



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UCare is new sponsor of Skyway Senior Center
in downtown Minneapolis**

***Grants from the UCare Fund and UCare community benefit program
provide operational support for three years***

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 26, 2010 – [UCare](#), Minnesota’s fourth-largest health plan, announced today that it is the new sponsor of what will be known as the [UCare Skyway Senior Center](#) in downtown Minneapolis. Grants from the [UCare Fund](#) and UCare’s community benefit program are providing operational support for three years to the popular downtown destination for people age 50 and older.

The center’s previous sponsor, Medica, provided financial support for the center for part of 2010. In addition to operational funds from UCare, funding comes from a variety of sources such as individual donors, corporations, neighborhood associations, foundations, and the nonprofit Friends of the Skyway Senior Center.

“UCare has created a public/private partnership with the City of Minneapolis that enables the Skyway Senior Center to continue serving thousands of area citizens without interruption,” says [Ghita Worcester](#), Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Marketing, UCare. “This vital community resource offers a wealth of health-related programs and services that enhance the lives of its guests and volunteers. We look forward to a positive and productive relationship with the center.”

“The partnership with U Care at the Skyway Senior Center is an exciting new opportunity to work together to serve seniors,” says [Gretchen Musicant](#), Commissioner, [Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support](#). “We believe it is a strategic alliance that will foster innovative programming.”

Open since 2001, the UCare Skyway Senior Center is a 2,000-square-foot gathering place for seniors and friends on the Minneapolis downtown skyway on LaSalle between 9th and 10th streets in the Target store building. The UCare Skyway Senior Center is operated by the City of Minneapolis through the Department of Health and Family Support, and Franklin Street Properties donates the space. The center provides a safe, accessible, and friendly place to socialize, take a class, exercise, connect to community resources, use a computer, read, relax, and chat with others over a cup of coffee.

The UCare Fund is a community-directed initiative of UCare. Established in 1998, the Fund provides grants and staff support to projects that advance [UCare's mission](#) to improve the health of UCare members through innovative services and partnerships across communities, and reduce health disparities for disadvantaged populations in the Twin Cities and throughout Greater Minnesota. UCare Fund grants address health care disparities, care access issues, and a broad array of community initiatives. Grants in 2010 support projects directed at obesity reduction, healthy lifestyles, cultural diversity, people with disabilities, and seniors.

About UCare

UCare (www.ucare.org) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 200,000 members. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver innovative health coverage products for:

- Individuals and families enrolled in income-based Minnesota Health Care Programs, such as MinnesotaCare and Prepaid Medical Assistance Program.
- Adults with disabilities and Medicare beneficiaries with chronic health conditions.
- Minnesotans dually eligible for Medical Assistance and Medicare.
- Medicare-eligible individuals throughout Minnesota and in western Wisconsin.

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its UCare Fund grants and a broad array of community initiatives. The health plan received a Top Workplaces 2010 honor from the *Star Tribune*.