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Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Announces 2018 Graham County Community Investment Fund Grant Recipients

Safford, AZ, January 30, 2019 – Seven local projects have been selected to receive a total of \$400,000 in grants from the 2018 Graham County Community Investment Fund process. The United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties brought an additional \$150,000 in match dollars to the process, leveraging \$550,000 in total funding.

Community Investment Funds (CIF) were established to give leaders in communities in the company's operating areas the opportunity to direct funds from the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation to address local priority issues.

"We believe one of our key responsibilities is to assist communities in envisioning and planning for their own sustainable future when our mines are no longer viable," said Tracy Bame, President, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation.

"Sustainable Development is a very long-term activity, so it's critical we work with communities now and on an ongoing basis to create, identify and invest in the opportunities and projects that will diversify the local economy, create a stronger economic foundation for the future, and contribute to their lasting social well-being. Partnership with local government, civil society, nonprofit organizations and citizens is absolutely essential, and we congratulate the organizations receiving 2018 grant awards," Bame said.

The Graham County CIF is administered by an investment committee comprised of community leaders selected by the Graham County Community Partnership Panel (CPP), a stakeholder engagement process that was established to foster open and ongoing dialog with the community and create opportunities for the company and the community to work together to develop thoughtful solutions that address community issues.

Since starting in 2009, the Graham County Community Investment Fund has invested over \$4 million in locally identified projects affecting positive change in the following community priority areas identified by CPP members: community and economic development, education and training, environment, and health and wellness.

The 2018 grant recipients are:

Boys & Girls Club of the Gila Valley**Project: Club Shuttle Bus – \$30,000**

In collaboration with the United Way of Graham and Greenlee counties, combined award funds totaling \$130,000 support the Club's purchase of two shuttle buses to replace vans nearing end of service life. The infrastructure investment enables the organization to sustain and grow service levels by maximizing the number of youth they can transport each day. This allows for additional families to utilize Boys & Girls Club programs and services.

City of Safford**Project: La Tierra Park Improvements – \$25,000**

In funding partnership with the United Way of Graham and Greenlee counties, a combined grant of \$75,000 aids the city's initiative to refurbish a neighborhood park by expanding the existing basketball court and adding a covered playground as well as ramadas with picnic tables and grills. The infrastructure investment, centrally available to over 500 residences, aims to increase park usage and provide a family gathering place to improve the overall health of the local community.

The Gila Watershed Partnership

Project: Building the Capacity of the Gila Native Plant Nursery – \$60,500

Funds support GWP's goal to develop a strategic and robust earned income stream to bolster the organization's fundraising sustainability. Building on existing infrastructure, GWP will expand their native plant nursery. Plants from the nursery are used for ongoing restoration work as well as being made available for sale to project partners and the public. Plants sales provide viable xeriscaping alternatives for home gardens in the arid region, as well as a revenue stream for the organization.

Graham County Rehabilitation Center

Project: Facility Accessibility – \$35,000

Grant monies support facility improvements that will accommodate adult and youth clients for training through the Rehabilitation Center's expanding employment transition services programming. The increased availability of pre-employment training services for GCRC clients creates additional employment opportunities for participants by better preparing them for entry into the job market.

Safford Downtown Association

Project: Safford Downtown Association Business Support Project – \$50,000

Funding supports the Association's strategic objective to increase business attraction and retention in downtown Safford by providing for the concept development, design and installation of wayfinding and gateway signage and murals in the downtown area. These efforts aim to draw more consumers, especially motorists, from adjacent highways and roads into the business district to stimulate the downtown economy.

Safford Downtown Association

Project: Safford Theatre Project – \$150,000

Funding provides for completion of second-phase construction activities to convert the historic movie theater into an open-air performing arts, entertainment and events venue. Scheduled to open in 2019, the theater supports the Association's strategy to energize the downtown economy and increase the number of businesses through events and activities designed to draw shoppers to the Main Street business district.

Town of Pima

Project: Fire Station Infrastructure Project – \$49,000

Funds provide for needed repairs to the town's fire station to protect and store emergency response assets and other equipment used by first responders. The infrastructure improvement addresses a priority need by supporting community efforts to sustain and maintain equipment and facilities that are integral to the volunteer fire department's operations.

For more information about Freeport-McMoRan community investments and programs, go to FreeportInMyCommunity.com.