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## **UCare's "A Salute to Excellence!" celebrates 23 providers**

***Minnesota clinics and care systems recognized for exceptional quality care, with a special award to Thrifty White Health for improving care and medication adherence in rural communities***

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 7, 2024 — [UCare](#), a community-based, nonprofit health plan, held its 16<sup>th</sup> annual "A Salute to Excellence!" event Thursday evening, Sept. 19, at the [Delta Hotels](#) in northeast Minneapolis. The event honored 23 Minnesota area clinics and care systems with top results in 2023 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. Thrifty White Health – a pharmacy chain providing healthcare to small towns and cities in the rural Midwest – received UCare's Innovation Award for helping UCare patients stay on track with preventive care and medication compliance.

More than 70 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. "The health care partners we're honoring tonight are truly among the best at delivering effective, quality care," said Marden-Resnik at the event. "This evening of celebration, gratitude and awards is always special. UCare could not live up to our mission of improving the health of our members without the critical work of our providers every day on the frontlines of care."

The opening remarks were followed by a lively conversation with Dr. David Hilden from Hennepin Healthcare and UCare Executive Vice President/Chief Strategy Officer Marie Zimmerman about health care advocacy and how providers can make a difference for their patients and their practice. UCare's Innovation Award was then presented to Thrifty White Health by UCare's Director of Quality and Population Health, Jamie

Galbreath. Next, UCare Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Tenbit Emiru, MD, PhD, MBA, honored 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 2023, you stepped up in a big way to ensure our members and your patients had minimal gaps in care and access to necessary services to maintain a high quality of life.”

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

- Astera Health
- Avera Health System
- Axis Clinics
- Bluestone Physician Services
- CentraCare
- Cham Clinic & Urgent Care
- Children’s Health Network
- CommonSpirit Health
- Fairview Physician Associates Network
- Fairview Range
- Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
- HealthPartners/Park Nicollet
- HealthPartners/Stillwater Medical Group
- Lakewood Health System
- M Physicians
- Mankato Clinic
- Mayo Clinic
- Northfield Hospital and Clinics
- Olmsted Medical Center
- Riverland Community Health Center
- Sanford Health
- 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 is the highest ranked health plan in the USA Today 2024 Top Workplaces, and has received Star Tribune Top Workplace honors for 15 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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