



*I visited your gardens on Aug 6 with a bus tour group. I was so impressed with the beauty of the gardens and flowers and volunteers. I wanted to become a member of such a refreshing group of people and beauty in a city.*  
- Shirley W., Hiawatha, KS

After a busy year that welcomed some 20,000 people, Central Gardens closed its gates for the season on October 31. In addition to providing over 50 free cultural, educational and recreational events and activities, the beauty of the Gardens, with its wide-open spaces, offered a tranquil refuge from a tiresome pandemic. We are grateful to all the visitors, volunteers, members, donors, and sponsors who supported us this year! THANK YOU!

## CENTRAL GARDENS WINS 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE!

The creative team of Kayla Myers, Carol Casey, and Michelle Holdredge put together a stunning display that won first place in Clear Lake's Harvest Festival Pole Decorating Contest on October 2. Shown here with the display are Michelle and Kayla, two familiar faces at Fresh on Fridays. Great job, ladies!



## SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL GARDENS:

### *Year End Giving*

*We should certainly count our blessings, and we should also make our blessings count.*  
- Neal A. Maxwell

Making a gift to the Central Gardens of North Iowa endowment fund is a sound investment that supports our organization, now and in the future. We rely on the endowment as a steady stream of income. As our capacity is stretched to meet growing needs for our services, a reliable source of professionally invested and managed funds is a valuable resource to ensuring the mission of our organization is carried out.

The endowment fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, is a permanent fund that is invested and grows over time through investment returns and donations to the Fund.

Your gift to Central Gardens endowment is a forever gift, making it possible for our organization to serve our community for generations to come! Just a few ways to give that you may consider include cash or stock gifts, an IRA charitable rollover, or leaving a planned gift to our endowment fund in your will by naming the Fund as a beneficiary.

Online gifts can be made at <https://www.cfneia.org/giving/find-a-fund/695-k>. You can also make cash donations by making your check payable to Central Gardens of North Iowa Endowment Fund and mailing it to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, 3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

# FEATURED VOLUNTEERS: *Outgoing Board Members*

Three board members, Ciar Carnall, Andrew Johnston, and Barb Nicholas are completing terms and moving off the board on December 31, 2021. Following is glimpse of their service to Central Gardens and the fulfillment of its mission.



Ciar Carnall

Ciar has volunteered at Central Gardens for the last eight years and has been involved with Fresh on Friday, the Garden Fiesta, Picnics and Performances, and planting beds. Ciar has served on the Events Committee and board of directors since 2019. She loves plants and flowers and so it was fitting for her to get married in Central Gardens. She and her husband have one daughter and live in Clear Lake where she works as a full-time florist.



Andy Johnston

Andy has served on Central Gardens Finance Committee since joining the board in 2016. He has enjoyed being part of an organization tasked with adding beauty and recreational opportunities to north Iowa. Andy is a lawyer with the Laird Law Firm. When he's not in the office, he enjoys getting his hands dirty. He lives in Mason City with this wife, Tasha, two dogs, Ollie and Doby, and cat, Gilly.



Barb Nicholas

Barb became a Master Gardener, a tree steward, and a conservation steward in the late 1990s. During that time, she met Julie Wright, who was just getting things started for a public garden in Clear Lake. Barb was phasing out of her career in nursing and looking for something to do. She went on to devote more than full-time to taking care of the plants and flowers in the Gardens. She is a charter board member of Central Gardens, having served since the Gardens formed in 2000. Barb founded the Design Committee where her vast knowledge of plants teamed with her eye for beauty. It is a testament to her that Central Gardens continues to bloom in so many magnificent ways. She cherishes the many people she's met at Central Gardens, the camaraderie she's experienced with other volunteers, and the friends she's made over the last 21 years. Well done, Barb!

# THANK YOU!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS COMPLETED

The following enhancements to the grounds at Central Gardens were completed this fall. They were funded by the Upgrade 2020 Capital Campaign that was completed in June. More projects than were originally budgeted were made possible because volunteers stepped up to do most of the installation work, thus saving labor costs.

- Two tables and eight chairs were added to the seating on the Nature Education Pavilion
- Two additional sets of tables and chairs now sit under the School Bell Gazebo at the main entrance
- The Gazebo also got a much-needed facelift with a brick surround that expands the staging area, plus the addition of two new bulletin boards and a new guest registry
- Close to the Gazebo is a new, littler, Little Free Library for even littler children along with a gorgeous new wooden bench for seating in between the two libraries.
- A new arch entrance to the Bee Happy Discovery Garden will greet children who visit this magical space
- Each entrance to the Gardens has a sign with QR codes and each of our 20+ gardens has a sign identifying it
- A new limestone path leads from the main path to the Council Ring
- The Cutting Garden was re-designed to enable more sales at Fresh on Friday events.





# WISH LIST FOR 2022 REVEALED

As you consider charitable giving at the end of this calendar year, we hope you include Central Gardens of North Iowa in your generosity. Here's a partial wish list identified by our volunteers for our continued efforts to add to the beauty of the Gardens next year:



- Five new umbrellas for the patio tables on the Victorian Terrace at the Nature Education Pavilion. Our two new tables need them, and the old umbrellas that fit in our three older tables are threadbare
- A new arch and trellis for the expanded Cutting Garden path that will demarcate the area and compliment the arch of the Moon Gate and Bee Happy Discovery Garden
- A round tree seat under the signature Bur Oak tree was part of the original design of the Gardens. It's time to complete that design
- A composter for the Cutting Garden
- And, no surprise, we're always in need of tools for our volunteers, such as snips, water hoses with user-friendly reels, and other garden implements

Visit our website at [www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/online-donation-form](http://www.centralgardensnorthiowa.com/online-donation-form) to donate to Central Gardens today.

## The Survey Says

Central Gardens issued a brief survey to 124 members with email addresses to gain insight into how we might attract more members. The response rate was high with 39 members (31%) completing the survey. Currently, Central Gardens has 157 individual/family memberships and 20 corporate members. For 2022, our goal is to grow individual membership by 10% and corporate membership by 50%.

We asked members how they would explain to others why they should consider becoming a member of Central Gardens of North Iowa. The majority of members were evenly split between (1) Central Gardens is an asset to north Iowa and its mission is beneficial to our community and, (2) the beauty of the grounds is worth supporting and provides a peaceful retreat for all.

When asked what impacts their decision to be a member of Central Gardens, the majority responded that the beauty of the grounds is worth supporting and provides a peaceful retreat for all. Members also suggested ways in which we might attract more members with events in the Gardens, community outreach, and partnerships. Thank you, members! Your input is much appreciated!



## TIPS FROM THE GARDENS: *Poinsettias*

Maintain the beauty of your holiday poinsettias by following these tips from Paul Ecke Ranch, poinsettia grower in Encinitas, California:

- *When bringing the poinsettia home from the store, protect it from chilling winds and temperatures below 50 degrees F*
- *Make sure the plant gets at least six hours of indirect sunlight each day*
- *Remove poinsettias from decorative containers before watering. Water only when soil is dry to the touch*
- *After the plant finishes blooming, feed it with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer*

**WANT TO MAKE YOUR POINSETTIA LAST AFTER THE HOLIDAYS?**

*Tune into What's Growing On in January to find out how.*



Central Gardens of North Iowa  
 P.O. Box 735  
 Clear Lake, IA 50428

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## A CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Looking for a unique gift for the special people in your life and a way to enhance the beauty of the Gardens this holiday season? For a limited time, you can purchase a standard size 8" brick or a 16" solid granite paver at a discounted price. Save \$50 on each personalized brick and pay only \$200. Save \$200 on pavers and pay just \$800. A \$1,500 donation will reserve your seat in the Council Ring with a personalized cube made of native Iowa limestone. Order online, contact us at 641-357-0700 or via email at info@centralgardensnorthiowa.com



# 2021 MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31

**A warm thank you to all of our 2021 members, including corporate members Bonnie Hall, Realtor; Clear Lake Bank and Trust; CL Tel; ControlPrint Creative; Don's Body Shop; Farmers State Bank; Gabrielson Agency; Hansmeier Mowing; Hearing Associates; Images Photography; Lake Liquors; Larson's Mercantile; Laurie Cook Photography; McQuaid Agency; Metalcraft; Pla-Ground Family Farms; Rahm Investments; Sail Inn; Schupick and Associates; and The Basic Birder.**

Your membership to Central Gardens makes it possible for us to purchase plants and flowers, host over 50 free events and programs each year, and do all that we can to ensure Central Gardens is a beautiful and tranquil environment for all to enjoy. Please log on to <https://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/member.../become-a-member/> to renew or establish your membership for 2022.