



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 27, 2010

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

Annual Telethon Supports Critical Services for Children and Families

The 22nd annual Shodair/Children's Miracle Network Celebration broadcast takes place Saturday, June 5 from 4:00 p.m. to midnight. The event is broadcast live from Shodair Children's Hospital in Helena on CBS affiliate stations around the state.

The telethon broadcast from Shodair is part of the international Children's Miracle Network celebration broadcast. All proceeds from the Shodair telethon stay in the state 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. 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 eleven year-old Abryanna Nelson of Glendive, a genetics patient at Shodair and Montana's representative in the national Champions Across America program. Brittany Wiser, Miss Montana 2009, will also be on hand for the live broadcast from Shodair, as well as many of the 2010 Miss Montana state finalists. Additionally, the broadcast has attracted a variety of television personalities over the years. It now includes five co-hosts from each of the CBS stations that are part of the Montana Television Network.

The Celebration telethon is an annual fundraising event for Children's Miracle Network hospitals across the nation and Canada. The international television special is broadcast over a nationwide network of television stations in the United States and Canada. This year, the national telethon features CMN co-founders John Schneider and Marie Osmond, as well as television personalities Dr. Phil McGraw, Dr. Oz, Deborah Norville, and Mary Hart. The event also features country music superstars Mark Wills and LeAnn Rimes, and is one of the largest television fund raisers in the world, annually benefiting 14 million children. Unlike most other national fundraisers, funds raised during Children's Miracle Network events stay and support services in the states where they were raised.

Viewers are invited to tune in to their local CBS stations and call in donations between 4:00 p.m. and midnight on June 5. In Helena, the phone number is 449-1305. Statewide, callers can phone 1-800-798-9339 toll-free. Donations may also be made on-line any time by visiting www.shodair.org. All donations stay here in the state and help assure that critical health care services remain available to children in Montana.

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