



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Gardens Taking Root at Madison Valley Medical Center

By- Christie S. Trapp

ENNIS, MT — February 21, 2011 — Madison Valley Medical Center Foundation Inc. (MVMCF) announces the upcoming planting of the Medical Center's new landscaping gardens - a serene area consisting of 20 individual gardens, surrounding the Medical Center campus, featuring a brick memorial and a variety of flowers along with grasses, shrubs and trees to be enjoyed year-round by patients, their families and friends, and hospital staff alike.

The landscaping of the individual gardens is a significant project. It was designed by Jonathan Losee to allow multi-dimensional interest. The gardens are accessible to all, including wheelchair users, ambulatory patients, with seating areas providing pockets of quiet and privacy for people to sit, relax, and enjoy harmonious sounds of nature (birds and breezes) and visible wildlife.

The planting scheme, when fully mature, will host a bold natural look. The native plants, which are mostly purple, pink, white and yellow with green foliage, are aimed at giving a calming effect, and complement the colors of the Madison mountain range.

There is growing evidence that the function of a nature landscape or gardens is especially effective with respect to fostering restoration for stressed patients, family members, and staff. The health benefits of gardens and similar therapeutic settings are designed to provide an escape from the often-bustling, sterile clinical environment, as well as the stress and anxiety that can result from illness.

"The Medical Center is committed to enhancing its green spaces for patients, visitors and staff alike, but they could not have raised money for a project like this without the support of the local community," said Christie Trapp, executive director of Madison Valley Medical Center Foundation, the non-profit organization that works to build philanthropic support for the Medical Center. "Quiet and solitude is a part of healing. The natural beauty of the gardens will provide a sanctuary for people to mend and get away from the complexities of health care."

The gardens will be completed in several stages, funded completely by donations to the project. Of the 20 individual gardens designed for the Madison Valley Medical Center's landscaping plan, there are still 15 gardens available for sponsorship. Individual garden sponsorships range from \$1000 to \$16,000. Community members are encouraged to contact the Foundation to donate toward the first planting which is scheduled to occur in May 2011 weather permitting.

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To give a tax-deductible donation to the gardens please contact the Madison Valley Medical Center Foundation (406) 682-6641 or view the Foundation's website at <http://www.mvmcf.org>.

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Photo Caption

"Medical Center's remaining garden plots available for sponsorship"

