Sample Press Release

Your Logo

Date

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT**

Name

Title

Organization

Email

Phone Number

CITY, ST—[NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] recently received a grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington, for [NAME OF PROJECT]. This grant will [EXPLAIN HOW THE GRANT WILL BENEFIT YOUR ORGANIZATION, AND USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR MORE FUNDS IF YOU HAVE A CONTINGENCY OR TOP-OFF].

ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

**About M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust**

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, provides grants to organizations in five states of the Pacific Northwest—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington—that seek to strengthen the region’s educational and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways.

www.murdocktrust.org

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## About M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Statements below are for use in grant publicity only. If you are using the press release template on Page 1, please remember to delete the “About M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust” pages before submitting your press release.

Brief statement about the TrustM.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, provides grants to nonprofit organizations in five states of the Pacific Northwest—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington—that seek to strengthen the region’s educational, social, spiritual, and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways. murdocktrust.org

### Extended statement about the Trust

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust was created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, who was a co-founder of Tektronix, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon, and a resident of Vancouver, Washington. Since its establishment on June 30, 1975, with a bequest of about $90 million, the Trust has focused its grantmaking efforts primarily in five states of the Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Trust’s current assets are valued at about $1 billion, and over the life of the Trust, more than $900 million has been distributed through more than 6,000 grants.  
  
The Trust's mission is to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants to organizations that seek to strengthen the region’s educational, social, cultural, and spiritual base in creative and sustainable ways. Grants are awarded to a wide variety of organizations, including those that serve the arts, public affairs, education, scientific research, health and medicine, human services, and people with disabilities.  
  
The Trust’s staff brings a wide range of experiences in the subject areas and activities necessary for thoughtful grantmaking and the investment of Trust assets. In addition to grantmaking activities, it is common Trust practice to convene groups of people to discuss issues of mutual interest. This practice is of great assistance to the Trust in exploring ways of responding to new grantmaking opportunities consistent with its mission, promoting a sharing of ideas and networking among participants, and understanding new developments and best practices in the various sectors in which the Trust works.

## Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock

Jack Murdock was born in Portland, Oregon, on August 15, 1917. Upon graduating from Franklin High School, and with help from his parents, Jack chose to go into business rather than pursue a college education. He purchased a shop for the sale and service of radios and electrical appliances. There, in 1936, he began a long-term working relationship with his technician, Howard Vollum. Both served in WWII, where they gained additional education and experience in technology and electronics. Following the war, the men renewed their business partnership and, in 1946, became the principal co-founders of Tektronix.

Jack first served as vice president and general manager of Tektronix. In 1960 he was elected chairman of the board, a position he held until his untimely death on May 16, 1971, as a result of a float plane accident on the Columbia River. Tektronix has become one of the world's prominent electronic instrumentation companies and has spun off dozens of related companies. While the Trust is proud of its Tektronix heritage, it is an independent private foundation having no connection with the company.  
  
Jack was an idealist as well as a realist and a life-long seeker of new insights. He believed in science as a main source of knowledge and knowledge as key to resolving issues and addressing the needs of the world. He was thoroughly unpretentious, soft spoken, and a listener. He possessed a rare combination of good judgment, hard work, tolerance, and scrupulous honesty. He practiced philanthropy through his own private foundation that existed until the Murdock Trust was formed. More on Jack’s story is available in both video and written format at murdocktrust.org.