



**PRESS RELEASE (January 1, 2020)**  
**Rebuilding Their Future Foundation, Inc.**  
**Grant Final Report Approved**

The Rebuilding Their Future Foundation (RTFF) announced today that their final report on work conducted under the grant Investigation of Improved Communication from Portable Refuge Alternatives to Facilitate Mine Escape and Rescue was accepted by the Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health (Alpha Foundation). On July 31, 2018, RTFF announced that they had received grant AFC719-57 from the Alpha Foundation (refer to the July 31, 2018 RTFF Press Release). The award was part of the Alpha Foundation effort of funding research projects to address their mining safety and health priority interests. 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.

RTFF's 12-month grant, Investigation of Improved Communication from Portable Refuge Alternatives (RA) to Facilitate Mine Escape and Rescue, was 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. This research demonstrated that miners taking shelter in a portable RA, post-event (assuming that the regularly used mine radio communication system was rendered inoperable by the event), could potentially use either of two existing voice commercial communications systems to provide information to their underground rescuers well before the rescuers could reach RA. Additional investigation is required to develop more effective through-the-earth (TTE) communication technology to enable miners sheltering at common current mining depths to communicate with rescuers above them at the ground surface. Interested parties may contact the Alpha Foundation directly about the AFC719-57 final report.

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.