



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Telethon Supports Critical Services for Children and Families

Starts June 4 at 4:00 pm on CBS TV

The 23rd annual Shodair/Children's Miracle Network Celebration broadcast takes place Saturday, June 4 from 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The event is broadcast live from Shodair Children's Hospital in Helena on CBS TV stations around the state and is presented by the Hampton Inn Helena.

The telethon is part of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) annual celebration broadcast. All proceeds from the Shodair telethon stay in Montana to support vital health care services for children and families in Montana. Shodair is one of only 170 premier children's hospitals affiliated with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The non-profit hospital helps children of all races, ages, religions, and financial backgrounds, providing specialized psychiatric care and medical genetics services.

Viewers in Montana will hear inspiring stories of dedication and courage from families and children who triumphed over significant challenges to their health and well-being. One of those is ten year-old Sotara Barnaby of Pablo, a genetics patient at Shodair and Montana's Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion. Kacie West, Miss Montana 2010, will also be on hand for the live broadcast from Shodair, as well as many of the 2011 Miss Montana state finalists. Additionally, the broadcast has attracted a variety of television personalities over the years. It now includes six co-hosts from stations that are part of the Montana Television Network.

The telethon is an annual fundraising event for Children's Miracle Network hospitals across North America. The television special, featuring stories of hope, courage and triumph from America's top children's hospitals, is broadcast over a network of television stations in the United States and Canada. It is one of the largest television fund raisers in the world, annually benefiting millions of children.

This year the national telethon features CMNH co-founders, John Schneider and Marie Osmond as well as TV personalities Dr. Phil McGraw, Dr. Oz and the cast of America's medical dream team, the hit TV show, The Doctors. Also joining in the telethon are television personalities Deborah Norville and Mary Hart, and country music superstars Mark Wills and LeAnn Rimes.

Unlike most other national fundraisers, funds raised during Children's Miracle Network Hospitals events stay and support services in the states where they were raised.

Viewers are invited to tune in to their local CBS stations on Saturday, June 4 and call in their donations. In Helena, the phone number is 449-1201. Statewide, callers can phone toll-free at 1-800-798-9339. Donations may also be made on-line any time by visiting www.shodair.org. All pledge dollars stay in the state and help assure that critical health care services remain available to children in Montana.

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