



Montana Contractors' Association Members Raise Nearly \$250,000 for Montana Meth Project

Martel Construction Challenge Spurs Widespread Industry Support for the Project

HELENA, Mont. —December 18, 2007—The Montana Contractors' Association today announced a major contribution to the Montana Meth Project. The gift, totaling nearly \$125,000, is the first committed by a Montana business association to the Montana Meth Project. The contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Siebel Foundation, resulting in a total gift of \$250,000. The funds will be used to support the Montana Meth Project's innovative public education campaign to reduce first-time Meth use in the state.

“We thank the Montana Contractors' Association for their generosity and for uniting to help us address Montana's methamphetamine problem,” said Mike Gullede, chairman of the Montana Meth Project. “The leadership and commitment of organizations like this will make it possible for the Montana Meth Project to continue its fight against this dangerous drug.”

Association member Martel Construction with offices in Bozeman and Bigfork spearheaded the fundraising effort by challenging its industry colleagues to show support for the Montana Meth Project. Within 10 days, members responded with a total of \$74,200 in pledges, which was matched by \$50,000 from Martel.

“Our members recognize and appreciate the positive impact that the Montana Meth Project has had on our communities,” said Cary Hegreberg, executive director of the Montana Contractors' Association. “It has been rewarding to see contractors across the state support this critical effort, and we challenge other industry groups to join us in supporting the Project.”

Some of the construction companies that stepped forward to contribute to the Montana Meth fundraising drive include Barnard Construction, Dick Anderson Construction and Swank Enterprises which each gave \$10,000. Additional sizable donations were made by Oftedal Construction and Kenyon Noble.

“Contractors, like many Montana employers, have seen firsthand how Meth use can wreak havoc in the workplace and destroy the lives of its employees,” added Hegreberg. “Almost everyone in Montana knows someone affected by Meth use, but thankfully, the Montana Meth Project has taken on the problem and is having a dramatic impact.”

Formed in 1937, the Montana Contractors' Association represents commercial and industrial construction companies around the state. The association has grown to include about 400 members. More information about the Montana Contractors' Association can be found at www.mtagc.org.

Launched in September 2005, the Montana Meth Project has been credited with reducing teen Meth use in the state by 45%, and there has been a 73% decline in employees testing positive for Meth. The Montana Meth Project, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Missoula, Montana, implements a range of advertising and community action programs to reduce methamphetamine use in the state. Combining extensive research with a hard-hitting, integrated media campaign, it has been repeatedly cited as an effective response to a devastating social problem.

Persons or organizations wishing to make a donation to the Montana Meth Project can find more information at www.montanameth.org.

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