FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Valley Hospital Foundation Opens Capital Campaign for Birth Center Expansion

WHITEFISH, MT – February 10, 2015: When nearly 500 babies are born each year in a facility built to comfortably deliver 250, it becomes a time to expand. That’s why the North Valley Hospital Foundation is ramping up its capital campaign, Building for Generations, to raise the last $500,000 needed for the construction their Birth Center expansion plus an additional $500,000 for equipment and staff training for a total goal of $1MM.

The Birth Center project calls for 2730 square feet of new space and extensive renovation of approximately 1045 square feet of existing space in the hospital. The construction will provide for the addition or room conversion to create three new labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum (LDRP) rooms to make a total of five LDRP and two postpartum rooms. These combination “LDRP” rooms allow mothers to stay in the same room from start of labor through discharge making it more comfortable for her and her family. Currently, 30% of mothers who deliver in The Birth Center experience their postpartum care in general inpatient rooms due to lack of available rooms in The Birth Center. The size of the nursery will be increased to care for babies needing special attention. Other changes include a larger nurses’ station to accommodate multiple providers and staff, a larger family waiting area, and a new lactation room to assist new mothers.

“Our plan is to break ground this spring, weather permitting, and complete the project before the holidays,” said Michelle Drager, Executive Director of the North Valley Hospital Foundation. “Today, $500,000 is needed to reach our goal of $1.5MM for the expansion so we have decided to reach out to the community with this challenge. Above that, an additional $500,000 is needed for equipment and training. It would be reassuring to know we had 100% of the funding committed before breaking ground, but if it doesn’t happen, we’ll move forward with the construction in the anticipation that our goal will be realized by the time construction is complete.”

Drager explained that all contributions, regardless of the size, are appreciated. To help visualize how donations could be put to good use, she provided some examples as to how contributions of any amount can help:

- $20 could pay for some new nursery bedding.
- $500 could pay for a portable monitor.
- $3,000 could pay for an infant bassinet.
$14,000 could pay for a labor and delivery bed.

The campaign has been in progress since late 2012 when *Building for Generations* was initiated to focus on the comprehensive plan for meeting the current and future healthcare needs of the communities served by North Valley Hospital. The Flathead County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was underway at the time to understand the area’s health needs so the results were incorporated into the hospital’s plans to better serve the community.

The first project completed in the campaign was the addition of a fourth operating room for North Valley Hospital to accommodate their growing surgical needs while maintaining access for emergency C-sections. The expansion broke ground on April 15, 2013 and was completed 6 months later at a cost of $1.76MM.

For more information on the *Building for Generations* campaign, please contact Michelle Drager at 406-863-3560 or mdrager@nvhosp.org.

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*About North Valley Hospital Foundation:*

North Valley Hospital Foundation is the fundraising arm of North Valley Hospital, a private 501©(3), non-profit community Critical Access hospital. The Foundation is governed by a Volunteer Board of Directors. Its mission is to inspire a culture of giving which assures the transition of excellent healthcare for the community and its heirs.