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Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund Grants More Than \$470,000 to Montana Nonprofits

Emigrant, MT, June 9, 2016 –The Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund (the Fund), an affiliated fund of [The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation](#), issued more than \$470,000 in grants to Montana-based nonprofit organizations earlier this week. Grants are focused on the most significant needs and opportunities in rural communities around youth empowerment, enhanced classrooms, and citizen leadership. The organizations and projects receiving grants were selected by volunteer Fund committee members made up of Mountain Sky Guest Ranch associates living and working in the community.

“The Fund is committed to supporting efforts that connect underserved youth to healthy opportunities and mentorship,” said Tawnya Rupe, director of the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund. “We want to ensure that there are safe spaces for youth to thrive and positively connect with their peers and supportive adults.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Manhattan School Radio, and Shift Empowerment are a few organizations that foster youth self-esteem and strengthen ties to family and community by providing coaching and guidance to youth in Montana.

Also amongst the list of grants is a First Tee of MT, which is expanding into Gallatin Valley through a partnership with Headwaters Golf Course in Three Forks in an effort to promote life skills and leadership through the game of golf.

With resources being an essential component in providing innovative learning environments for students, The Fund committee established a grant to DonorsChoose.org, who will then partner with Livingston Education Foundation and Bozeman Schools Foundation to increase teacher awareness regarding this giving tool and cultivate new resources for classroom enhancements.

A \$10,000 grant was also contributed to Gardiner Community Council for the Evening at the Arch: YNP celebrates the National Park Service centennial.

“We have been impressed by the synergy through citizen leadership and public/private partnerships in Gardiner to develop and implement the Gardiner Gateway revitalization project; Gardiner is in our back yard and its vitality is essential to the local economy,” said Rupe.

Additional grants were made to the following community partners:

Youth Development:

Belgrade Youth Forum	\$15,000: Skate and Bike Park Project
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Park and and Sweet Grass Counties	\$4,000: Summer Buddies program
Big Sky Youth Empowerment Project	\$10,000: Capital campaign capacity building
Bridger Biathlon Club	\$20,000: Crosscut Mountain Sports brand strategy
Children’s Museum of Bozeman	\$10,000: STEAMlab Connections Field Trip program pilot
DonorsChoose.org	\$12,000: Bozeman Schools Foundation and Livingston Education Foundation partnerships
First Tee of MT	\$8,000: Establish a First Tee program in Gallatin Valley
Gallatin Valley Farm to School	\$5,000: kidsLINK farm to after-school partnership
Gallatin Valley Land Trust	\$8,000: Guided Discovery Walks
Gallatin Valley YMCA	\$5,000: Y-Achievers summer learning loss initiative
Greater Gallatin United Way	\$45,000: kidsLINK afterschool and summer programs
Greater Gallatin United Way	\$12,000: Arrowhead school kidsLINK afterschool and summer program
Leadership Montana	\$2,000: Youth Leadership Academy
Manhattan Schools PTO	\$5,000: School radio station
Montana Raptor Conservation	\$5,000: Youth outreach programs
Montana Roots	\$2,500: MT Farm to School Summit sponsorship
Montana Wilderness School	\$5,000: Purchase canoes for youth program enhancement
NhN	\$60,000: Mission McNair: A Community Gravity Park for all
Park County Community Foundation	\$5,000: Gardiner School Exploring Yellowstone summer program
Park County Community Foundation	\$5,000: Silver Gate Park playground equipment
Park County Community Foundation	\$1,000: #WeWillListen suicide prevention and awareness campaign
Park County Community Foundation	\$5,000: Youth Philanthropy Fund
National Smokejumper Center	\$8,000: Yellowstone Nature Connection programs
Red Ants Pants Foundation	\$3,000: Kids Tent sponsorship
Shift Youth Empowerment	\$11,350: Community 360° course at Park High School
The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts	\$5,000: Educational outreach
Three Forks Youth Recreation Task Force	\$2,800: CPR training for staff and swimming lessons for participants in the summer program
Thrive	\$6,000: Girls on the Run program capacity building
Western Sustainability Exchange	\$5,000: Young Entrepreneurial Stewards program

Early Childhood Development:

Greater Gallatin United Way	\$14,000: Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council
Hopa Mountain	\$5,000: StoryMakers Conference
Montana Community Foundation	\$50,000: Funders for Montana’s Children Fund
Montana Community Foundation	\$2,000: Office of Public Instruction Graduation Matters collective impact STRIDE training

Enhancing MT Nonprofit Infrastructure:

Bozeman Area Community Foundation	\$45,000: Investment in growth and capacity
Greater Gardiner Community Council	\$10,000: An Evening at the Arch: YNP Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial
Livingston Food Resource Center	\$1,212: Attend the National Food Hub Conference
Montana Nonprofit Association	\$45,000: Expanding Nonprofit Support Initiative
Park County Community Foundation	\$5,000: Nonprofit capacity building and professional development

About the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund

The Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund is an affiliated fund of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. The Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund has contributed more than \$3.7 million to local nonprofits since Arthur M. Blank, co-founder of The Home Depot, owner of the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, and chairman of PGA TOUR Superstore, acquired the ranch in 2001.

About Mountain Sky Guest Ranch

For more than 80 years, Mountain Sky has offered its guests Montana’s majestic natural setting and the opportunity to connect with the land – and each other. Mountain Sky consistently tops the list of the nation’s upscale guest ranch resorts, providing rustically-elegant lodging, fine food, unlimited riding and hiking opportunities, an imaginative kids program and superior service.