



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UCare's "A Salute to Excellence!" celebrates 22 providers**

***Clinics and care systems across Minnesota recognized for exceptional quality care, with a special award for critical dental access innovation***

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 5, 2023 — [UCare](#), a community-based, nonprofit health plan, held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual "A Salute to Excellence!" event Thursday evening, Sept. 21, at the [Delta Hotels](#) in northeast Minneapolis. The event honored 21 Minnesota clinics and care systems with top results in 2022 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures. Awards were given for health care providers' performance delivering high-quality care to UCare's Medicare, Medicaid and Special Needs Plan members. Apple Tree Dental – a dental care provider dedicated to overcoming barriers to oral health – received UCare's Innovation Award for implementing innovative approaches to critical dental access for Medicaid and uninsured populations.

More than 60 attendees turned out to attend this year's A Salute to Excellence! event. The evening opened with a welcome from UCare President and CEO Hilary Marden-Resnik. "At UCare, we are deeply grateful for the extraordinary efforts our health care partners take to put their patients and UCare members first," said Marden-Resnik at the event. "This evening of celebration, gratitude and awards is one of the highlights of the year. We enjoy taking the time to recognize health care partners like you who enable us to fulfill our quality care promise to members."

The opening remarks were followed by a feature presentation from Julia Joseph-Di Caprio, MD, President and Founder of Leap Pediatric and Adolescent Care. Dr. Joseph-Di Caprio discussed the rewards and challenges of starting a local, non-profit community-based practice with a health equity focus.

Following Dr. Joseph-Di Caprio's presentation, UCare Vice President of Provider Relations and Contracting and Provider Services, Cathy VonRueden, awarded UCare's Innovation Award to Apple Tree Dental. This award recognizes a partner who is

improving the health of UCare members through innovative care delivery and/or payment models. Apple Tree Dental programs are nationally recognized for their pioneering approach to integrating dental care as part of overall health and wellbeing. They overcome barriers to oral health by fostering partnerships that create healthy communities.

Next up was UCare's Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Tenbit Emiru, MD, PhD, MBA, honoring guests with UCare Excellence in Health Care Awards for their quality results. "We know that quality care for our members starts with all of you," affirmed Dr. Emiru. "In 2022, you provided our members and your patients with high-quality preventive care, disease management, mental health and substance use disorder services, maternity care, and assistance with care transitions and medication management."

A Salute to Excellence! honored the following clinics and care systems from across Minnesota and surrounding areas.

- Astera Health
- Bluestone Physician Services
- Catholic Health Initiatives
- CentraCare
- Children's Health Network
- Essentia Health
- Genevive
- Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
- HealthPartners/Stillwater Medical Group
- Lakewood Health System
- M Physicians
- Mankato Clinic
- Mayo Clinic
- Minnesota Community Care
- North Memorial Health
- Olmsted Medical Center
- Ridgeview
- Sanford Health
- Twin Cities Physicians
- Voyage Healthcare
- Winona Health Services

## **About UCare**

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 600,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western

Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for 14 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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