



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Anastasia Burton, Director of Community Relations & Marketing – 406-444-7561

### **Annual Telethon Raises Over \$500,000 for Montana's Kids**

(HELENA)---The 23rd annual Shodair Children's Hospital /Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Telethon broadcast last weekend raised \$502,337 to support vital healthcare services for children and families in Montana.

The event was broadcast live from Shodair on CBS-TV affiliates across Montana starting at 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 4, running until 1:00 a.m. Shodair is one of only 170 premier children's hospitals affiliated with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. All proceeds from the telethon will stay in Montana, enabling Shodair to help children of all races, ages, religions, and financial backgrounds by providing specialized psychiatric care and medical genetics services.

For the third time in Shodair's telethon history, the total pledges during the telethon topped the half-million dollar mark. "We are grateful to everyone who supported us during this year's telethon," said Shodair Children's Hospital Administrator Jack Casey. "Every donation is important, particularly in these tough economic times. It's exactly this kind of generosity that helps us continue providing specialized health care services to children from communities all over the state. Without our telethon supporters, we couldn't provide these services."

"The viewers across the state are wonderful. They kept the phones ringing with their generous pledges and donations. Our friends from every corner of Montana make it possible for the hospital to offer critically needed pediatric and adolescent psychiatric care and cutting edge medical genetics services to children and families," said Glen Newhart, Shodair's Foundation Director and Program Director for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in Montana.

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. 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.

Last year, Shodair Children's Hospital provided more than \$3.4 million dollars in uncompensated care and services to Montana's families. Nearly 60% of Shodair's patients come from low-income families.

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