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Nicole Bjerke Wins National Philanthropy Award

St. Cloud, Minn. – Nicole Bjerke, CentraCare Health—Long Prairie, has been included in the inaugural Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP) Forty Under 40 list.

The Forty Under 40 program is designed to recognize the future leaders within the health care philanthropy community. AHP is honoring these 40 young professionals because they are shaping the future of the health care development industry.

Bjerke, a Senior Development Officer for CentraCare Health's Foundation, successfully secured over \$3.2 million to support the building of a new medical campus, significantly surpassing the initial fundraising goal of \$2 million. She also successfully carried a funding request to the Minnesota Legislature in 2018 securing \$700,000 through the state bonding bill toward the Regional Community Well-Being Center.

According to Brad Konkler, Vice President Philanthropy and Community Health, CentraCare Health Foundation, "Nicole Bjerke's outstanding leadership and tireless commitment to CentraCare's mission has had a deep impact in Long Prairie, Minnesota and beyond. She is a consummate professional who thrives on engaging the community and supporting health and well-being for all. She is a true results-oriented team player and very deserving of this award."

Bjerke will be recognized at the 2018 AHP Annual International Conference October 17-20 in San Diego.

"Telling member stories and sharing best practices are at the core of what AHP is all about," said Alice Ayres, AHP president & CEO. "I'm so thrilled that through the Forty Under 40 program, members have shared the stories of our up-and-coming leaders—those making significant impact on the industry so early in their careers."

About CentraCare Health

CentraCare Health is a not-for-profit health care system that provides comprehensive, high-quality care to people throughout Central Minnesota. Our collaborative network includes hospitals in St. Cloud, Long Prairie, Melrose, Monticello, Paynesville, Sauk Centre and Willmar, more than 35 clinics, along with nursing homes and senior housing in several communities.

CentraCare also operates numerous specialty services, including the CentraCare Heart & Vascular Center, Coborn Cancer Center and the CentraCare Kidney Program. CentraCare serves all who seek care with compassion, dignity and respect, while seeking to enhance individual and community health. For more information, please visit centracare.com.

Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP) is an international professional organization dedicated exclusively to development professionals who encourage charity in health care organizations. AHP's 4,500 members represent more than 2,200 health care facilities around the world. They collectively raise more than \$11 billion each year for community health services.

To learn more about the Forty Under 40 program and each of this year's recipients, visit www.ahp.org/40under40.

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