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**United Hospital District Earns Top 100 Critical Access Hospital Award**  
*Top 100 CAH Awarded by The Chartis Center for Rural Health*

**Blue Earth, MN – March 1, 2024** – United Hospital District (UHD) of Blue Earth announces today that it has been recognized as a 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital out of 1,366 rural hospitals by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. Chartis’ annual Top 100 award program recognizes outstanding performance among the nation’s rural hospitals based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®.

“Patient satisfaction and clinical excellence is foundational in providing outstanding care, without exception,” said UHD’s CEO Rick Ash. “Our patients are very important to us. They are our family, neighbors, friends, and peers. Receiving this award validates the ongoing work of our entire staff, especially our physicians and advanced practice providers, who strive every day to provide the very best care for those we serve, and to keep quality care as close to home as possible.”

“During an era of profound uncertainty for rural healthcare, the Top 100 rural hospitals continue to provide a unique lens through which we can identify innovation and inspiration for how to deliver high quality care to increasingly vulnerable populations,” said Michael Topchik, National Leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. “We’re delighted to be able to recognize all this year’s Top 100 but especially the more than 40 first-time recipients across both categories. It’s wonderful to see so many new facilities join the ranks of our Top 100 alumni.”

Now in its 14th year, the INDEX is the industry’s most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Featuring a methodology utilizing publicly available data, the INDEX is leveraged nationwide by rural hospitals, health systems with rural affiliates, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

**About UHD:**

United Hospital District ([www.uhd.org](http://www.uhd.org)), based in Blue Earth, MN, is an independent system of care comprised of a 25-bed acute care hospital, comprehensive outpatient services, ambulance service and a home health/hospice care program, all supported by a 25-plus multi-specialty provider group with

three clinic locations across two counties. UHD was recognized as a 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, a 2023 Best Small Hospital Under 25 Beds, and a 2022 Top 200 Workplace in Minnesota.

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(photo attached)

