NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK STATE OF MONTANA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mike Wessler, 444-9725

First Lady and First Interstate Bank Kick-off One Warm Coat drive in Montana Campaign Encourages Montanans to Help Keep Neighbors Warm this Winter

HELENA—First Lady Lisa Bullock today joined First Interstate Bank and One Warm Coat to kick-off a two-week coat drive across Montana.

"Montanans are always quick to offer a helping hand to a friend or neighbor in need," said First Lady Lisa Bullock. "I hope Montanans will join me in donating a coat to help all Montanans stay warm this winter."

Montanans are invited to donate clean, gently used coats at drop-off locations across the state. Collection boxes will be set up in the Capitol Rotunda and at First Interstate Bank branches across the state. For more information on collection box locations, visit the website: serve.mt.gov. The coat drive will run through November 1st and donated coats will be given to local organizations for distribution such as the Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul, and Montana Rescue Mission. Since 2009, over 8,533 gently used or new coats have been donated across the state.

"No one should have to go without such a basic necessity as a winter coat," said Kelly Bruggeman, First Interstate Foundation Executive Director. "This is a great opportunity for First Interstate Bank and all Montanans to demonstrate their generosity of spirit by passing along coats that are no longer needed.

One Warm Coat (<u>www.onewarmcoat.org</u>) is a national non-profit organization that supports and encourages coat drives. It helps individuals, groups, companies and organizations across the country collect coats and deliver them to local agencies that distribute the coats free to people in need.

First Interstate Bank (www.firstinterstatebank.com) is a community banking organization, operating 71 offices throughout Montana, Wyoming, and western South Dakota.

The Governor's Office of Community Service (<u>serve.mt.gov</u>) expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service and emergency preparedness.