

News-Review

June 6, 2002

Roseburg, OR
(Douglas Co.)
News-Review
(Cir. D. 20,637)

JUN 6 2002

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

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Mercy named 'family friendly' workplace

**Annual awards: Mercy
Healthcare recognized for its
youth, family benefits programs**

The News-Review

Mercy HealthCare of Roseburg was honored for creating a family-friendly workplace during the fifth annual Families in Good Company Awards in Portland Tuesday night.

The awards, presented by Children First for Oregon, a nonprofit children and fami-

lies' advocacy group, recognized companies in six categories.

Mercy Healthcare, which operates Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg, won in the largest-size employer category. It was the only southern Oregon company out of the six winners.

Mercy was honored for diverse financial and leave benefits for its employees. The nonprofit, which employs 1,400 statewide, surveyed its workers and designed a system where Mercy subsidizes employee child-care costs at two off-site child-care centers. The company also has a well-

ness/health program and a work-family manager.

"The whole idea is that you have an environment where people can balance their work and their lives," said Mercy spokeswoman Kathleen Nickel. "The award also recognizes the (company's) commitment to community, and we're involved in a lot of community efforts."

Mercy contributes money and volunteer support to youth organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Club, SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) and the STARS (Students Today Aren't Ready for Sex) pro-

gram, as well as many other community service groups and programs.

"We won a Quality Seal last year, which is where they recognize family-friendly companies," Nickel said. "This is like the other half, or the other piece, of the award. We're excited."

Other winners of the Family in Good Companies Awards were: Boom Vang Consulting, Portland; NPC Research, Portland; New Tech Electric, Hillsboro; Oregon Research Institute, Eugene; and Eugene Water and Electric Board, Eugene.