



PRESS RELEASE (July 31, 2018)
Rebuilding Their Future Foundation, Inc.
Awarded Grant from the Alpha Foundation

The Rebuilding Their Future Foundation (RTF) announced today that they received a \$249,320 grant from the Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health. The award was part of a \$3.1 million round of new awards from the Alpha Foundation to address critical topics of priority interest. The research projects are directed towards fulfilling the Alpha Foundation's mission to improve mine safety and health through funding research and development projects by qualified academic institutions and other not-for-profit organizations. The Alpha Foundation was established as part of a non-prosecution agreement entered in December 2011 by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, the United States Department of Justice and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. and Alpha Appalachia Holdings, Inc. Pursuant to that agreement, Alpha agreed to establish an independent foundation with \$48,000,000 to fund projects designed to improve mine safety and health.

RTF's 12-month grant, Investigation of Improved Communication from Portable Refuge Alternatives to Facilitate Mine Escape and Rescue, is designed to develop and demonstrate the feasibility of improved means for reliable emergency communication between occupants of an underground refuge alternative (chamber) with mine personnel on the surface and/or approaching rescue teams or occupants of other nearby refuge alternatives located underground. Modest modifications to both refuge alternative construction and commercial communication systems would better permit occupants of the refuge alternative to share critical information such as their location, number, individual physical condition, refuge alternative status, and surrounding in-mine conditions to assist in coordinating their rescue or escape.

"The engineering and scientific skills of the RTF staff make us uniquely qualified to conduct research and develop solutions to difficult engineering problems. RTF staff offers more than 150 combined years of experience in the mining industry, which includes the conduct of sophisticated research projects, management of multimillion-dollar engineering projects, development of safety improvements, and delivery of useful products to the industry" said Michael A. Trevits, Foundation President. Work under the grant began on July 1, 2018.

About RTF: The Rebuilding Their Future Foundation, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. RTF was founded on the belief that award of an educational scholarship could change the future of a family member recovering from the devastating loss of or severely disabling injury incurred by a loved one who was working to save the lives of others. RTF derives funding from three sources: a portion of overhead fees charged on sponsored research projects that have been competitively bid and won primarily aimed to improve the health and safety of miners, mine rescue team members, first responders and fire fighters, through direct donations from individuals, corporations, fraternal organizations, and through charitable giving programs.