For Immediate Release
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Foundation for Community Health Awards First Health Grants in New Program

MISSOULA, MT – Foundation for Community Health, a Missoula-based nonprofit philanthropic organization, has committed funding to six organizations in the first cycle of its new Health Grants Program after issuing a call for funding applications in June of 2016. Watson Children’s Shelter, Missoula Family YMCA, Child Development Center, Summit for Parkinson’s, University of Montana Foundation/New Directions Wellness Center and Missoula City-County Health Department received funding for their project proposals.

The Health Grants Program is made possible by earnings from permanent endowments and limited historical gifts. It is another way Foundation for Community Health works with its donors to advance healthy lives in western Montana. Grants awarded through the program provide focused charitable support for projects addressing a health challenge or need in western Montana. The first grant cycle awarded funding in three target areas: Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Services and Skin Cancer/Melanoma. Watson Children’s Shelter and Missoula Family YMCA each received a Pediatrics Health Grant to advance the health of children ages 0-18. The Child Development Center, Summit for Parkinson’s and the University of Montana Foundation, on behalf of the New Direction Wellness Clinic, each received a Rehabilitation Services Health Grant to support quality rehabilitation services and education. A Skin Cancer/Melanoma Health Grant was awarded to Missoula City-County Health Department to support education on awareness, diagnosis and treatment of melanoma and other skin cancers.

Foundation for Community Health is dedicated to cultivating partnerships through the Health Grants Program that will increase the collective impact on the health of vulnerable children, families and others in western Montana communities.
“These grants will strengthen the community web around those we serve and give us new avenues for living out our Foundation’s mission of advancing healthy lives in western Montana.” notes Susan Muralt, Foundation Board Chair.

The Foundation intends to offer Health Grants to community nonprofit and educational institutions through three grant cycles each year. Information regarding the fall Health Grant cycle was made available September 30, 2016. More information about the initiatives of Foundation for Community Health 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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