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

SILVER CITY, NM, May 3, 2018 — The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation announced grant recipients of the 2018 Community Investment Fund. Ten nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$375,000 at an awards ceremony held May 3, 2018, at the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Grant County.

The Grant County Community Investment Fund (CIF) was established in 2011 as part of Freeport-McMoRan's objective to support sustainable benefits for the communities in the areas where we operate and to assist them in appropriate ways to ensure their self-sufficiency beyond the presence of our operations. The CIF is governed by a committee of seven community leaders from diverse organizations and two Freeport-McMoRan representatives from Grant County. The community representatives were selected by the Grant County Community Partnership Panel, a stakeholder engagement process established ten years ago to foster open and ongoing dialogue with the community that creates opportunities for the company and the community to work together to develop thoughtful solutions that address priority issues.

The Community Investment Fund Committee cultivates and selects programs to receive financial support based on established criteria to address the priorities identified by the community and strives to assist in the success of recipient programs.

The 2018 grant recipients include:

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)***Grant County One-to-One Mentoring Initiative - \$31,000***

The One-to-One Mentoring Initiative aims to provide youth in Grant County with adult mentoring relationships. One-to-one mentoring is shown to help youth build resiliency and overcome challenges that many Grant County children face. BBBS's goal is to establish a community presence and build resources to expand their reach to serve additional Grant County children.

Community Partnership for Children (CPC)***CPC/LINKS: Expanding Childcare and Collaboration - \$50,000***

CPC is dedicated to improving the quality and quantity of early childcare and education in Grant County. By creating a collaborative learning community for providers, CPC will build childcare infrastructure in the County that is sustainable and meets the needs of all community members.

Literacy Link – Leamos (LLL)***Preparing Adults for Local Skilled Jobs - \$22,000***

LLL will provide educational resources to the adult population in Grant County. Through GED classes and workshops to address workforce skills, unemployed and underemployed adults will have the opportunity to



participate more fully in the workforce. Funding is also earmarked for LLL to develop a strategy to demonstrate the short and long-term impact of the organization's programs.

Silver Consolidated Schools

Project Pick Six - \$89,000

Project Pick Six aims to improve STEM education and technology integration for all students in Grant County. The Copper Country Summit will provide regional educators with high quality professional development. The addition of a Student Summit will give sixth grade students access to a full day of STEM based training to reinforce STEM opportunities during this formative time in youth development. Equipment will be purchased to continue integration beyond the Summit for both teachers and students.

County of Grant

Upgrade Technology Infrastructure at Grant County Business and Conference Center - \$6,000

During their interview, Silver Consolidated Schools indicated that the conference center needs upgrades to make it more accessible and usable for technology-based conferences such as the Copper Country Summit. Since the conference center is owned by Grant County, the Grant County Community Investment Committee consulted with the Grant County Manager, to identify specific conference center upgrades. Funding is provided through the CIF for these upgrades.

Southwest Center for Health Innovation

Preparing for Health Careers in Grant County - \$20,000

FORWARD NM and its partners will provide free Summer Academies to local middle and high school students. The programs expose students to health and other STEM related career pathways available in Grant County, increasing the chances of students remaining in or returning to work in the area.

The Corporation for Downtown Development, dba The Silver City MainStreet Project

Main Street Plaza Phase I Restrooms - \$62,000

Silver City MainStreet is receiving funding to build infrastructure at MainStreet Plaza. The completed Plaza will provide much-needed public and ADA accessible restrooms, a central downtown event center, wayfinding signage and additional parking. The improvements will increase economic development opportunities and opportunities for healthy, family activities in the downtown center.

The Village of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Public Park Improvement for All Ages - \$35,000

The Village of Santa Clara will design, purchase and install public park amenities that promote activity and exercise for teens, adults and seniors. Play and exercise equipment will be installed at Central Park, which is designated as a "hub" for the future Hurley – Bayard – Silver City walking and biking trail

Town of Silver City

Economic Diversification Implementation Project - \$50,000

The Town of Silver City, in partnership with Grant County, City of Bayard, Village of Santa Clara, Town of Hurley and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments will contract professional services to develop an *Economic Diversification Implementation Project* (EDIP). The EDIP will utilize existing plans completed by individual entities to create a comprehensive strategy to develop, attract and retain businesses to the community.

Western New Mexico University (WNMU)

Grow Your Own - \$10,000

WNMU will work in partnership with local school districts to develop a plan to increase the number of highly qualified teachers in the districts. The program will work with the local community to recruit aspiring teachers who are invested in the community and interested in staying for their career.



“We believe one of our key responsibilities is to assist communities in envisioning and planning for their own sustainable future at such time that our mines are no longer viable. Sustainable Development is a very long term activity, so it’s critical that 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,” said Tracy Bame, President, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. “Partnership with local government, civil society, nonprofit organizations and citizens is absolutely essential, and we congratulate the organizations receiving 2018 grant awards.”

Information about Freeport-McMoRan community investments and programs may be obtained by visiting FreeportInMyCommunity.com.

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