



people powered health plans

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UCare Foundation funds Community Health Workers at Leap Pediatric and Adolescent Care

A \$300,000 grant spurs community-based support for healthy births, children and youth in an underserved area of St. Paul

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 22, 2022 — [Leap Pediatric and Adolescent Care](#) opened in fall 2022 in the Midway area of St. Paul (a federally designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area). President and Founder Julia Joseph-Di Caprio, MD, MPH, FAAP, created this practice to focus on advancing health equity, removing barriers to health and wellness, and providing culturally congruent care. A core part of this model is engaging Community Health Workers (CHWs) to support pregnant and new parents, and to expand community outreach, collaboration and education. The UCare Foundation granted \$300,000 to fund additional CHWs and community support.

Dr. Joseph-Di Caprio's vision is to ensure that babies and young patients have the health care and social support needed to grow, thrive and leap forward. It centers on addressing health disparities and social drivers of health. Dr. Joseph-Di Caprio discusses her vision with the [Sahan Journal](#), [KSTP TV](#) and [Minnesota Physician](#) among others. She notes that, even before the pandemic, families in the Midway area had difficulty accessing high-quality pediatric care, and children and youth had low rates of well child visits and immunizations. The pandemic exacerbated disparities and put the health of area children and youth more at risk.

"We've become increasingly aware of the toll that lack of social supports takes on our members' health. We believe Community Health Workers can have a powerful impact on building trust, health equity and brighter futures for children and youth in underserved communities," said Ghita Worcester, Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Growth Officer.

"We are grateful for this funding to help us achieve our goal of advancing health equity and removing barriers to health and wellness in a welcome and easily accessible setting," said Dr. Julia Joseph-Di Caprio. "This support will propel our work to close care

gaps among young UCare members and our growing community of patients in a way that addresses a fuller picture of health.”

About UCare

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 650,000 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 13 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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