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PRESS RELEASE

Opportunity Resources and Blackfoot Celebrate a Perfect Partnership

February 21, 2008 Missoula, Mont - Blackfoot Telecommunications Group (Blackfoot) is proud to announce the two-year anniversary of employee Paula Hogan. Paula came to Blackfoot through Opportunity Resources affiliate program, EmployAbilities. In November 2005, Blackfoot contacted EmployAbilities regarding a new mail service position they created, and wanted to hire a person with a disability to perform these duties. EmployAbilities, the division of Opportunity Resources that locates employment for job seekers with disabilities, was excited about the possibility to partner with a local business. Through this process EmployAbilities could help Blackfoot fill an employment need, and find a good job for one of their job seekers. EmployAbilities found two candidates and after the interview process was completed, Blackfoot offered employment to Paula Hogan.

Paula began her new position on December 13, 2005 as Blackfoot's new mail clerk. A job coach for EmployAbilities helped Paula to get oriented and started on her new position duties (a job coach from EmployAbilities was provided at no cost to Blackfoot; this is a service that EmployAbilities provides to employers and employees as needed). Blackfoot provided Paula with the necessary tools to execute her job function; such as a push cart, a desk, an organizer, and support from her supervisor, Mary Kelly. "Paula has been such a wonderful addition to our company. She is a great employee who is so appreciated and loved by our Blackfoot Family," said Mary Kelly, Executive Administrative Assistant at Blackfoot Telecommunications Group. Paula has now been successfully employed at Blackfoot for two years, and is a valued, dependable member of the company.

"It's exciting when employers like Blackfoot come to us with the desire to work with people with disabilities and the patience and creativity to find work that is important and meaningful to our clients," said Hal Pulling, Associate Director of Employment Services at EmployAbilities. As for Paula Hogan, the experience has been life changing; "I wouldn't have made it this far if it wasn't for Blackfoot and EmployAbilities. I really like the people at Blackfoot and my job."

If you are interested in learning about how EmployAbilities can help your business, please contact Hal Pulling at 329-1730 or visit their website at www.orimt.org. Over 30 individuals, with a variety of skills and abilities, are looking for suitable employment.

About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group 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 165 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

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