



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Montana Community Foundation Distributes \$50,000 for Livestock Suffering from Extreme Winter Weather

**Helena, Mont.**, March 28, 2018 – The Montana Community Foundation, Inc. (MCF) announced the distribution of approximately \$50,000 in grants from the Montana Disaster Relief Fund. The money will be used to purchase hay and transport that hay to the Fort Belknap and Northern Cheyenne reservations to feed livestock suffering from the extreme winter weather conditions. Based on data from Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, approximately 11,000 cattle and 1,720 horses are in the affected areas. To date, nearly 300 tons of hay has been delivered.

“We are thankful to be in a position to help,” said MCF President and CEO Mary Rutherford. “After our work with the Montana Wildfire Relief Fund, we knew MCF had an important role to play in disaster philanthropy and we will continue to step forward and support those in need.”

MCF received a \$25,000 grant from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) and a \$20,000 grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA). Generous donations were received from the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals, the Washington State Animal Response Team, and a number of individual donors.

“The ASPCA is committed to working with communities across the country to enhance disaster relief capabilities and ensure animals are protected during emergency situations,” said Matt Stern, Senior Director of Operations for the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group. “We are pleased to support the Montana Community Foundation’s lifesaving efforts to help animals in need during disaster situations.”

MCF has been working with the Montana Departments of Livestock and Agriculture, who worked with groups to secure relief from across the country for livestock, and with RanchAid, a nonprofit organization that aids communities and government agencies in disaster planning in regards to agriculture animal issues and short/long-term recovery support and logistics.

“Working with the State of Montana DES, Montana Community Foundation and other supporting organizations displayed the true heart and spirit of helping animals in their time of greatest need,” said RanchAid President Johnathan Cutler. “We’re thankful to be a part of the solution and logistics to make that possible.”

The Montana Disaster Relief Fund originated as the Montana Wildfire Relief Fund, created in response to the unprecedented wildfire season of 2017. The fund is now used to support disaster relief of all kinds in Montana. Donations to the fund can be made by visiting [mtcf.org/MDRF](http://mtcf.org/MDRF) or by sending a check to P.O. Box 1145, Helena, MT 59624 made out to Montana Community Foundation with Montana Disaster Relief Fund in the memo line.

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### About Montana Community Foundation

Montana Community Foundation's (MCF) mission is to cultivate a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish. Founded in 1988, MCF manages approximately \$100 million in assets and administers more than 900 philanthropic funds and planned gifts. MCF's accreditation through the Council on Foundations' National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations ensures MCF complies with the strictest standards in gift administration and grantmaking. Since its founding, MCF has reinvested more than \$41 million in Montana through grants to charitable organizations and causes across the state. MCF serves as a center for philanthropy in Montana, working with donors, charitable organizations and communities to provide simple and effective ways to give back to Montana.

For more information and to learn how you can support Montana communities, visit [mtcf.org](http://mtcf.org) or call (406) 443-8313. Find us on [Facebook](#).