FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Valley Hospital Breaks Ground on Operating Room Expansion

WHITEFISH, MT – April 15, 2013: North Valley Hospital broke ground today on a fourth operating suite designed to keep up with demands for their surgical services. The new suite, located on the west side of the hospital, will accommodate both inpatient and outpatient surgeries and is projected to be completed in the fall of 2013. The expansion is funded from hospital cash reserves, not additional debt or donations.

North Valley is enlisting the same architect, builder and project superintendent for the expansion as they did for the current hospital which was completed in March 2007. The project includes Johnson, Johnson, Crabtree Architects (JJCA), Swank Enterprises as the builder, and the project superintendent, Jeff Halsey, of Whitefish. Most of the subcontractors and construction employees come from the Flathead.

The OR expansion will encompass 1,461 square feet and includes the new surgical suite and support area plus a 1,129 square foot upper story for an new air handler dedicated to the surgery department. The new surgical suite will match the existing three suites and all four suites can accommodate North Valley’s entire surgical service line including da Vinci robotic surgery requirements. New air handlers will allow for greater efficiencies and comfort throughout a significant portion of the hospital, including The Birth Center.

While a small portion of staff parking will be affected during the OR construction, visitor parking and entrances at both the north and south sides of the facility will remain unaffected.

“We moved into the new hospital only six years ago, but have already outgrown much of the space,” said Jason Spring, CEO. “North Valley has increased its surgery volume by over 22% in the last four years. This expansion will prepare us for the continued growth in our surgery cases while continuing to maintain operating room availability for emergency procedures.”

The operating rooms are not the only areas that have seen growth and require expansion at North Valley Hospital. The hospital’s Foundation is currently in the “silent phase” of a capital campaign to raise funding for an expansion of The Birth Center. When the hospital was built it was planned for 250 births per year, however annual births have increased to almost 500, indicating the need for additional labor and delivery rooms, postpartum rooms and larger nursery.
North Valley Hospital is a private 501©(3), non-profit community Critical Access hospital governed by a Volunteer Board of Directors from the North Valley area. North Valley Hospital is the first hospital in Montana to be affiliated with Planetree. Planetree is a non-profit organization that provides education and information in a collaborative community of healthcare organizations, facilitating efforts to create patient centered care in healing environments. North Valley Hospital receives no tax support for its services. The hospital and its affiliate clinics serve Flathead and Lincoln counties.

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