

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portneuf Medical Center Holds 28th Annual Teddy Bear Clinic

Pocatello, ID (April 24, 2009) Children see hospitals as a little scary sometimes, so why not bring a favorite stuffed buddy to see it can be fun! Portneuf Medical Center invites children ages 2-12 and their families to come and learn, have fun, and enjoy one another at the 28th Annual Teddy Bear Clinic. **The clinic will be held Saturday, May 2nd from 10am to 2pm in the skywalk area of the West Campus (651 Memorial Drive).**

The Teddy Bear Clinic is designed to relieve some of the anxieties that children often feel about going to a doctor's office or the hospital. It is a great way to learn more about the hospital and meet the staff. **Children are encouraged to bring a teddy bear or other stuffed toy for a check-up. The check-up includes mending and repair (stitches), casting (it's real!), weights and measurements, physical therapy, x-rays and if necessary, even surgery!**

Children will receive a free goodie bag containing a coloring book, crayons and stickers. They can also sign up to win fun prizes like bike helmets or family passes to local recreational hot spots. A healthy snack will also be provided.

The Teddy Bear Clinic is an enjoyable experience for all involved with over 600 children in attendance last year. It takes some 80 staff members and volunteers to make this happen. **"This is a great annual event that gives us the opportunity to let the children know that we really care for them,"** says organizer Diane Atherton-Pacheco, Director of Children's Services at Portneuf Medical Center. **"Additionally, this is our way of helping kids understand that the hospital is a good place and that the people that work here care about them and will help them get better if they ever need to come see us."** For more information on the Teddy Bear Clinic, please call Diane Atherton-Pacheco at 239-1208, or to cover the event, call Brad Huerta at 251-2768