



NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ken Dey  
(208) 381-2894 (office)  
(208) 631-5322 (cell)  
[Deyke@slrhc.org](mailto:Deyke@slrhc.org)

## St. Luke's Boise, Meridian Hospitals Named Consumer Top Choice

*-Award marks eighth consecutive year of being recognized for patient care-*

**Boise** – St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers garnered top honors in the National Research Corporation's (NRC) 2008/09 Consumer Choice Awards.

Consumers, surveyed by the NRC for the annual award, recognized St. Luke's for: Best overall quality, best image and reputation, and best doctors and nurses. The award winners were announced Sept. 29.

"Receiving this recognition is an important accomplishment," said Gary Fletcher, president and CEO of St. Luke's Boise/Meridian. "But the honor wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our physicians, nurses and other health care professionals who work hard every day to make sure that those who seek out St. Luke's receive care and service that goes well beyond their expectations."

This is the eighth year in a row that St. Luke's has earned the top ranking. Each year, winners are determined by the NRC's Healthcare Market Guide Ticker study, which annually surveys 200,000 households representing 400,000 consumers in the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia.

"Consumers continue to be empowered to make decisions for themselves and their families when selecting their healthcare facilities and services," said Ginny Martin, president of NRC's Healthcare Market Guide Division. "As care options multiply and consumer perception of quality grows in importance, dedication to providing a high level of quality healthcare becomes essential for hospitals."

The survey gauges consumer perceptions at 3,200 hospitals in more than 250 markets throughout the United States. Results of this year's study are being published in the latest edition of *Modern Healthcare* magazine.

**-more-**

Based in Lincoln, Neb., the NRC has more than two decades of experience in healthcare performance measurements. The Healthcare Market Guide Ticker is the nation's largest and most comprehensive study of its kind.

St. Luke's Boise and St. Luke's Meridian hospitals are the largest health care providers in Idaho, providing patients unmatched care in specialized medical fields including cancer, heart and vascular, obstetrics, women's services and children's health care. With nearly 5,500 employees, St. Luke's is the second largest employer in the Treasure Valley, serving patients throughout southwest and central Idaho and eastern Oregon.

**-end-**

*On the Web:*

National Research Corporation: [www.nationalresearch.com](http://www.nationalresearch.com)

St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Centers: [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org)