



For Immediate Release

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Phillips County Hospital Receives \$400,000 Grant for Cutting-Edge Diagnostic Tool from Helmsley Charitable Trust

Malta, MT – Patients at Phillips County Hospital will soon benefit from access to the latest computed tomography (CT) diagnostic technology made possible through a grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust’s Rural Healthcare Program.

Helmsley has awarded Phillips County Hospital \$400,000 for a new 64-slice CT scanner. CT scanners provide essential diagnostic images of structures inside the body. A new CT scanner will allow for faster scans that produce high-quality images, allowing medical staff to quickly determine health status and course of treatment while giving patients access to up-to-date healthcare technology close to home.

“Having served as Chief of Staff for Phillips County Hospital, I am always looking for ways to better our clinical outcomes. A great part of this at our critical access hospital is being able to image what may be occurring internally in critical patients, such as trauma, stroke victims and possible surgical abdominal conditions. The better the image the better the information we can use to make clinical decisions,” said Dr. Edwin Medina, Medical Director, Philips County Hospital. “I believe that the addition of a 64-slice CT scanner will help improve our clinical outcomes even more. I am definitely supportive of the implementation of this technology at our facility as I feel it will help save lives.”

Phillips County Hospital is one of 41 grant recipients across the region to benefit from this round of funding to purchase CT scanners. Helmsley’s Rural Healthcare Program has granted over \$30 million to support the purchase of new, 32-slice or higher CT scanners in a seven-state region.

“Our goal is to ensure that people who live in rural America have access to quality healthcare as close to home as possible,” said Walter Panzirer, a trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust. “To achieve this, rural hospitals need to be viable and they need to have up-to-date equipment, so patients can receive essential healthcare services locally. This initiative is one of many that aims to improve healthcare access and health outcomes across the upper Midwest.”

The funding initiative was the result of a survey of Critical Access Hospitals in the Rural Healthcare Program’s seven-state funding region. Capital equipment, particularly CT scanners, was identified as a top need by many hospitals. In addition, a new Medicare policy went into effect January 1, 2016, that reduced reimbursement for certain studies on CT scanners that do not meet specific radiation dose

requirements. Since 2015, the Helmsley Charitable Trust has awarded 78 grants totaling over \$30 million to outfit hospitals with new, state-of-the-art CT scanners.

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About the Helmsley Charitable Trust

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting effective nonprofits in health, select place-based initiatives, education and human services. Since 2008, when Helmsley began its active grantmaking, it has committed more than \$1.8 billion for a wide range of charitable purposes. Helmsley's Rural Healthcare Program funds innovative projects that use information technologies to connect rural patients to emergency medical care, bring the latest medical therapies to patients in remote areas, and provide state-of-the-art training for rural hospitals and EMS personnel. To date, this program has awarded more than \$300 million to organizations and initiatives in the upper Midwest states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa and Montana. For more information, visit www.helmsleytrust.org.