FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Valley Hospital Announces Six New Board Members

WHITEFISH, MT – November 19, 2012: The North Valley Hospital and Foundation welcomes six new members to its volunteer board of directors. Jennie Eckstrom, MD, joins the hospital board serving as the 2012/2013 Hospital Chief of Staff. Also joining the hospital board are Matt Bailey, MD, and Hap Hazelton of Whitefish; Dave Wick of Columbia Falls; and Elizabeth Marchi of Polson. Joining the Foundation board is David Graham of Whitefish.

The NVH volunteer Hospital Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the strategy and general operations of the hospital while the volunteer Foundation Board of Directors is the fund-raising arm of the organization.

“We are very pleased at the commitment these individuals are investing into North Valley Hospital and their communities,” said Jason Spring, CEO. “As healthcare moves into a new era, we are grateful for their contributions to our future.”

Jennie Eckstrom, MD, knew she was going to be a family doctor since the age of ten. Her desire to help people and develop relationships over a lifetime lead her to family medicine. Born and raised in Kalispell, she graduated from Flathead High School in 1995 and Seattle Pacific University in 1999. She attended the University of Washington School of Medicine as a Montana WWAMI student and graduated in 2003. As a part of her medical training, Dr. Eckstrom was a medical student at Glacier Medical Associates in 2002 and back again during her residency in 2005. She has been a physician at Glacier Medical Associates since 2006 and succeeds Elizabeth White, MD as the 2012-2013 Chief of Staff for North Valley Hospital.

North Valley Hospital is implementing an electronic medical record (EMR) system that will further assist patients by having information at the touch of their doctors’ fingers and in a more unified system. It’s perfect timing that Dr. Eckstrom is Chief of Staff because of her knowledge and experience of having
worked with two other EMR conversions. Drawing on her computer experience, she knows what questions to ask to create a system that has the best work flow for desired operations.

Dr. Eckstrom is a fourth generation Montanan and native of Kalispell. She and her husband, Andrew, have two children, Katherine and Sophia. One of the challenges she said she faces as a female physician is finding a balance that allows her to be there for her patients as well as her children. Building relationships is energizing for Dr. Eckstrom, including those revolving around her family.

**Matt Bailey, MD**, orthopedic surgeon at Flathead Orthopedics in Whitefish, is a dedicated physician of the North Valley Hospital Board of Directors. He assumed the Chief of Staff role in 2008 after spending the previous two years as Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. He joins the board again as a physician to provide leadership focused on high quality care delivered with compassion and expertise. He also serves as chairman of the bylaws committee and is on the medical executive committee.

Dr. Bailey established his orthopedic surgery practice in Whitefish straight from residency 10 years ago. He’s received countless sports recognitions including scholar athlete awards and varsity letters in basketball, track and cross-country. He graduated with honors from high school through college while participating in sports and a wide-range of other activities.

Among those activities: He was one of the leaders of the Potter’s Clay Medical/Dental Mission Team to Mexico for three years; worked at a hospital for crippled children in Kenya; spent four months bicycling from Maine to Washington to Southern California; and was a volunteer for the University of San Francisco student’s Homeless Health Project. Currently he is a baseball coach, ski instructor, Medical Director of the Flathead Nordic Ski Patrol and is involved with the Whitefish Nazarene Church.

Dr. Bailey and his wife, Tara, have five children who all enjoy an abundance of outdoors activities together.

**Dave Wick** is the Columbia Falls Middle School Principal and Director of Elementary Education. His relationships in the education field will be instrumental in bridging information to youth about medical careers. Dave also will assist NVH with enhancing the services the hospital may provide in the schools as well as promoting the hospital’s integral role in both Columbia Falls and Whitefish communities.

Just like education, he said, people come first. Making people feel comfortable and safe is right in line with what school staff strives to do in the schools. As a small, personal hospital with high quality, innovative medical care, Dave said NVH is right in line with our community medical needs.

Dave was honored in 2012 with the National Distinguished Principal of Montana after being awarded the 2011 Montana Distinguished Principal. He is involved in a variety of activities including Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals (MAEMSP) board member, 2012 MAEMSP
National Delegate and a youth sports coach for various sports since 1997. He also was a long-time representative on the Flathead Valley United Way including board member for nine years (president in 2006) and the long-range planning chair for seven years.

Dave and his wife, Carrie, who’s a 6th grade teacher, have two teenage children. He enjoys reading, hiking, golf and various other sports.

H.P. (Hap) Haselden, a native of Charleston, S.C., comes by his nickname honestly. Bringing to North Valley Hospital is his joy, charisma, sense of humor and leadership to step away from the table and get things done. He joined the hospital family through the volunteer program after “experiencing how warm and wonderful the NVH staff was to everyone.” Every summer, he waters the flowers in the healing gardens and is a winter-time “cookie man.” He also provides generous assistance for many other odd jobs throughout the hospital. All you have to do is ask and he’s here.

Hap is a retired president of Investors National Life Insurance Co. and is a past President of the East Columbia, SC Chamber of Commerce. Hap hopes to bring some laughter to the hospital board as well as utilize his life-long knowledge and resources in insurance to assist with hospital goals.

In 1998, he and his partner, Helen, moved to this area. They had vacationed here in 1996 and were taken by the beauty and the people. He and Helen enjoy traveling abroad and scuba diving, as well as spending time with his grown son and grandchildren.

Elizabeth Marchi brings a lifetime of experience in business and non-profit development as well as marketing to the NVH Hospital Board. Prevention of health issues is a passion of Elizabeth’s. She joined the board because she would like to learn more about the adjunct opportunities in health and wellness that would serve her thirst for learning as well as ability to find opportunity for the hospital.

“Federally, hospitals will self-correct into a more wellness/prevention status,” she said. “I would love to contribute in some way with my background to navigate how we can find ourselves in the future. This challenge is going to be figured out by a small high-touch facility, and it could be NVH.”

Elizabeth believes that North Valley Hospital’s patient-centered approach and engaging the natural environment as an adjacent part of the healing process are key distinctions of our hospital. The progressive technology wrapped in a blanket of a high-touch environment is a quality matched only by a small percentage of hospitals.

Having a long resume of community involvement and professional affiliations, Elizabeth brings a wealth of knowledge from many sectors of business. She currently is on the TechLink Advisory Board at MSU-Bozeman, Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs at the University of Montana School of Business, Governor’s Economic Advisory Council and Montana World Trade Center Advisory Council.
among many other appointments. She also is the Principle of Liz Marchi Consulting where she is the Fund Coordinator for the Frontier Angel Fund, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Flathead Beacon and Contract Coordinator for Innovate Montana.

Elizabeth and her husband, Jon, have five grown children. She likes to travel, garden, read and hike.

**David Graham**, retired golf pro, was prompted to join the North Valley Hospital Foundation Board because of his caring interest for our community and healthcare.

When he was 13-years-old, David discovered the game of golf in his birthplace of Australia. He became a professional golfer in 1962 and is now best known as a winner of two major championships, the 1979 PGA Championship and the 1981 U.S. Open. He has been involved in golf design business, with a number of golf courses to his credit, including Grayhawk in Scottsdale, AZ, the Raven in Phoenix, and Grandover in Greensboro, NC.

David acquired numerous victories over the years in his career and earned awards such as The Australian Sports Hall of Fame; Kingswood College Award, Melbourne, Australia; The Order of Australia by her majesty Queen Elizabeth; and the International President’s Cup.

He and his wife, Maureen, have two grown sons and five grandchildren. They now reside in Whitefish where he sets out every chance he gets to fly fish. David also enjoys reading, wine collecting and skeet shooting.

**About North Valley Hospital:**

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 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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