



1221 N. Russell St.  
Missoula, MT 59808  
[www.blackfoot.com](http://www.blackfoot.com)

**Contact: Kate Olney**  
Blackfoot Telecommunications Group  
Phone: (406) 541-5020  
FAX: (406) 532-5018

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Blackfoot Fulfills \$2500 Holiday Wishes to Missoula Children in Need

December 19, 2008 Missoula, Mont - Blackfoot Telecommunications Group (Blackfoot) employees purchased \$2500 worth of holiday gifts for over eighty Missoula children in need through the Mountain of Giving campaign. Each year the annual drive collects thousands of toys but struggles to provide enough holiday presents for older children living in Missoula.

"In September, we learned that young teens and pre-teens wishes were the most overlooked and oftentimes they went without a gift during the holiday season. As a locally-owned business, we care about our Missoula families that are struggling over the holidays and knew that we needed to help," said Joan Mandeville, CEO of Blackfoot Telecommunications Group.

"Blackfoot's fulfillment of \$2500 worth of individual gift wishes was the largest single donation by any Missoula business. Blackfoot really stepped up by helping a really underserved group of teens, as well as donating their employees' time to do the shopping on our behalf," noted Sheila Callahan, organizer of Mountain of Giving and owner of Mountain Broadcasting.

The holiday drive will continue up until Christmas Eve, and according to Callahan, over 200 children still need help. To help Missoula children over the holidays, visit any of the following locations: Missoula Federal Credit Union, Wal-Mart on Brooks Street, TJ Maxx, Old Navy, Quality Supply, Rockin' Rudy's, and Hastings. Once you arrive at the location, look for the Mountain of Giving tree that is decorated with individual gift wishes from children in the Missoula area. If you have already taken a "wish" tag, please return the gift to Mountain FM at 725 Strand or to the Missoula Federal Credit Union Branch on Brooks Street.

"In this hard economic time, we hope that our contribution will relieve the financial pressures felt by so many Missoula families living in our service area," said Blackfoot CEO Joan Mandeville.

To help children during the holidays, please visit [www.moclub.com](http://www.moclub.com) for more information.

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#### About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot Telecommunications Group(Blackfoot) was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and throughout Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 150 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

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