

Freeport-McMoRan Announces 2016 Graham County Community Investment Fund Grant Awards

Safford, AZ (August 9, 2016) – Recipients for the 2016 Graham County Community Investment Fund process have been selected and five local programs and projects will receive a total of \$350,000 in grant funding at an awards ceremony to be held Tuesday, August 9 in the Graham County General Services Building Assembly Room at 11:30 am. The Graham County Community Investment Fund (CIF) was established in 2009 as part of Freeport-McMoRan’s goal to support sustainable benefits for the communities in the areas where we operate and assist these communities in appropriate ways to ensure their self-sufficiency beyond the presence of our operations.

The CIF is administered by a committee comprised of community leaders selected by members of the Graham County Community Partnership Panel. The Panel is a stakeholder engagement group formed by a process established 11 years ago to foster open and ongoing dialogue with the community.

Since 2009, the Graham County Community Investment Fund has invested approximately \$3.5 million in locally-identified projects affecting change in the following community priority areas: community and economic development, community health and safety, education, and environment.

2016 Grant Recipients Include:

Boys & Girls Club of The Gila Valley

Project: Eighth Avenue Basketball Courts Project – \$80,000

Grant funds support the renovation of outdoor basketball courts centrally located in Safford. The courts, available free of charge and open to the public year-round, will be upgraded to create two full-size courts with six baskets to increase the number of teams that can utilize them for practice and play, increasing the number of families and youth engaged in activities promoting a healthy lifestyle.

City of Safford

Project: Glenn Meadows Park Renewal – \$83,800

Funding rejuvenates the park and playground with the development of a new sports practice field, the planting of irrigated trees and bushes and installation of sidewalks and a shade structure for the revitalized play area. The park renewal is an improvement in community infrastructure that bolsters local community and economic development efforts.

Eastern Arizona College

Project: Arizona Regional Advanced Manufacturing Professional Upgrade Project – \$51,200

Grant monies improve college and career readiness by supporting the vocational education program at EAC with the addition of welding equipment with the most current technology used in the field. The project strives to deliver competency-based training that provides an increased number of students with the skills and credentials they need to secure placement in local skilled jobs.

Safford Unified School District***Project: Training & Technology Center – \$75,000***

Part of an effort to improve community infrastructure, the TTC project will provide a high quality, technology-equipped public facility where training, learning and meetings can occur. With few facilities that have adequate technology, physical accessibility and availability, the TTC fills a community need for meeting space while also creating a location for after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education programs.

Southeastern Arizona Community Unique Services***Project: Senior Support Supplement – \$60,000***

Funding helps sustain the SEACUS mission of improving quality of life for aging and disabled community members by offering them supportive services in the least restrictive environment and empowering senior citizens to maintain their independence and live in dignity. Grant funds support an increase in the number of seniors served by the organization, improving access to quality care and healthcare, increasing coordination of services and relieving the burden of support on caregivers to allow them to remain in the workforce.

“The key to sustainable communities is the development of a strong set of diverse assets including things like varied sources of economic revenue and jobs, quality schools that support local workforce development, preventative social and health services that reduce the higher cost of urgent hospital care and government services,” said Tracy Bame, President of the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. “We appreciate and commend the efforts of the Graham County Community Investment Fund Committee as well as local nonprofits, academic institutions and citizens, to consider the kinds of community projects that will best support the needs of the area and the goal to achieve greater sustainability.”

Additional information about Freeport-McMoRan community investments and programs may be obtained by visiting FreeportInMyCommunity.com or by contacting Sean Wenham (swenham@fmi.com).