



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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St. Luke's Purchases Property in Western Treasure Valley

Boise, ID—(October 11, 2006) Officials from St. Luke's Boise Regional Medical Center announced today the purchase of a parcel of land in western Treasure Valley. The purchase was approved by the hospital's Board of Directors and completed on October 10, 2006. There are no immediate plans to develop the parcel of land located at Highway 20/26 and I-84.

St. Luke's service region has experienced exponential population growth in the last 15 years, and current projections estimate the population in the Treasure Valley alone will increase at 25% over the next 15 years. It is expected that by the year 2020, there will be 710,000 people residing in Ada and Canyon counties, and as many as 1.5 million in the six county area (Ada, Canyon, Elmore, Boise, Gem, and Owyhee) by 2030.

"Hospitals provide a critical community service," said Gary Fletcher, CEO of St. Luke's Boise Regional Medical Center. "Just like schools, fire departments, and public utilities, it is our responsibility to anticipate growth and demographic changes in the communities we serve, and plan for future service needs and facilities our region will require. The purchase of this property simply allows us to be prepared to meet that future need if and when it develops."

West Treasure Valley is a specific area hospital leaders are watching carefully. Over the past two fiscal years nearly 70,000 outpatient visits (10% of the total) and 13,500 inpatient admissions (22% of the total) to St. Luke's Boise and Meridian hospitals have come from Western Ada and Canyon counties. Even now, St. Luke's is feeling the pressures of this growth through exceptionally high census at both its Boise and Meridian hospitals. "We are caring for an increasing number of patients from the western Treasure Valley and we expect that growth to continue," added Fletcher. "It's important that we work with community leaders to stay ahead of emerging needs and have the ability to provide services when and where they are needed."

The next step for hospital officials, although a specific timeline has not been identified, will be to conduct a strategic planning process that will determine if, how, and when they will move forward with developing the site. City and community leaders will be a part of this process. Officials from Mercy Medical Center, Holy Rosary Medical Center, and West Valley Medical Center are aware of the property purchase and St. Luke's will continue to work with them, as appropriate, throughout the strategic planning process.

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