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Vantage® to Offer Telecom Services

Franklin, PA - Vantage Healthcare Network, Inc®, with offices at 1283 Liberty Street, down town Franklin, Pennsylvania, has created a local Franklin/Oil City regional limited partnership, “Vantage® HGT of Venango, Ltd.” The partnership has been filed with the Commonwealth to bring telecom services to the region, providing high speed connectivity and technology. Businesses are the target customers as opposed to residential use. Vantage® plans to use an aggregation of its customers and technology currently in operation in areas outside of the Franklin area. Group buying power will enable the partnership to acquire access to higher speed services.

Higher speed to businesses means more accuracy and less expensive connections for internet and other uses of telecommunication technology. “We hope it means less expensive access and a way that we can help the community keep and attract its economic base”, so says Jerry Alonge, CEO of Vantage®. Vantage® is a diverse company working with hospitals and the medical community since 1985. High speed connectivity is essential to communicate medical information and imaging among healthcare professionals. That is what brought Vantage® to develop its telephone services through its subsidiary, Health Group Telecommunications (HGT), which began operations in 1997 with offices in Erie, Pennsylvania.

With HGT of Venango, local business will be given an opportunity to have an investment in the local company. In this way, what began as a medical community service, can now be a foundation to offer the local business community. “We thought the medical community was unique in its need for critical information, due to our patient care mission. What we found was, the business community is just as critical and this is another way we can create jobs and keep jobs in the region”, Alonge added.

The Franklin office is being converted to house the hardware and software needed to support the telecom services that HGT of Venango will provide. As an added service, the same telecom upgrade will allow Vantage® to implement an answering service for businesses as well as additional support for Vantage®. The Franklin office on Liberty Street currently houses a Sleep Lab service, providing tests for sleep and breathing disorders upon a physician’s referral and a sales center for Vantage® in the adjoining ‘Venango Exchange’ bank building. Current part time hours of staff based out of the Liberty Street Franklin office will be rescheduled in March. This will enable the conversion of operations from “sales center” to telecom support to be made. No full time staff will be reduced. For information on the HGT of Venango partnership investment, please contact Jerry Alonge, 814 337 0000, ext. 2101.

Vantage® is a for profit company that began in 1984, with five non-profit community hospitals in Northwest Pennsylvania, UPMC-Northwest being one of the original organizers under its former entity the Oil City Hospital. Vantage® today is owned by 12 hospitals and has offices in Erie, Meadville and Franklin. Vantage® has a diverse group of services ranging from; home medical equipment, respiratory therapy, wound care, infusion therapy care to patients, as well as a plant that processes healthcare linen. Vantage® provides services to hospitals such as; mobile CT and MRI units and telephone services through its aggregation of customers. There are over 300 employees in the three Vantage® locations. For more information on Vantage® or Vantage® services, please contact Ms. Katrina Leftheris, Director of Public and Media Relations at 814 337 0000, ext. 2300, or visit the Vantage® web site at www.vhcn.com.

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