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**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Uecker to Receive Emerging Leader Award**

BISMARCK, ND – Ted Uecker, Fund Development Officer at West River Health Services Foundation, is this year's recipient of the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations' (NDANO) Emerging Leader Award.

NDANO will present the 2023 North Dakota Nonprofits Awards during a luncheon at 11:45 a.m. CT on June 8 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The luncheon is the closing event for the North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Conference. Tickets for the Awards Luncheon are available at [www.ndano.org](http://www.ndano.org).

The Emerging Leader Award is given to a nonprofit professional who has made a significant impact in strengthening the North Dakota nonprofit sector.

Ted's leadership through the West River Health Services Foundation helped develop the "Physician Recruitment Endowment Fund" on the premise that rural patients deserve the same top-quality care as their urban counterparts. Today more than ever, rural communities are struggling to find providers to serve the people. The foundation's ten-year, $400,000 goal was exceeded ahead of schedule in three years and now resides at $455,000. The "Healthcare Heroes Endowment Fund" was formed in 2022 to continue this important work. They initially had a goal to raise $500,000 in five years. So far, in only twenty months, they have raised $468,591! West River Health Services Foundation has since revised their goal to $500,000 in three years.

"Ted has made a significant impact not only in his organization but the entire region," says NDANO Executive Director Dana Hager. "NDANO is pleased to recognize his initiative and leadership to provide rural communities with innovative ideas and high-quality healthcare resources."

All 2023 award recipients will be recognized at the North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Conference, which brings together leaders from across the state to participate in educational sessions, network, and exchange ideas. To register, visit [www.ndano.org](http://www.ndano.org).

NDANO is the statewide membership association for the North Dakota nonprofit sector. Its mission is to educate, advocate and connect to strengthen nonprofits.