Foundation for Community Health entering second year of Health Grants Program

MISSOULA, MT – Foundation for Community Health, a Missoula-based nonprofit philanthropic organization, is readying for its second year of funding in its Health Grants Program. After issuing its first call for proposals in June of 2016, the Foundation offered two subsequent Health Grant application cycles in October of 2016 and February of 2017. The Foundation awarded more than $46,000 to 11 local nonprofit organizations in the first year of its Health Grants Program.

The Health Grants Program is made possible by earnings from permanent endowments and limited historical gifts. Grants awarded through the program provide focused charitable support for projects addressing a health challenge or need in western Montana, and are available to nonprofit or educational institutions with a tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS code. Target areas of funding in the Health Grants Program’s first year included Diabetes, Health Issues Public Education, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Services, and Skin Cancer and Melanoma Prevention. To date, Health Grants have been awarded to the following recipients: Brain Injury Alliance of Montana, Child Development Center, Child Care Resources, Dylan Steigers Concussion Project, Greater Missoula Family YMCA, Missoula Aging Services, Missoula City-County Health Department, North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Summit for Parkinson’s, The University of Montana Foundation for the New Directions Wellness Center and Watson Children’s Shelter.

“So from my years as a nurse and nurse educator, I know that good health takes individual initiative and community collaboration,” notes Foundation Board Chair, Susan J. Muralt. “This Health Grants program expands our opportunities to honor donor intent and increase citizen and partner organization engagement in the health of our western Montana communities.”

(Continued)
The Health Grants Program is one of several ways the Foundation for Community Health works in partnership with its donors and community organizations to advance healthy lives and increase collective impact on the health of vulnerable children, families and others in western Montana. The Foundation intends to offer three funding cycles in the second year of the Health Grants Program. Information on the Program’s summer 2017 application cycle was made available May 16, 2017. More information about the Foundation for Community Health’s Health Grants Program, other Foundation initiatives, and ways to support the Foundation’s mission can be found online at www.fchwmt.org or by calling 406-926-2522.

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**About the Foundation for Community Health**
The Foundation for Community Health (FCH), successor organization of Community Medical Center Foundation, began community-wide operations in January 2015 with a mission of providing philanthropic support for the advancement of healthy lives in western Montana through grant-making and preventative, action-based educational programs. Foundation initiatives include high school healthcare scholarships, leadership of the Safe Kids Missoula Coalition, Be Sun Smart skin cancer awareness, and a health grants program. Foundation for Community Health works in partnership with donors, community organizations and volunteers and welcomes charitable gifts, including planned giving contributions.

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