



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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### **ST. LUKE'S SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO-YEAR PROJECT TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE**

**Boise, ID (June 29, 2007)** – St. Luke's has been selected as one of 68 hospitals in the nation to participate in a two-year project that focuses on improving care that patients receive from nurses at the bedside. As part of Magnet designation, which is the gold standard for nursing excellence, nurses at St. Luke's are continually exploring how best to meet both the patient's needs and their family's needs. As part of this performance improvement initiative, nurses will increase skills in developing and implementing innovative solutions to patient care needs. This will not only result in better care for patients, but will also provide a continuum of superior quality of care throughout St. Luke's.

In January, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) awarded nearly \$1 million to the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) to work with a select number of hospitals nationwide on sharing lessons learned from *Transforming Care at the Bedside* (TCAB), a project originally launched in 2003 by RWJF and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI).

“This is an opportunity to build upon our excellent nursing care by engaging nurses in identifying and implementing interventions we know can improve and impact the care they provide our patients,” said Joanne Clavelle, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian's Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer. “St. Luke's commitment is to provide superior patient care and through this program, we will be given additional support, education, and resources so that we can continue to fulfill this commitment and to exceed our patient's expectations.”

TCAB is a national program designed to improve the quality and safety of patient care on medical and surgical units, to increase the vitality and retention of nurses and to improve the effectiveness of the entire care team. Participating hospitals will be taught the basic principles of the TCAB innovation process with a focus on nurse managers and team training. The program engages nurses to develop interventions and design new processes that improve care for patients and lead to better staff morale.

(MORE)

Founded in 1902, St. Luke's Boise Regional Medical Center is a 369-bed community hospital. St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center is a 104-bed community hospital that began providing a full range of hospital services in 2001. St. Luke's Boise and St. Luke's Meridian are both designated as a Magnet hospital, the gold standard for nursing excellence. St. Luke's was the first hospital in Idaho to receive Magnet designation, the 39th hospital in the country, and the 19th to be re-designated.

St. Luke's Health System is Idaho's only locally owned, not-for-profit health system. The system offers a full continuum of care through its four hospitals and more than 30 outpatient centers and clinics. St. Luke's Health System's 6,400 employees, 867-member medical staff, and more than 850 volunteers are committed to delivering the highest quality care to those in medical need regardless of their ability to pay. With a mission "To improve the health of people in our region," St. Luke's Health System provided \$138 million (including capital) in community benefit during its 2006 fiscal year. The hospitals of St. Luke's Health System have earned numerous national awards and recognition for excellence in patient care. For more information about St. Luke's Health System, visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).

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