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PRESS RELEASE

Blackfoot Supports Birthing Suite at Clark Fork Valley Hospital A 5-Year and \$30,000 Commitment to Improve Patient Care and Services

January 21, 2009 Missoula, Mont- Blackfoot's Kate Olney and Barak Longnecker hand-delivered a check this month for \$6000 to Clark Fork Valley Hospital's CEO Gregory Hanson, which was the final payment of a 5-year commitment and \$30,000 total contribution to the hospital's Birthing Center. Roughly 50 newborns are born each year in the newly remodeled Birthing Suite, and with the passing of Missoula's Birth Center, Hanson is seeing more mothers from Missoula decide to have their babies in Plains.

The Clark Fork Valley Hospital Birthing Center was opened in 2005 to include birthing suites that include comfortable beds, visitor accommodations, personal bathrooms with Jacuzzi tub, and state-of-the-art birthing equipment. Given the hospital's importance to the county, both as a vital medical facility and through its economic impact of employing over 160 people, Blackfoot is proud to support Clark Fork Valley Hospital.

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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