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MOUNTAIN SKY GUEST RANCH FUND ESTABLISHES GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES FOR 2015 AND BEGINS ACCEPTING PROPOSALS

Applications due February 6, 2015

Emigrant, MT – (December 9, 2014) — The Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund (“The Fund”), an affiliated fund of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, today announced it will focus its 2015 grant making in two primary areas: youth empowerment and development, and early childhood development.

In both areas of focus, preference will be given to organizations that serve the rural areas of Park and Gallatin counties in Montana, where resources and services are limited, to address community challenges. Organizations must demonstrate creative community cooperation and collaboration.

“The Mountain Sky Guest Ranch staff is proud to serve not only our guests who vacation with us, but also the communities surrounding the ranch,” stated Tawnya Rupe, Program Director, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund. “The Fund is committed to supporting and connecting non-profit organizations in an effort to create the greatest impact for youth in Park and Gallatin Counties.”

The Fund traditionally makes grants for a period of one year and is especially interested in programs that empower youth and cultivate young stewards of land and wildlife through education, challenges of physical activity, wilderness experiences and outdoor adventure; this includes programs that introduce youth and their families to area natural resources. Proposals that incorporate service-learning projects for youth will receive more consideration. The fund will also award grants to organizations providing children, birth to five, with quality opportunities that will prepare them for successful lifelong development.

To be considered for funding in 2015, completed grant applications must be received by February 6, 2015. Additional details about the Fund’s focus areas and guidelines are available online at www.mtnsky.com/Philanthropy/Introduction.

About the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund:

Since 2001, the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund has provided grants to community organizations and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for residents of Park and Gallatin Counties in Montana. The work of the Fund is unique in its approach, as the staff at the ranch personally selects every grant recipient. Since its inception, the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund has donated more than \$3 million in grants the staff believes are helping to make a substantial and sustainable difference in the community. The Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund pays particular focus on programs that develop young stewards of land and wildlife through education and outdoor experiences, including innovations that introduce youth to area natural resources, as well as programs that provide children, birth to five, with quality opportunities that will prepare them for successful lifelong development.