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Media Release

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CentraCare Health nurses receive March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards

St. Cloud, Minn. – CentraCare Health had 17 nurses who were selected as finalists for the 2017 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards with more than 400 nurses nominated from across the state. Finalists were: **Jennifer Burris**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Pat Hart**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Nancy Schug**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Melissa Fradette**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Ann Backes**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Diane Pelant**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Daren Hendrickson**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Cameron Atkinson**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Kim Welvaert**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Melanie Odden**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Judy Jensen**, Coborn Cancer Center; **Eileen Maus**, CentraCare Health – Melrose; **Jenn Tschida**, CentraCare Health – Melrose; **Mallory Voit**, CentraCare Health – Monticello; **Sherri Reischl**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Jenna Czech**, St. Cloud Hospital; **Kristin Gaarder**, St. Cloud Hospital.

Out of the distinguished finalists, CentraCare had four category winners: **Diane Pelant**, St. Cloud Hospital, Leadership category; **Judy Jensen**, St. Cloud Hospital, Oncology category; **Jenn Tschida**, CentraCare Health – Melrose, Rural Health category and **Jenna Czech**, St. Cloud Hospital, Staff Nurse – General Care category. In addition to this, **Melissa Fradette**, Intensive Care Unit, was honored with the Distinguished Nurse of the Year Award! This is the second year in a row CentraCare has had a nurse win this prestigious award! Awards were presented at the 2017 Nurse of the Year Awards Ceremony on Oct. 6.

Today, one in every 10 U.S. infants is born premature, including more than 6,000 infants in the state of Minnesota each year. The March of Dimes is committed to funding research to find the answers to problems that continue to threaten the lives and health of babies. Funds raised by Nurse of the Year Awards help support prenatal wellness programs, research grants, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) family support programs and advocacy efforts for moms and babies.

For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.org.

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