



## **NEWS**

**Oct. 28, 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

**Media contact: Kerry O'Connor (816) 932-8646, pager (816) 440-0001**

**Saint Luke's receives Institute for Health and Productivity Management award**

*Innovative wellness programs and tools earn recognition*

*KANSAS CITY, Mo.* — Saint Luke's Health System has received a leadership award for Value-Based Health Benefits from the Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) for its innovative Value-Based Health Benefits initiatives. Initiatives include Saint Luke's Health System's preferred premium and co-pay health plan design, free preventive care, addition of biometrics, collaborative diabetes and cardiovascular disease management programs, free health coaching, free health risk assessments for employees and their spouses, and its online and on-site health enhancement programs.

IHPM presented the award to Saint Luke's Health System through its Value-Based Health (VBH) Initiative; the mission of VBH is to define and promote value, instead of cost, as the basis for health management and benefit plan design.

“Saint Luke's Health System joins the distinguished ranks of last year's winners – Intel, Procter & Gamble, Marriott, Cerner– as a leader at the expanding value-based movement that is transforming health benefits and programs from costs into investments in their human capital,” said Sean Sullivan, president of IHPM.

IHPM is a global non-profit enterprise dedicated to establishing the full value of employee health and maximizing its impact on business performance. Saint Luke's Health System received the award at IHPM's Eighth Annual International Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. Now in its second year, the Value-Based Health Benefits awards acknowledge and reward employers that have moved beyond the conceptual phase and demonstrated leadership and innovation through the implementation of value-based health strategies, including value-based health benefit design, for their employees.

Saint Luke's initiated wellness programs in 1982 and in recent years has reconstituted its Health

and Productivity Management Team and utilized technology tools to better understand and predict health risk.

“Our holistic approach to the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of our employees mirrors the mission of our health system,” said Dawn Murphy, vice president of Human Resources, Saint Luke’s Health System. “As a large employer, we understand and appreciate the link between the health and productivity of our employees and our ability to accomplish our strategic plan, so rather than focus on cost we emphasize the value proposition in our benefit plan design — we are investing in our employees as they truly represent our competitive advantage. We are honored to be recognized by IHPM for this innovative approach.”

### **About IHPM**

The Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) is a global enterprise created in 1997 to establish the full value of employee health and maximize its impact on business performance. It does this by helping employers to identify the total cost impact of employee illness on business performance; choose the best opportunities to reduce this cost impact and improve performance; and measure the success of their efforts. [www.ihpm.org](http://www.ihpm.org)

*Saint Luke's Health System consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

###