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Farm Rescue Receives Challenge Grant from The Leona M. & Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to Build Capacity

Funds represent Helmsley Charitable Trust's strong support for sustainable Farm Rescue program

JAMESTOWN, ND, May 6, 2014 – Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that provides planting, harvesting and haying assistance free of charge to farm families who have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster, has been awarded a grant for \$445,564 from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. The grant funding will be used to build capacity and develop long-term sustainability for the one-of-a-kind Farm Rescue program.

The grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust is the largest multi-year funding Farm Rescue has received since its inception. The grant provides funding for increased capacity at Farm Rescue to better serve farm families in need through strategic and development planning, and the creation of a development officer position. The Trust has pledged \$190,000 over the next three years in the form of a two-to-one matching grant as a challenge for Farm Rescue to broaden its base of support.

Farm Rescue is requesting all individuals, businesses and foundations that have considered supporting Farm Rescue to donate at this opportune time. New donations will be matched two-for-one, and as a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, donations to Farm Rescue are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

"We are very thankful for the generosity and foresight of the Helmsley Charitable Trust in helping us build organizational capacity and long-term sustainability," Bill Gross, founder and president of Farm Rescue stated. "The two-for-one matching component is a strong incentive for individuals and businesses to see their donations maximized."

"Farm Rescue has continued to grow and serve more farm families in need," said Walter Panzirer, trustee. "We want to ensure Farm Rescue has the tools they need to seek partnerships which will allow them to better serve farm families in the upper Midwest."

About Farm Rescue

Farm Rescue was founded in 2006 and has helped more than 250 families since its inception. The organization's mission is to help farmers who have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster by providing the necessary equipment and manpower to plant, harvest or hay their crop. The field equipment is sponsored by RDO Equipment Company and hundreds of volunteers come from throughout the United States. Farm Rescue helps farm families in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and Iowa. Applications are now being accepted for the 2014 planting and haying season. Visit www.farmrescue.org or call 701-252-2017 for more information on donating, volunteering, applying for assistance or referring a farm family that might be hesitant to ask for assistance on their own.

About the Helmsley Charitable Trust

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting effective nonprofits in health, place-based initiatives, and education and human services. Since 2008, when the Trust began its active grantmaking, it has committed more than \$1 billion to a wide range of charitable organizations. The Trust'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 \$214 million to organizations and initiatives in the upper Midwest states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa and Montana. For more information on the Trust, visit www.helmsleytrust.org.

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