UCare is seven-time winner in Star Tribune's 2016 Top 150 Workplaces; is 14th top large employer

Not-for-profit health plan is one of only 10 companies to earn the recognition seven consecutive years; also won a Communication Award for the second time

MINNEAPOLIS, June 27, 2016 – UCare, an independent and not-for-profit health plan, has been recognized as a Star Tribune Top 150 Workplaces for 2016. This year's award is UCare's seventh consecutive Top Workplaces honor in this employee-based survey project from the Star Tribune.

UCare ranked 14th out of 30 Minnesota organizations grouped in the large employer category and cited for workplace excellence; there were 50 companies in the midsize group and 70 firms in the small employer category. The health plan was recognized as a medium-size company top employer in 2010 and 2011; the 2012-2016 honors were awarded in the large employer category, for which UCare qualified due to growth in its employee count.

"We are proud to have earned a Top Workplaces for seven consecutive years," said Jim Eppel, UCare's President and CEO. "It's something all of us at UCare have earned together. We have built a welcoming workplace and mission-focused culture that has served us well. It's a great honor to lead this exceptional organization."

UCare also received a special Communication excellence award for having the most positive responses of any employer across Minnesota to the question, "I feel well-informed about important decisions at this company." UCare is the only participating organization to earn this award twice; the first time was in 2014.

Top 150 Workplaces results for 2016 were published in a special section of the Sunday, June 26, Star Tribune. UCare was featured prominently in the special edition's article titled "Transparency and straight talk are not just buzzwords at top large companies." The story looks at the importance of communication; in UCare's case, it was during a time of a major business setback in 2015.

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Wrote Star Tribune reporter Jackie Crosby, "… judging from comments from a dozen UCare employees, the tumult didn't send them into a rabbit hole of fear, bitterness or despair. … The key was hearing swiftly and frequently from UCare's top managers. … The (full disclosure) approach helped UCare land on the Star Tribune's list of Minnesota's Top Workplaces for the seventh consecutive year."

Top Workplaces recognizes the most progressive companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions measuring engagement, organizational health and satisfaction. The analysis included responses from 74,182 employees at 385 Minnesota public, private and nonprofit organizations.

Star Tribune Publisher Michael J. Klingensmith said, "The companies in the Star Tribune Top 150 Workplaces deserve high praise for creating the very best work environments in the state of Minnesota. My congratulations to each of these exceptional companies."

To qualify for the Star Tribune Top Workplaces, a company must have more than 50 employees in Minnesota. Composite scores calculated solely on employee responses determined the rankings. The rankings are based on survey information collected by WorkplaceDynamics, an independent company specializing in employee engagement and retention.

About UCare
UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, not-for-profit health plan providing health care and administrative services to members throughout Minnesota. UCare partners with health care providers, counties and community organizations to create and deliver:
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)-accredited plans for Minnesotans shopping on MNsure.
- Coverage for adults with disabilities.
- Medicare plans with an "Excellent" NCQA rating, and a new partnership with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota.
- Programs for older Minnesotans with Medical Assistance or with both Medical Assistance and Medicare.
- Income-based Medicaid and MinnesotaCare coverage for Olmsted County residents.

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

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