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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carondelet St. Mary's Awarded *Gold Seal* as Certified Primary Stroke Center
Second Carondelet Hospital to Receive Prestigious Certification from Joint Commission

TUCSON, Ariz. -- (July 8, 2010) -- Carondelet St. Mary's Hospital has earned the *Gold Seal of Approval* from The Joint Commission as a Certified Primary Stroke Center. This means the team at St. Mary's has demonstrated strict adherence to national standards and guidelines in caring for stroke patients.

St. Mary's Hospital is now one of two Carondelet Health Network hospitals in Tucson to earn this certification. Carondelet Neurological Institute, on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital, earned its certification as a Primary Stroke Center last July.

"We're extremely proud The Joint Commission has chosen to recognize Carondelet St. Mary's for the hospital's tremendous commitment to quality care for stroke patients," said Winnie Fritz, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Carondelet St. Mary's Hospital. "Obtaining a Joint Commission Gold Seal means so much to the team of clinicians who work in our emergency center and throughout the hospital diagnosing, treating and rehabilitating patients who have suffered strokes."

The Joint Commission's Certificate of Distinction for Primary Stroke Centers recognizes hospitals which demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Achievement of certification signifies that the service a hospital provides includes critical elements to achieve long-term success by improving outcomes. **It is the best signal to our community that the care available meets the unique and specialized needs of stroke patients.**

"Carondelet Health Network's commitment to providing the finest neurological care in Southern Arizona began with the creation of Carondelet Neurological Institute on the campus of St. Joseph's Hospital, one of this country's premiere centers for the care of neurological illnesses and injuries," noted Andy Cosentino, Carondelet Executive for Neurosciences. "The commitment continues today with Carondelet St. Mary's certification as our Network's second Primary Stroke Center. Residents across Tucson and Southern Arizona can rest assured, that no matter where they live, a Carondelet hospital is well-equipped to care for their needs."

To learn more about Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center certification, click [here](#).

To learn more about exceptional neurological care available throughout Carondelet Health Network, go to www.carondelet.org/stroke.

Carondelet Health Network, located in Tucson, Arizona, is a Catholic, non-profit health care system dedicated to responding to the health care needs of Southern Arizonans. With a Mission to Heal, Carondelet was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet 130 years ago. Carondelet Health Network entities include Carondelet St. Mary's Hospital, Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital, Carondelet Neurological Institute, and Tucson Heart Hospital in Tucson, and Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital in Nogales, Arizona. Other Carondelet services include twenty

primary care and specialty locations, an ambulatory surgery center and outpatient services. Carondelet Health Network is a ministry of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic, non-profit health care system. In FY 2009, Carondelet provided \$43,993,042 or 8.1 percent net revenue in Community Benefit to improve the health of our community and increase access to health care. More information about Carondelet Health Network, Carondelet Medical Group and Carondelet Neurological Institute is available at www.carondelet.org.