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## PRESS RELEASE

### Seeley Swan Medical Center Renovates with the Help of Blackfoot

October 20, 2006 Missoula, Mont - Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative's Board of Trustees donated \$10,000 to the Seeley Swan Medical Center earlier this month to aid the clinic's expansion efforts.

The donation will pay off the purchase price of the land needed for the clinic expansion. Future development plans include an independent/assisted living facility, expanded family practice facilities, physical therapy, optometry, dentistry and chiropractic providers and possibly a pharmacy and ambulance facility.

"The board is dedicated to supporting rural medical facilities," said Bill Squires, Senior VP-General Counsel for Blackfoot. "Quality healthcare is the cornerstone for keeping people in the community. If there's no good healthcare, people will leave."

Nearly six years ago Blackfoot's Board of Trustees helped planners secure an interest-free loan from the USDA to build the much-needed Seeley-Swan Medical Center. Blackfoot's contributions paired with the center's lease arrangement with St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center has provided the clinic to the Seeley Swan community totally free of taxpayer funds.

"Blackfoot is strongly committed to maintaining high-quality rural healthcare facilities," said Squires.

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#### 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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