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## PRESS RELEASE

### Blackfoot's Free Internet Class Scores High Marks

**October 13, 2009, Missoula, MT** - The Internet is everywhere these days and some young people seem born to use it. But for many of the older generation the World Wide Web is a World Wide Mystery. To demystify the Internet, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative (Blackfoot) has launched the Easy Access Internet Program, a program that starts with the basics of navigating the Internet and will evolve into more advanced subjects in spring 2010. Last Tuesday, Blackfoot rolled into downtown Thompson Falls and hosted their workshop event at the Internet Kitchen with much success.

"It was a solid well-run event. Everyone that I spoke with gave it high marks. Candy and I both think it was a great idea and program" commented Ron Reedy, owner of the Internet Kitchen. Workshop participant, Karin Hanson also added: "Even though I consider myself fairly adept at using these computer tools, I was surprised at how many helpful tips and useful information was provided in this basic course. The instructor presented the material in such a clear and easy to understand format that everyone in the class came away feeling more computer savvy."

The FREE 2-Hour Internet Training Class was created and funded by Blackfoot and designed by computer training expert, Denise Todd-Loran owner of Watercolor Computer Training ([www.watercolorct.com](http://www.watercolorct.com)) in Missoula. While the workshop was created with senior citizens in mind, all ages are welcome to attend. Loran will be leading the workshops in the following communities in October: Superior Senior Center in Superior (10-14), Arlee Senior Center (10-15), Double Arrow Lodge in Seeley Lake (10-20), Taylor Knapp Building in Philipsburg (10-22), , Clinton Elementary School (10-26), and Elliston Elementary School (TBD).

"I've spent a considerable amount of time in our Cooperative communities and it was clear that many of our seniors are concerned about being left behind when it comes to technology. With their families living out of town or out of state, seniors desire the ability to receive day to day updates from friends and family through the efficiency of email and web communications, as well as photo sharing, web browsing and Internet security. Being a Cooperative and Internet provider, it just makes sense to bring computer and Internet training to our member-owners," said Kate Olney, community liaison at Blackfoot.

Hanson also added, "you will learn what all those "Buttons" on your toolbar are for!" To find answers to this and many more questions, Blackfoot will be bringing the Easy Access program back to St. Ignatius, Plains, Thompson Falls, Superior, Arlee, Seeley Lake, Philipsburg, Clinton and Elliston in the spring of 2010. If you are interested in attending next year's workshop, contact Kate Olney at 541-5020 or [easyaccess@blackfoot.com](mailto:easyaccess@blackfoot.com).

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**About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group:** Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and 22 other communities in western Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 150 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

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