

## **Employers Group Names St. Mary Medical Center “Best Workplace”**

(LOS ANGELES, Calif., July 26, 2006) — At its 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Luncheon, held July 19 as part of its day-long *California’s People & Productivity Symposium* in Irvine, Employers Group President and Chief Executive Officer William Dahlman presented the company’s first annual “Best Workplace Award” to St. Mary Medical Center of Apple Valley.

When making the award, Dahlman, whose Employers Group is based in Los Angeles, observed that St. Mary Medical Center also had received the Gallup 2006 Human Resources Award for Cultural Change and was named one of America’s Top 100 Performance Improvement Hospitals in 2005 by Solucient, the nation’s leading healthcare benchmarking organization.

Employers Group Vice President of Member Services Karen Anderson pointed out, “St. Mary Medical Center provides replacement pay to its associates who serve in our armed forces, so that they do not suffer a loss of income during their service to our country. They also encourage volunteerism during work hours and offer paid leave for education.

“Fifty percent of their performance reviews are based upon what associates actually do,” Anderson continued, “while the other fifty percent is values driven—how do they go about their performance. These are all excellent examples of good employment practices.”

In accepting the award, St. Mary Medical Center President and CEO Jason Barker explained, “We are a ministry of Catholic Healthcare, aligned with the teachings of the church. We look at our workers as whole people, with families, needs and personal goals. At St. Mary Medical Center, we help our associates to become the best that they can be for the benefit of our community.”

Luncheon keynote speaker Victoria Bradshaw, California’s Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development and a member of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Cabinet, pointed out the significance of St. Mary Medical Center’s accomplishments. “In 2003 California had 14,000 too few registered nurses. Every year we are going to need 10,000 additional RNs, due to our aging and expanding population base, yet only 6,000 graduate every year. It is further tribute to the St. Mary Medical Center that its workplace is so attractive that it thrives in this challenging healthcare environment.”

Others nominated for the Top Workplace Award include: CA Custom Fruits and Flavors, Inc.; BORM Associates, Inc.; Griswold Controls; Momentum Textiles, Inc.; Shepard Bros, Inc.; Hobby Products International; American Association of Critical Care Nurses; North American Medical Management; Lockheed Federal Credit Union; Sole Technology, Inc.; Western Federal Credit Union, and Virco Mfg. Corporation.

Also recognized at the awards luncheon were the following: Los Angeles Times and Chevron for being Charter Members when Employers Group was founded as the Merchants and Manufacturers Association in 1896; The Coca Cola Company (LA), Varco and Whittier Trust for Longest Continuous Membership at 83 years; and the City of Anaheim, established in 1857, for the Member in Business the Longest.

### **About Employers Group**

Employers Group is one of the nation's oldest and largest human resources management associations, representing approximately 3,500 employers in California. It was the result of the 1993 merger of the Merchants & Manufacturers Association, founded in 1896, and the Federated Group of San Francisco, which was founded in 1921. Employers Group fulfills the full spectrum of its members' human resources management needs, including advice, compensation surveys, ongoing education, hiring, legal compliance and more. Its mission is to maintain California as a fertile field for new business, new ideas and new employment. For more information, please visit our Website at [www.employersgroup.com](http://www.employersgroup.com) or contact Wendy Taylor at 213-765-3979.

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