



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Jeanelle Slade  
Media Relations  
406-238-6226/406-855-1223

## **St. Vincent Healthcare: Grand Opening and Blessing Expanding Emergency and Walk-in Care Services**

*Billings, Montana, Tuesday, December 7, 2010* - Today St. Vincent Healthcare blessed and opened its newly expanded emergency department and walk-in clinic. Employees, physicians, community members, patients and donors gathered **at 11:00 a.m. in the newly expanded and renovated space at 2910 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue North** to take tours and celebrate.

The renovation and expansion will help with the increased community need for emergency and walk-in patient care throughout the region. St. Vincent has seen significant and steady patient growth in its emergency department over the last several years; this is a trend that is expected to continue as the nation's healthcare structure changes. The expansion will help maintain the high quality care St. Vincent patients and families have come to expect while reducing wait time and, most importantly improve the overall patient experience.

"The focus of this expansion and renovation was centered around the patient," said Dr. Jim Bentler, Medical Director of the St. Vincent Healthcare Emergency Department. "The design of the facility will ensure St. Vincent utilizes our resources most appropriately, help reduce cost and will provide the best care for our patients as soon as they come through our doors." To ensure patients are directed to appropriate care, the triage/reception area will remain centralized between the emergency department and walk-in clinic; patients are immediately directed to the appropriate level of care they need.

**Emergency department expansion:** The hospital increased the size of its emergency department from 14 to 23 patient rooms allowing for increased patient ease, access, privacy and care efficiency. Eleven board certified emergency physicians, with a combined total of more than 150 years' experience, serving patients at St. Vincent Healthcare. This expansion and renovation increases nurses and other staff's ability to improve the overall patient experience, resulting in decreased patient wait times and overall lengths of stay.

**Walk-in clinic expansion:** The new 7,200 square foot walk-in clinic includes 11 new patient rooms and is staffed by a separate team of dedicated providers. On-site MRI services are now located within the new renovated space as well as additional x-ray services. The St. Vincent Healthcare Walk-in Clinic originally opened in December 1997 and has been open seven days a week since. It is the community's only walk-in clinic open 7 a.m. – 11 p.m., 365 days a year.

This \$3.4 million expansion and renovation as well as \$3 million dollar MRI addition were funded in part by the St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation, St. Vincent employees and generous community donors. "This generous mission of support for St. Vincent Healthcare provides tools to further enhance the quality care that is delivered to the people of Billings and surrounding region," said Maryann Reese, Chief Operating Officer of St. Vincent Healthcare. ###

**About St. Vincent Healthcare:**

St. Vincent Healthcare is a comprehensive system of award-winning healthcare services located in Billings, Montana. St. Vincent is a regional destination hospital which serves a four-state area and more than 900,000 people each year. A comprehensive range of services include a Level II trauma center, cardiothoracic and vascular medicine, comprehensive cancer services, family-centered maternal and child health – a Level III B NICU & Pediatric Intensive Care Unit – neurosurgery, orthopedics and the region's most advanced diagnostic services. St. Vincent Healthcare is part of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System. St. Vincent Healthcare's quality, mission-driven, charitable healthcare has been in existence for more than 110 years. To learn more about St. Vincent Healthcare, visit [www.svh-mt.org](http://www.svh-mt.org).