



DESIGNER CONTEST RULES and INFORMATION

Event: Friday, Oct. 30, 2026

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WHAT IS PROJECT FUNWAY?

Project Funway is a clothing design competition and runway show that serves as the primary annual fundraiser for Fresh Start, a transitional shelter in Havelock (Lincoln, Nebr.) for women experiencing homelessness. Our key themes are:

DESIGN. TRANSFORM. OVERCOME.

Transformation connects with Fresh Start’s mission to transform women’s lives as they transition out of homelessness. This year, 2026, is our 16th and FINAL WALK, due to the phasing-out of UNL’s Textiles, Manufacturing, and Fashion Design program, which was discontinued by the NU Board of Regents.

PROJECT FUNWAY: Design. Transform. Overcome.

DESIGNER GOALS

Designers are to design and create an original garment.

- Materials.
 - The materials used for the garment must be either cast off/old clothes, or clothing purchased from local thrift stores, such as The Daisy at Fresh Start. The clothing may be used in any way, including completely deconstructed. *The clothing must be transformed into an entirely different, unique garment.*
 - Designers *may* use *other recycled materials* if they contact Fresh Start in advance to discuss this.
- The entry must include a full outfit, which may include more than one garment (i.e. pants and a top). The entry *may* include accessories, such as a scarf, belt, etc. Accessories may be purchased and do *not* need to be handmade or repurposed.
- Designers may work individually or in pairs.
- Designers may be students (of any age) or community members.
- Designers must provide their own runway model(s), or model their own design(s).
- If space is available, designers may enter a second outfit.
- A \$35 entry fee per design applies to everyone except a current UNL student's initial design entry, which is free.
 - This entry fee includes entry to the event.
 - Refer to the TICKETS section below for additional ticketing information.

AWARDS

There will be two sets of winners. The winners in each category will receive a prize.

1. A panel of judges will award the first set. Awards are presented for:
 - **Most Innovative | Best Integrity of Original Material | Best of Show**
2. The other set of awards are "People's Choice", comprising those who receive the most online votes from the event guests and virtual (online) bidders.
 - Electronic votes cost \$2 each and may be purchased after the runway show. All proceeds support the women at Fresh Start.
3. Other awards may be offered dependent upon items donated or sponsored. At minimum, three gift cards (to local businesses, or Visa gift cards) will be awarded as follows:
 - 1st Place — \$100 / 2nd Place — \$75 / 3rd Place — \$50

TIMELINE & MILESTONES

September 16, 2026 – Designer Entry Deadline

Designers inform Fresh Start of their intention to participate in Project Funway. *CRITICAL: We need to know the number of outfits she/he/they plan(s) to enter in the show.*

- Include: 1. Your name 2. Organization/School 3. Class affiliation (if any)
4. Phone number 5. How many designs you will enter.
- Email Monica Zinke, Fresh Start Executive Director at monicaz@freshstarhome.org

October 15, 2026 – Registration Form, Photos, Fees, and Release/Waiver are due

1. Designer submits two photos per design:

- a. A “before” photo of the clothing used to create the designs.
 - This image gets uploaded at the time of registration.
- b. An “after” photo of the completed clothing design.
 - The “after” photo (and if necessary, an updated “before” photo) should be emailed to: monicaz@freshstarhome.org
- c. Designers also may submit a two-sentence description.
- d. If photos or the design description are not received by the deadline, “not available” will be listed and no description will be offered during the event. *Photos are used by judges for scoring, so do not miss this important deadline!*

2. Pay \$35 Entry Fee (per design).

- a. Community Designers, and all design entries except a current student’s *initial* entry, require payment.
 - The fee for one entry per student is waived if the designer is in a UNL class that is participating in the event. Contact Dr. Starkey for details.
 - If a student wishes to enter a *second* design, they are must pay the entry fee for it.
- b. HOW TO PAY: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/projectfunway2026/>



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026 – PROJECT FUNWAY EVENT LOCATION

- **Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott Hotel** Grand Ballroom (main floor) — 333 S. 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68508
 - The hotel is an 8- to 10-minute walk from UNL’s City Campus.
 - Parking is available on-site in the attached garage. Hourly: \$1.50 / Daily \$13.50. Rates are subject to change and are payable upon exit. Fresh Start does not cover these fees.
 - Note: A Cornhusker football game is scheduled in town for the following day, so parking may be affected by game attendees arriving from out of town. Plan ahead, arrive early.

PROJECT FUNWAY: Design. Transform. Overcome.

DAY-OF SCHEDULE — FRIDAY, OCT. 30, 2026

4:45 PM	Designers & Models	ARRIVE & CHECK IN. Drop off and leave items in the room. <i>Green Room, Room 200 (upstairs)</i>
5:00	Hair & Makeup Teams	ARRIVE & SET UP. <i>Green Room, Room 200 (upstairs)</i>
5:00 to 6:00	Models	Practice runway walk-through. <i>Grand Ballroom (main level)</i>
5:30	Models	Entourage Institute of Beauty & Esthetics will have student volunteers available to do hair and make-up. <i>No fee for this optional service.</i>
5:45 to 7:15	Models, Hair & Makeup	Complete hair, make-up, get dressed.
6:00	EVERYONE	FINAL SETUP & PREP COMPLETE
6:30	EVENT ATTENDEES	DOORS OPEN
	Designers	If you have a model and are <i>not</i> walking, you may go down and attend the event if you wish.
7:30	Models and Designers	LINE UP FOR SHOW Line up in front of the <i>Step-and-Repeat</i> logo banner. A photographer will capture the group, and then each entry (may include model+designer pair, or just the designer/model) just before they walk.
7:30 to 8:00	EVERYONE	Initial Program and Paddle Raise
8:00 to 8:45	EVERYONE	RUNWAY SHOW (<i>approx. times</i>)
8:45	Judges	Meet, score, decide awards.
8:45	EVERYONE	Vote online for People's Choice Awards.
9:00	EVERYONE	PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTING CLOSES. AWARDS PRESENTATIONS. — END OF EVENT —
9:00 to 9:30	EVERYONE	CLEAN UP, GO HOME. <i>Thank you for being part of our event!</i>

TICKETS

Designers and models do not need to purchase tickets for themselves, but do need to purchase tickets for their guests. All others in attendance need tickets.

	DISCOUNTED PRICE
Student Tickets Limited quantity available. Students may be asked to provide ID at the event. Purchase online.	\$35
Discounted* General Admission May purchase up to <i>two tickets</i> (for friends/family). Call Fresh Start to purchase. (<i>regular price \$75</i>)	\$50
Discounted* VIP Ticket Sit close to runway, includes small favor bag and drink ticket. Call Fresh Start to purchase. (<i>regular price \$100</i>)	\$85

Purchase tickets online: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/projectfunway2026/>

*To obtain discounted tickets, call Fresh Start, Angie Taylor, (402) 475-7777.



WAIVER, RELEASE

Photography and video will be taken throughout the event. There is no compensation for participation in the event or for use of images/video. Entering the competition implies consent to and authorization of the use of your likeness to be used in printed and/or audiovisual material by Project Funway, Fresh Start, Inc., and the organizers or sponsors of the event.

WHO AM I HELPING BY PARTICIPATING AS A DESIGNER?

Proceeds will benefit **Fresh Start**, a transitional shelter in Lincoln celebrating its 35th year. We are the only National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)-certified organization in Nebraska. We provide a safe home and programs for women ages 19+ who are experiencing homelessness.

WHAT ARE THE DESIGNER PERKS?

- One free event ticket per designer, plus an optional free ticket for your model (if you are not modeling your own outfit).
- May purchase up to two additional tickets at reduced cost.
- An exclusive 'PROJECT FUNWAY 2026 DESIGNER' profile photo frame for your use on socials like LinkedIn, Facebook, and Insta.
- We may tag you in social media post(s), if you grant us permission.
- A minimum of six award prizes are given, for example, Visa gift cards or gift cards to local business(es).
- Post-event, winners receive an exclusive Project Funway AWARD BADGE that you can post to socials.
- *Satisfaction and joy at knowing you helped support women experiencing homelessness in Lincoln, Nebraska.*



Project Funway is a clothing design competition and runway show that serves as the primary annual fundraiser for Fresh Start, a transitional shelter in Havelock (Lincoln, Nebr.) for women experiencing homelessness.

2026 Designer Entry Form & Waiver for Minors

for minors in Nebraska under the age of 19

Do not complete this form if you are 19 years or older. *Legal adults instead must complete the online form and uploads: <https://freshstarthome.org/events/be-a-designer.html>*

Anyone may fill in this form, but only the parent/guardian may sign. You may either hand write (legibly) or type/print and sign. **Bold items are required.** *Italic items are optional.*

Designer's Name (first and last)	
Pronunciation:	
Address	
City	
State	
ZIP Code	
Telephone	
E-Mail address	
<i>Facebook profile link:</i>	
<i>Instagram profile link:</i>	
<i>LinkedIn profile link:</i>	
<i>Would you like to add the exclusive PROJECT FUNWAY DESIGNER frame added to your photo (for your use on your socials)?</i>	If yes, email a photo of yourself to: monicz@freshstarthome.org and reference that you are a minor completing this form. <i>Your image may also be used in event materials like the slide show and judges scoring booklet.</i>
Number of complete outfits to enter:	
Model's Name (if different from you):	
Pronunciation:	
Hair Salon: Yes No	Make-up: Yes No <i>Services provided at no cost.</i>

DEADLINES.

Entry Due Date: September 16, 2026

Photo/Design Before and After Images/Waiver & Release Due Date: October 15, 2026

Event Date: Friday, Oct. 30, 2026 **Arrival Time:** 4:45pm **Location:** The Cornhusker Marriott

“People’s Choice” votes and silent auction items may be purchased online. Register to be a virtual bidder online: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/projectfunway2026/>

Designers and models must check in by 4:45pm to practice the runway show at 5pm.

Questions? Please contact: **Angie Taylor**, Fresh Start Development Coordinator and Project Funway Event Co-Chair 2026 angiet@freshstarthome.org or (402) 475-7777.

More information is also available on our website FreshStartHome.org and on our [Facebook page](#).

Yes, I have read and my student will abide by the contest rules and information.

I also agree to the terms set forth in the Waiver and Release for Project Funway.

Designer Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Information (required only of designer/model is under age 19)	
First and Last Name:	
Email Address: (if we have a question and need to reach you)	
Phone Number (in case of emergency; we will never sell or share your information)	
Signature:	
Date:	