

St. Mary Medical Center

A Ministry of the
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

ST. JOSEPH
HEALTH SYSTEM

and the **Brothers of St. John of God**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary Medical Center Receives National Awards **St. Mary Brings Home Four Service Awards for 2008**

Apple Valley, CA – June 24, 2009 – Avatar International, an industry leader in healthcare quality improvement services today recognized St. Mary Medical Center as one of its award winning hospital partners in 2008. St. Mary has been awarded Avatar International's Five Star Service, Five Star Loyalty & Endorsement, Exemplary Service Most Improved and Most Improved Loyalty & Endorsement awards.

In making the announcement, David Medvedeff, PharmD, MBA, CEO of Avatar said, "Staying true to their mission and keeping patient care at the center of everything they do, St. Mary listened to their patients and consistently delivered a high quality patient experience. The Medical Center's efforts have certainly been acknowledged by their patients and we at Avatar applaud their accomplishment."

"We at St. Mary are proud of this recent recognition. All staff, physicians and volunteers work hard to ensure patient care is the highest quality at St. Mary," said Randy Bevilacqua, Vice President of Communication. "Our desire is for every encounter within the Medical Center to be sacred."

ABOUT AVATAR

Avatar, www.avatar-intl.com, a research and consulting company based in Orlando, Fla, specializes in Evidence Based Intelligent Surveys™ and Innovative Strategies™ to transform information into significant quality and efficiency of care improvement for the healthcare industry. In addition to conducting surveys, Avatar also actively engages healthcare providers in process improvement, including training in service quality.

Avatar International can be reached at 1-800-282-8274.

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Established in 1956, St. Mary Medical Center is a 186-bed acute care facility celebrating more than 50 years of healing in the High Desert. St. Mary is home to the High Desert's only comprehensive cardiovascular surgery program. The Medical Center is fully accredited by The Joint Commission.