

# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Announces 2022 Graham County Community Investment Fund Grant Recipients

PHOENIX, AZ, December 21, 2022 — Freeport-McMoRan is pleased to announce the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation has awarded nearly \$2.9 million to 41 projects in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico through our Community Investment Fund, including \$350,000 in Graham County.

Recipient organizations will receive their monetary awards and be recognized by Freeport-McMoRan and members of the Community Investment Committees during grant presentations this winter.

“The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation aims to provide resources, of which funding is only one part, to support communities and organizations as they focus on actions they can take to build resilience and the range of skills that may be needed to respond to opportunities and challenges,” said Tracy Bame, President, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation.

The Freeport-McMoRan Foundation works to create a funding process that supports applicants and encourages them to think about the impact that will come from an investment in their work. This moves beyond reporting on outputs, but rather thinking through what change can occur from the work that will be done.

“Throughout 2022, we continued conversations with community stakeholders and partner organizations about the path to increasing resilience in their local communities. While the unknowns of a post-COVID reality persisted as an ongoing threat to resilience, partners also explored other topics that have and will affect their future well-being, such as the energy transition and climate change, mine transitions, economic diversification, and the changing future of work,” Bame said.

Community Investment Funds are led by seven to nine local leaders representing diverse organizations and two to three local Freeport-McMoRan representatives who determine grant recipients. 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 \$4.6 million has been invested through the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation in Graham County. The funds have been awarded to programs and projects that build community resilience and capacity. In 2022, \$350,000 was awarded to the following grant recipients:

### **Boys and Girls Club of the Gila Valley Grow Smarter 2022 + STEAM Program – \$25,000**

Funding provides a safe place where youth can access educational support, including homework assistance, tutoring and quality STEAM programs, both during the school year and in the summer. The club also allows parents and caregivers to remain in the workforce by providing care during out of school times.

**Easter Seals Blake Foundation**

***Employment Opportunities for Young Adults with Disabilities – \$50,000***

By providing funds for improvements at two businesses that specifically work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, local job-training and employment opportunities will increase. This will strengthen the local economy and help the general public understand that people with different abilities can play a positive and important role in communities.

**Graham County Historical Society**

***Main Street Museum – \$150,000***

Establishment of the Graham County Historical Society Museum as an anchor institution on Main Street in Safford will provide cultural, educational and recreational opportunities as well as help to diversify Graham County's economy through tourism revenue, sales and bed tax.

**Great Communities Resource Center**

***Downtown Building Restoration – \$75,000***

The center will create two new retail spaces on Main Street, continuing to restore the Safford Downtown Business District through mitigating blighted properties and providing additional opportunities for new business development in the community.

**Safford Middle School**

***Robotics Programming – \$50,000***

Funding allows for the continuation of robotics programming for three years, expanding hands-on learning and leadership development opportunities for students.

For more information about Freeport-McMoRan community investments and programs, please contact Sean Wenham at [swenham@fmi.com](mailto:swenham@fmi.com) or visit [FreeportInMyCommunity.com](http://FreeportInMyCommunity.com).

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