



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Microsoft Recognizes St. Luke's as a National Leader in Hospital Technology

Boise, Idaho (February 9, 2006) – St. Luke's Regional Medical Center's efforts to continually use advances in technology to provide the best possible care to patients have been honored by the Microsoft Corporation and the Microsoft Healthcare Users Group (MS-HUG). St. Luke's was named by Microsoft as the top hospital in the country for use of technology in the healthcare industry.

The annual MS-HUG awards recognize significant contributions made by organizations and individuals to improve the quality of patient care. An independent panel of judges, including leaders in the healthcare industry and domain experts, selected the winners, which will be recognized at the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) annual conference on February 14, 2006 in San Diego, California.

St. Luke's was recognized for the community-based health information network they created in cooperation with Siemens Medical Solutions, which allows for the efficient and secure web-based sharing of information between physicians, patients and other members of the healthcare team. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the process and safety of healthcare delivery by providing the right information to the right people at the right time. Through the Community Access network, patient information and records can be maintained and shared across the secure network allowing for efficient clinical decision making from a broad scope of clinical information as patients move from one point of care to the next. In the future, the system will also allow for patients, who have access to the network, to request referrals and prescription refills, and communicate with their physicians electronically, saving time and removing administrative barriers.

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“St. Luke’s continues to make technological advances in the healthcare arena,” said Steve Shihadeh, General Manager, Microsoft Healthcare and Life Sciences. “Through the Community Access network, they have proved their dedication to improving healthcare processes and connecting physicians for improved patient care.”

“Our vision for this project is to provide physicians and patients convenient and secure access to health information when and where they need it, in order to improve their ability to make good medical and treatment decisions,” said Chuck Pomeroy, Chief Information Officer for St. Luke’s. “Receiving this recognition from Microsoft and MS-HUG is an honor, and we appreciate Microsoft and MS-HUG for recognizing our efforts to use technology to continually advance our ability to provide the best possible care to our patients.”

St. Luke’s is Idaho’s largest healthcare provider, with three full-service hospitals in Boise, Meridian and Ketchum, Idaho; 25 outpatient facilities; 600 physicians and more than 4,200 employees. In addition, St. Luke’s has partner relationships with nine rural hospitals and management agreements with four. The professionals at St. Luke’s care for more than 325,000 patients each year.

St. Luke’s has utilized the Community Access technology with great success. As of December 2005, St. Luke’s has rolled out the web-based physician portal to more than 1,300 users – including more than 350 physicians representing more than 100 practices and 640 hospital-based users.

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