

**News Release – April 16, 2010**

**RIO TINTO MINERALS SUPPORTS COMMUNITY HEALTH  
WITH DONATION TO MADISON VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER**

***\$10,000 unrestricted donation supports medical center's ability  
to provide local, quality health care***



*Executives from Rio Tinto Minerals/Luzenac present a check to the Madison Valley Medical Center Foundation.*

*Left to Right: Ron Hyatte of Rio Tinto, Ben Sholz of Rio Tinto, Dottie Fossel – Foundation Board Member and Hospital Board Chairman, Pat Downey of Rio Tinto, Rebecca Zabel Kahrl – Foundation Executive Director and Dave Hajny – Foundation President.*

**Ennis, Montana** – Highlighting its commitment to supporting local organizations that sustain the community, Rio Tinto Minerals' Montana Operations delivered a check today for \$10,000 to the Madison Valley Medical Center. This check represents an unrestricted donation that allows the medical center to allocate funding where it is needed most.

"Health and safety are our most important values and we are proud to support the Madison Valley Medical Center – an important regional resource – to help meet community health care needs," said Pat Downey, Montana Operations and Technical Director. "We have operated in the Madison Valley for more than 60 years and have a long track record of giving back to the communities where our employees work and live, and responding to what community members tell us is important – such as supporting emergency and health care services in smaller communities."

The Madison Valley Medical Center is a rural, critical access medical center, providing superior medical, technical and support staff and state of the art technology to the region. The Center was recently designated as a Trauma Receiving Facility, ensuring that the community has access to vital emergency medical services.

"This donation helps Madison Valley Medical Center achieve its goal of providing excellent local health care through a medical facility that is a model for rural medicine," said Tom Mitchell, CEO, Madison Valley Medical Center. "We recognize Rio Tinto Minerals for their commitment to improving the quality of life here in Ennis and the Madison Valley."

Rio Tinto Minerals employs 140 people at its three talc operations in Montana – Yellowstone Operations, the largest talc mine in the United States; and Three Forks and Sappington Operations, world class talc processing plants. Montana Operations demonstrates its commitment to the community by contributing nearly \$40 million to the local economy through good jobs, taxes and local spending; and making direct contributions to organizations that support education, health care, and environmental remediation in Montana.

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**About Rio Tinto Minerals**

Rio Tinto Minerals is a member of Rio Tinto, a leading international mining group. The organization supplies 20 percent of the global demand for talc from its operations in Montana, Vermont, Texas, Canada, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and Australia. These products

are marketed under the *Luzenac* brand and used in paper, paint, polymers, ceramics and personal care products. The organization also supplies 42 percent of the global demand for borates from its mines in California and Argentina. Rio Tinto Minerals is an industry leader in continuously improving how its products and practices contribute to sustainable development.

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