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**PRESS RELEASE - FOR RELEASE 6/1/2022**

**Greater Valley Health Center Celebrates its 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, Takes Ownership of Sykes Pharmacy**

Kalispell, MT– Greater Valley Health Center celebrates its first anniversary as an independent organization with the acquisition of Sykes Pharmacy effective June 1, 2022. The transition will include the main pharmacy in Kalispell and the satellite location in Columbia Falls, MT.

All pharmacy employees were invited to continue their employment under Greater Valley Health Center and were offered a full benefit package of health, dental, vision, retirement match and paid major holidays which are new benefits for those employees.

“We are very excited to welcome the Sykes Pharmacy staff to our team and add pharmacy services to our scope of services within the Greater Valley Health Center organization,” stated Mary Sterhan, CEO of Greater Valley Health Center. “Sykes Pharmacy has a great reputation for customer service which we value and commit to preserving. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, patients will also benefit by the 340B Program for discounted prescriptions which can help make needed medications more affordable for patients.”

Sykes was established in 1905 to offer food and groceries at 202 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. West in Kalispell, MT. In 1981, a retail pharmacy was added at that location by the owners at the time, Doug and Judy Wise. In 2003, Tobey and Cynthia Schule acquired the retail pharmacy and later established a second location in the Cedar Palace Medical Complex at 500 12<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Suite 1A in Columbia Falls, MT in 2021.

“We are proud of what we have accomplished over the years,” stated Tobey Schule, pharmacist and former owner of Sykes Pharmacy. “We are grateful that the transition of Sykes Pharmacy to Greater Valley Health Center will continue the tradition of a locally owned pharmacy where the focus is on compassion and patient-centered care. It gives us comfort that patients and the staff will be taken care of in the future.”

Greater Valley Health Center, formerly known as Flathead Community Health Center, split from the Flathead City-County Health Department on June 1, 2021, becoming an independent not-for-profit health provider serving over 7,000 patients a year. Since separating from the Flathead City-County Health Department, Greater Valley Health Center hired additional medical, dental and behavioral health providers and with the addition of the Sykes staff, the Health Center now employs over 80 personnel.

Since the transition, the organization added services at four new locations: 1) medical and behavioral health at Linderman Education Center in Kalispell; 2) medical and behavioral health at East Evergreen Elementary; 3) behavioral health at Kalispell Middle School; and 4) behavioral health at Elrod Elementary in Kalispell. The Health Center also continues to participate in the University of Montana’s Family Medicine Residency whereby six Residents are currently providing primary medical services to patients at the Health Center. The Family Medicine Residency prepares Residents to practice rural family medicine, with a goal of having them stay in Montana to continue providing family medicine services to the area.

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*Greater Valley Health Center is an independent, not for profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and Patient Medical Home with locations in Kalispell, Evergreen and Hungry Horse, MT. Established in 2007 as the Flathead Community Health Center, the FQHC transitioned to Greater Valley Health Center on June 1, 2021 when it separated from the Flathead City-County Health Department. Greater Valley Health Center provides primary medical care, dental, behavioral health, addiction services and more. [www.greatervalleyhealth.org](http://www.greatervalleyhealth.org)*

*Sykes Pharmacies are located in the Sykes Diner and Market at 202 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West in Kalispell, and in the Cedar Palace at 500 12<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Suite 1A in Columbia Falls. [www.greatervalleyhealth.org/Sykes.org](http://www.greatervalleyhealth.org/Sykes.org)*