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## **UCare is eight-time winner in Star Tribune's 2017 Top 150 Workplaces; is 12th top large employer**

***Not-for-profit health plan is one of only 10 companies to earn the recognition eight consecutive years***

MINNEAPOLIS, June 29, 2017 – [UCare](#), an independent, not-for-profit health plan, has been recognized as a [Star Tribune Top 150 Workplaces](#) for 2017. This year's award is UCare's eighth consecutive Top Workplaces honor in this employee-based survey project from the Star Tribune.

UCare ranked [12th 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 2012-2017 honors were awarded in the large employer category, for which UCare qualified due to growth in its employee count.

"I am consistently amazed by the exceptional team at UCare that has built this positive workplace culture," said Mark Traynor, UCare's Interim President and CEO. "We've created a very special place that – even after 18 years – I feel honored to share with employees as we dedicate ourselves to putting members at the center of all we do, building strong partnerships and lifting the communities we serve."

Top 150 Workplaces results for 2017 were published in a special section of the Sunday, June 25, Star Tribune. UCare's wellness program was featured prominently in the special edition's article titled "[Wellness programs evolve to help workers cope with social and emotional stress](#)." Vanessa MacCallum, UCare's employment and wellness specialist, describes the well-rounded wellness program at UCare which boosts the total well-being of employees, and is a powerful recruiting tool. The article mentions UCare's innovative wellness offerings such as a "shoe fit" program, community-supported agriculture programs, resilience workshops and daily activity schedules and motivational quotes.

Top Workplaces recognizes the most progressive companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions measuring engagement, organizational health and satisfaction. The analysis included responses from more than 69,000 employees at Minnesota public, private and not-for-profit 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. More than 2,000 companies were invited to participate. Rankings were composite scores calculated purely on the basis of employee responses.

### **About UCare**

UCare ([www.ucare.org](http://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](#).
- Plans for [adults with disabilities who have Medical Assistance](#) and who have [both Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).
- [Medicare plans](#) with an "Excellent" NCQA rating, and a [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 Minnesotans across the state.

UCare 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 eight consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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