To the applause of an over-flow crowd, dignitaries shoveled the first dirt on August 9th for a ceremonial ground-breaking for the RiverStone Health Clinic. Construction begins in September on the Ballard Center, which will house the new Clinic. Distinguished speakers, including Gov. Steve Bullock, commended donors for bringing the Building a Healthy Community campaign to this point and for recognizing the importance of the Clinic to the health of our community.

During the ceremony, a retired school teacher who is a Clinic patient and serves on the Clinic’s board, offered heartfelt remarks about Clinic doctors who caught two health conditions in time to prevent more serious complications.

Campaign Chair Rob Hunter talked about the need to provide “holistic care in a modern patient-centered facility” and thanked the 275 donors so far who have been inspired by the project and its benefit to the community. Key features of the new Clinic are highlighted in the color diagram on the flip side of this letter.

Lead philanthropists Dr. Bill and Merilyn Ballard were praised for their transformational $1 million gift, although Bill quickly pointed out that he is “constantly amazed at the generosity of the people in Billings.”

The campaign, which has raised $8 million toward its $11 million goal, continues to make progress as individual donors join with corporations and public funding in support of our efforts. The Treacy Foundation of Helena has made a generous pledge of $150,000. Applications to the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and The Leona M. & Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust are in development.

As construction begins on the Ballard Center, please realize that the progress is due to your support. Your generosity and investment in our community will impact thousands of lives.
Commemorative Naming Opportunities begin at $25,000. Contact Kristie Asay to discuss availability.