-page/> or administration@fcsn1996.org. Gala ticket price is \$20.

FCSN Relay Gala
Saturday, Nov 7

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(510) 739-6900 ext. 3305

<http://fcsn1996.org/gala-page/>

Tickets: \$20

Fremont students move forward in scholarship award competition

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN KILLGORE

Students from Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) high schools were once again well-represented among the approximately 16,000 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists for 2021 named on September 16. In all, 106 FUSD students, representing four of the district's comprehensive high schools, were on the list, helping Fremont post the third highest number of semifinalists (110) among cities in California -- trailing only San Jose and San Diego.

"We are excited to see so many of our students recognized for their hard work throughout their high school careers," said FUSD Superintendent, CJ Cammack. "I congratulate all our students, as well as FUSD teachers and staff, and our district families, for their efforts -- through some challenging circumstances -- and dedication to success both in the classroom and in all aspects of their lives."

Leading the way for FUSD schools, Mission San Jose High School placed 64 semifinalists on the list, followed by Irvington High School with 23, American High School with 13 and Washington High School with six. After submitting applications demonstrating their academic record, community service, leadership, employment and honors/awards received, these FUSD students will join other semifinalists nationwide competing for 7,600 scholarships worth more than \$30 million. Those selected as National Merit Scholarship Finalists will be notified in the spring.

Approximately 1.5 million high school juniors from 21,000 schools were considered for the 66th National Merit Scholarship Program through their performance on the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test. To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and their high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

The 2021 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title. More information about the program is posted on the National Merit Scholarship Corporation website at www.nationalmerit.org.



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