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Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Announces 2021 Ajo Social Investment Grant Recipients

PHOENIX, AZ, November 8, 2021 — Freeport-McMoRan is pleased to announce the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation has awarded nearly \$2.8 million to 39 projects in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico through our Community Investment Fund process.

Recipient organizations will receive their monetary awards and be recognized by members of the Community Investment Committee during grant presentations this fall.

“The COVID pandemic and other disruptive events over the past 18 months have affected how we all view and achieve well-being, as well as the need to think more purposefully about how we help to create individual, family and community resiliency,” said Tracy Bame, President, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. “An important part of this effort is the ability to work with our program partners to understand the impact of each project so we can collaborate with a broad range of community stakeholders to address gaps in services, resources and assets needed to support the well-being and resilience of people and communities over time.”

The most effective investments stem from collaboration. The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation works with a range of committed partners throughout the investment process. The Foundation’s new partnership with True Impact provides a highly supportive application process that allows organizations to think through the impact of their project in the community.

Where there is a Community Investment Fund, local leaders representing diverse organizations and two to three Freeport-McMoRan representatives decide how funds are awarded. These community leaders are selected by members of the local Community Partnership Panel, a stakeholder engagement process established by Freeport-McMoRan more than 15 years ago to foster open and ongoing dialogue with the community. The process allows the company and the community to work together to develop thoughtful solutions that address community needs.

Since 2012, more than \$1.5 million has been invested through the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation in Ajo. The funds have gone to programs and projects that help foster sustainability and reduce dependency on any single industry by supporting initiatives that build community resilience and capacity. In 2021, \$150,000 was awarded to the following grant recipients:

Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Planning a Post-Pandemic Emergency Food System – \$50,000

After responding to emergency food needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center for Sustainable Agriculture realized the need to design and implement a community food security assessment for Ajo. This information will be used to develop a new food system to alleviate future food crisis while also working to bring individuals out of poverty.

International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Kickstart Ajo: Building a More Resilient Local Economy – \$100,000

By providing direct support to business owners and entrepreneurs, Kickstart Ajo will support the creation, stabilization, expansion and attraction of 25 unduplicated business enterprises in Ajo.

For more information about Freeport-McMoRan community investments and programs, please contact Rita Lloyd-Mills at rlloydmi@fmi.com or visit FreeportInMyCommunity.com.

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