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PRESS RELEASE

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CRMC Named one of the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the Nation

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) recently announced that Cherokee Regional Medical Center (CRMC), an affiliate of UnityPoint Health- St. Luke's, is one of the 20 highest ranked critical access hospitals (CAHs) in the country, as determined by iVantage Health Analytics. CRMC will be formally recognized in September at an awards ceremony during the NHRA's Critical Access Hospital Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

"To have been named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital each of the past four years in itself is a tremendous accomplishment," said Matt Schubert, Chairman of the CRMC Board of Directors. "The fact that we have now set the bar even higher as one of the Top 20 validates everything that the board, administration, and staff strive for as an organization; to consistently provide the highest level of care and facilities to Cherokee county and our surrounding service area."

Matt Johnson, President and CEO of CRMC agreed. "To be recognized as one of the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals in the country is a true testament to the dedication and effort of the board and staff we have in place at Cherokee Regional Medical Center at all levels," said Johnson. "Everyone at CRMC works together as a team and continuously makes every effort to provide outstanding patient care in a comfortable and caring healthcare environment. They do so while also maintaining an efficient and financially responsible business model."

In a time when many Critical Access Hospitals around the country are facing stiff cut-backs or closures, CRMC continues to take a progressive approach by investing in technology and facilities. This is evidenced by the numerous remodeling and expansion projects, as well as equipment upgrades over the past two decades. The most recent undertaking, the construction of a new 15,000 square foot medical arts building, is now in full swing and is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2018.

In addition, CRMC has also enhanced its service offerings over the years through a growing list of specialties available through the CRMC Specialty Clinic. “One of our main goals is to increase access to care. The more services we can provide to the residents within our service area the better,” said Johnson. “Providing care close to home relieves some of the stress and travel burdens of our patients and their families.”

The determining factors for the Top 20 CAHs were based on eight indices of strength including... inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspectives, costs, charges, and financial stability. This elite group was selected from the previously announced Top 100 CAH list as tabulated by iVantage Health Analytics’ Hospital Strength INDEX®. The INDEX is the industry’s most comprehensive rating of rural providers. It provides the data foundation for the annual Rural Relevance Study and its results are the basis for many of rural healthcare’s most prominent awards, advocacy efforts and legislative initiatives.

“NRHA is committed to ensuring our members have the best information to manage their hospitals,” said Brock Slabach, NRHA membership services senior vice president. “We are pleased to recognize the accomplishments of these rural hospitals.”

About Cherokee Regional Medical Center

Cherokee Regional Medical Center, an affiliate of UnityPoint Health- St. Luke’s, provides a complete circle of care to the residents of Cherokee County and the surrounding area through a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital and full-time Emergency Services. In addition, CRMC supports four regional medical clinics located in the communities of Cherokee, Aurelia, Holstein and Marcus; The Beck, a 32-unit senior living complex; home health and hospice services; Cherokee County Public Health services; and the CRMC Wellness Center. For more information, visit Cherokee Regional Medical Center online at www.cherokeermc.org.

About UnityPoint Health- St. Luke’s

UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s is one of the region’s most patient and family-centered hospitals, delivering innovative care to communities in the tri-state area including Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. St. Luke’s treats more than 77,000 patients annually, coordinating care from the doctor’s office to the hospital and back home through St. Luke’s, UnityPoint Clinic and UnityPoint at Home.

Together, through UnityPoint Health – Sioux City, St. Luke’s health care professionals and physician partners all work toward the same goal: getting patients healthy sooner and keeping them healthy. With a full range of inpatient and outpatient services at St. Luke’s and within UnityPoint Health, one of the nation’s most integrated health systems, our vision is to provide the best outcome for every patient, every time. For more information, visit unitypoint.org.

About the National Rural Health Association

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and providing leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. NRHA membership is made up of 21,000 diverse individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health. For more information, visit RuralHealthWeb.org.

About iVantage Health Analytics

iVantage Health Analytics, Inc., is a privately held health care business intelligence and technology company. The company provides information products serving an expansive health care industry. iVantage integrates diverse information with innovative delivery platforms to ensure customers’ timely, concise and relevant strategic action. For more information, visit iVantageHealth.com.