

# 2022

# Annual Report

*Care that Transitions with You*



Care  
Companions

Supportive Care  
Management

Grief  
Support

Hospice  
Care



Strength  
at Your Side

*A caring nonprofit partnership of Bellin Health, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital*



## Dear Friends,

As we look back at 2022 and reflect upon the important goals we accomplished, we are reminded of how we got to where we are today. After listening to our patients, families, community partners and staff, we recognized the need for different levels of support to assist aging individuals as well as those experiencing advancing illness.

We took this to heart and expanded our programs to offer care that truly transitions with you. From in-home caregiving that supports independence, to palliative care that manages advancing disease, to end-of-life care that prioritizes comfort and grief support that provides hope after a loss, Unity offers an umbrella of services tailored to meet your needs wherever you are in your healthcare journey. As your needs change Unity stays right at your side to seamlessly transition you to the level of care that maximizes your quality of life. Unity's physicians, NPs, nurses, CNAs, social workers, nondenominational chaplains, grief counselors and volunteers work hand-in-hand to provide stability and continuity for all family members. We match our programs with the needs of the patient and family to provide the most appropriate and personalized care plan.

As we continue to humbly reflect upon the thousands of lives for which we have positively impacted, Unity drives forward with a growth mindset and the determination to be the workplace of choice and unmatched leader of innovative care to enhance quality of life.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to innovate and create the healthcare system of the future. Guided by our mission to always consider the needs and demands of our community, we will continue to evolve as the healthcare landscape changes. Thank you for being our partner and for the impact you make on patients and families each and every day. We accept your gifts with gratitude and remain diligent in ensuring these gifts support those seeking our quality, dignified care and grief support regardless of financial means.

Warmly,

Alisa A. Gerke, Executive Director



## Care Companions In-Home Assistance

When you need assistance with bathing, dressing, grooming, light housekeeping, companionship, meal preparation, medication reminders and/or cognitive support, Unity is here for you. Launched in 2021 and expanded in 2022, Care Companions, our in-home care program, offers a wide range of personalized services to meet ever-changing needs. You choose only the services you want and how frequently you wish to receive assistance. Our caregivers are carefully matched with your needs and backed by the resources of Unity, the region's most trusted name in compassionate and dignified care since 1977. Care Companions is a private pay program that may be covered by some long-term care policies for residents in Brown, Southern Oconto, Northeast Outagamie and Southeast Shawano counties. For more information on how Care Companions can assist you or a loved one, call us at 920-338-1111.



*Care Companions Program Leader Samantha Brasier shares, "Each of Unity's programs offers a different benefit to our community members in some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. I have personally experienced the kindness and great care given by Unity's staff through my own experience with loss. It has been my mission to ensure Unity's good work continues through the Care Companions program."*



## Supportive Care Management – *Living Your Best Life Despite Serious Illness*

Unity's Supportive Care Management (SCM) program offers palliative care to ease symptoms and emotional stress for people living with serious illness who may be receiving life-prolonging treatment.

Supportive Care Management team members:

- Focus on illness trajectory, prognosis and medical treatments in partnership with your attending provider
- Provide education on disease process and changing care needs
- Review and verify medications
- Discuss symptom management and quality of life
- Offer guidance in completing advance directives (power of attorney for health care, do not resuscitate (DNR) orders, living wills, etc.) to ensure your wishes are documented, shared, and followed
- Refer to community agencies such as hired caregivers, facilities, transportation, and other resources
- Offer emotional and spiritual support, validation, and encouragement for patients and caregivers while respecting your beliefs

More than 60% of SCM patients experienced fewer visits to the emergency room and hospital stays. The data also showed improvement in well-being and overall reductions in patients' pain and shortness of breath after just 60 days on the program.



For more information, visit <https://unityhospice.org/supportive-care-management/> or call us today. Unity Supportive Care Management is a proud member of the Wisconsin Hospice & Palliative Care Collaborative (WHPCC), a strategic partnership focused on enhancing access to quality care for chronically and seriously ill patients.



## Unity Hospice Care offers Unparalleled Support



When curative treatments are no longer effective or desired, Unity is here for you. Offering compassionate, dignified end-of-life care, Unity's goal is to help patients live each day to the fullest. Our expert team works directly with your attending physician to develop a care plan that fulfills end-of-life goals.

We focus on the whole person – medically, emotionally and spiritually – rather than the disease. We work to ensure pain and symptom management wherever the patient calls home, while providing guidance, education and support to families and caregivers.

Unity also offers Northeast Wisconsin's only inpatient hospice facility, The Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence. Located in De Pere, this home-like facility, which provides around-the-clock skilled nursing care, features twelve private rooms, specially prepared meals and even allows pet visits.



## Unity Launches Grief Support for Students and Staff

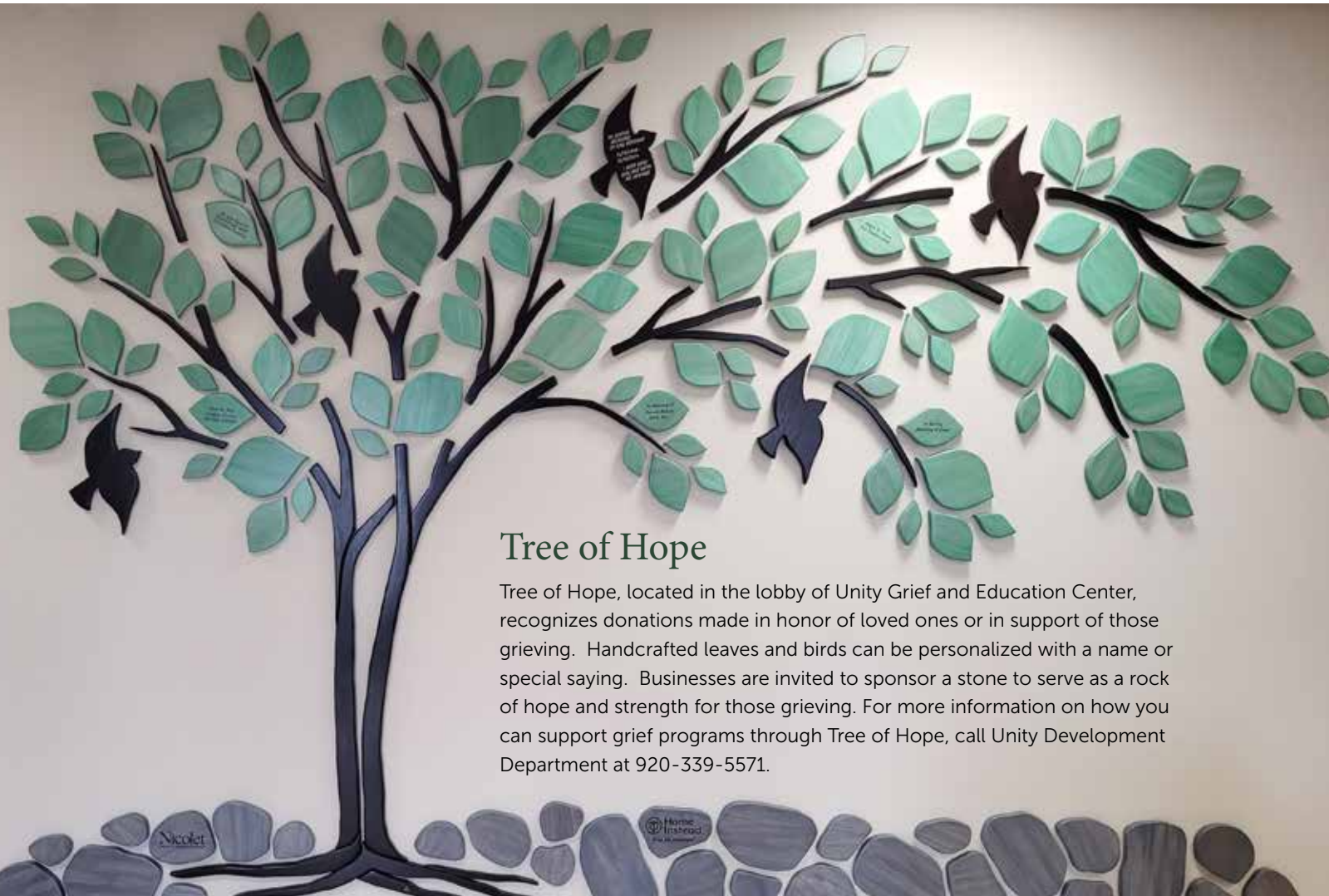
Unity is committed to providing grief support for students and education to school staff who support them.

According to the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model, 1 in 14 Wisconsin children will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18. Research shows children impacted by loss are at increased risk for disrupted development, poor academic performance, and mental health issues. To fill the support gaps in area schools, Unity collaborated with the West De Pere School District to develop a district-wide grief support pilot. During the pilot, support needs were identified and direct care programming was designed, including consultation, individual and group counseling, resources and trainings. This newly designed student and staff grief support programming has been extended to additional districts and has served more than 170 local students and staff.

When asked to share the most helpful aspect of group support students said: "Learning how everyone is different" (grade 5), "Just being allotted time to talk about my person. It feels safe here" (grade 12), "Talking about my feelings and thoughts" (grade 4), "Being together" (grade 2).



*Partnering with school districts to offer compassionate and expert grief support has comforted students and empowered staff.*



### Tree of Hope

Tree of Hope, located in the lobby of Unity Grief and Education Center, recognizes donations made in honor of loved ones or in support of those grieving. Handcrafted leaves and birds can be personalized with a name or special saying. Businesses are invited to sponsor a stone to serve as a rock of hope and strength for those grieving. For more information on how you can support grief programs through Tree of Hope, call Unity Development Department at 920-339-5571.



## Become a Volunteer – Help Change Lives

Volunteers are vital members of Unity's team and serve as ambassadors of our organization. Whether it's providing support and companionship to a patient and family, assisting with projects or helping with community outreach, the contributions of volunteers are essential to our mission. Volunteer opportunities exist throughout Northeast Wisconsin at our offices, Unity Resale Shoppe, Unity Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, Unity Grief and Education Center, and wherever our patients call home – private homes, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Volunteering for Unity might be a great fit if you like to:

- Feel good about giving to an organization that is important to you
- Work with Unity staff, patients and families or other volunteers
- Use your current skills or learn new ones
- Be part of the amazing, compassionate care Unity provides

For more information on how you can get involved, visit [unityhospice.org/volunteer](http://unityhospice.org/volunteer) or call Volunteer Services at 920-338-1111.



*I've had many meaningful experiences during my 20 years as a Unity volunteer but one stands out:*

*I was asked to sit with a restless husband in order to give his wife respite. I was trained to offer my hand if a patient wanted to take it. I did and was met with astounding results. The husband immediately relaxed and became calm. I let him hold my hand while I "wasted" an hour reading my book with one-hand.*

*Several days later, at his wake, a stranger asked, "Are you the Unity volunteer who was with my dad the afternoon before he died?" When I answered yes, he said: "God bless you. My mother said that was the calmest afternoon he had in a very long time."*

*Time not wasted!*

*—Bob Schulze, Unity Volunteer*

# BOOK NOOK



## Your Treasured Donations Make Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC a Success



Once again voted the Best of the Bay, Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC continues to provide excellent value for shoppers and a welcoming place for donors to share cherished treasures. Thanks to another record-breaking year, proceeds helped fund CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program that ensures everyone in our service area has access to Unity's compassionate care and grief support, regardless of ability to pay. Generous donors within the community contribute to our mission by bringing in donations of quality furniture, décor, clothing, and much more!

Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC is staffed by more than 65 volunteers who graciously donated nearly 12,000 hours in 2022. Under the supervision of two Unity staff managers, the volunteers assist in daily operations including donation acceptance, staging of the sales floor, pricing and cashiering. The Resale Shoppe also hosts many promotions and events throughout the year, with the Winter Wonderland reveal being one of our customers' favorites. Shoppers can stay informed on upcoming promotions and events by following us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/UnityResaleShoppeLLC](https://www.facebook.com/UnityResaleShoppeLLC).

*"It is always an interesting time when we visit the Unity Hospice Resale Shoppe. We are welcomed by staff when we walk in. It seems like a mini trip around the world when we view the vast variety of items on display for sale. We also appreciate the special sales, holiday arrangements and senior discount days. We are pleased with our purchases.*

*—Thank you, Steve & Betz K."*

To shop, donate or join our wonderful team, give us a call or send us a message!

### **Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC**

1641 Commanche Ave., Green Bay, WI  
920-339-5501  
[Facebook.com/UnityResaleShoppeLLC](https://www.facebook.com/UnityResaleShoppeLLC)

### **Store & Donation Hours**

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

*"As a Unity Resale Shoppe volunteer, I take pride in knowing we support the Unity Hospice programs. Meeting customers and donors, interacting with other volunteers to create a friendly, welcoming environment is the goal. It's a fun environment & place to volunteer." – Cindy J.*

# 2022 Quick Facts

## HOSPICE CARE

**2,297** Number of our family, friends and neighbors who received hospice care

**99,085** Number of virtual and in-person visits made to hospice patients by a member of Unity's care team

**59** Average length of days hospice patients received services

**5** Average age of pediatric hospice patient

*Research shows enrolling in hospice care early helps increase both quality of life and length of life, while also providing support to the entire family. It is most beneficial to begin hospice care at the time of a life limiting prognosis or when curative treatments are no longer an option.*

**378** Number of Veterans who received hospice care



*"I just met a new veteran patient July 25 and when I presented him with a veteran blanket, his friend who was visiting immediately called his bookkeeper to have a \$500 donation sent to Unity for this program! It's amazing how such a small gesture can make a big impact."*

*– Olivia P., Unity Social Worker*

## SUPPORTIVE CARE MANAGEMENT

**166** Number of our family, friends and neighbors who received supportive palliative care

**2,638** Number of virtual and in-person visits made to Supportive Care Management patients by a member of Unity's care team

## GRIEF SUPPORT

**7,281** Number of individuals who benefited from Unity's grief support services

**8,417** Number of phone calls made to provide grief support

**793** Number of in-person and virtual group support sessions

**171** Number of area students and school staff served

**96.5%** Percentage of respondents who would recommend Unity's grief support services to others<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: 2022 Unity Grief Support Survey

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

**297** Number of volunteers

**15** Number of Veteran to Veteran volunteers

**24,971** Hours donated

**\$747,881** Value of service (based on volunteer wage from the independent sector)

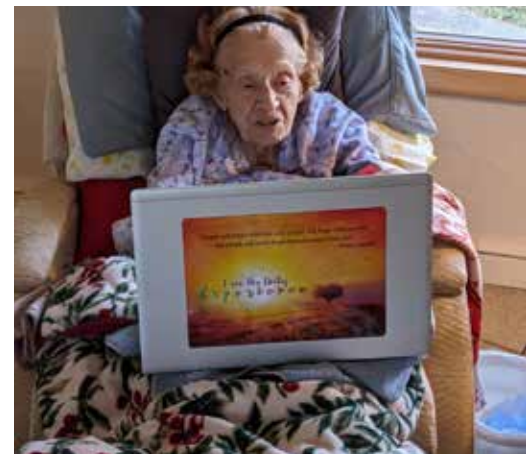
**529** Number of memorial bears and pillows handcrafted from the cherished garments of loved ones to serve as lasting keepsakes



## TeleConnect - Real-Time Video Connection and Support

Unity's TeleConnect program provides technology and assistance to facilitate video visits for our patients with Unity Team Members and support system. Started in 2022, Unity piloted the TeleConnect program to assist with triaging symptom-related calls placed to Unity by patients and families.

Unity then added the use of Echo Shows, a voice-activated video calling device, as an option for patients and families. Unity had conducted over 400 virtual visits with patients and families reaching over 150 patients and primary caregivers. During the pilot, TeleConnect was primarily used by Unity Social Workers, Chaplains and Grief Counselors. In 2023, all care staff will receive training and resources to offer this program to all patients and families to help broaden the scope of the program. Unity is grateful to Bader Philanthropies for their very generous grant which made this program possible!





## Help Make *Gifted Wishes* Come True

Unity's *Gifted Wishes*, a program fully-funded by donations, makes final wishes possible for Unity hospice patients to create meaningful memories for families. These wishes bring joy and happiness to patients and families while providing light in what might be a time of darkness. Most wishes are small in nature but large in impact.

Some of the fulfilled wishes for 2022 include:

- A last visit to the cabin
- A final dinner at a favorite restaurant
- A visit with family and friends
- A last birthday and anniversary celebration
- A memorable photo session
- The ability to attend a daughter's wedding

Please help us continue to make these wishes come true. To make a donation or gift of service to *Gifted Wishes*, please contact our Development Department at 920-339-5571 or visit [unityhospice.org/gifted-wishes](http://unityhospice.org/gifted-wishes).



Grandma Janet

*All that I am or hope to be – I owe you. Thank you for always pushing me to be a better person and for teaching me that no act of kindness is ever wasted.*



## Wings of Gratitude

Is there a special person you wish to recognize or give thanks while also supporting Unity's care programs? Then Wings of Gratitude is for you! Launched last year, Wings of Gratitude offers a public platform to recognize those who have made a difference. Messages of thanks to family members, co-workers, neighbors, friends and random acts of kindness can be shared in a meaningful way, while your donation ensures compassionate, end-of-life care and grief support are available to all in our communities.

To honor a special person while supporting Unity, visit [www.UnityHospice.org/Wings-of-Gratitude](http://www.UnityHospice.org/Wings-of-Gratitude).

## Honor a Life Holiday Gathering

Grief can strike at any time, but seems especially hard during the holidays. To provide an opportunity to gather, share and reflect on the lives of loved ones lost, Unity offers Honor a Life Holiday Gathering, a holiday event held each December at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay. Those unable to gather in person may also join through a virtual Facebook event option.

This year's Gathering was attended by more than 200 people and featured a moving program, music by Hannah Rose, and offered attendees the opportunity to tour the historic trains. Ornaments created by local artist Carlie Petersen were available for purchase with proceeds benefiting grief programs offered through Unity Grief and Education Center. The 2023 Honor a Life Holiday Gathering will be held December 6 at the National Railroad Museum.



*"Bright, ethereal streamers move across the night sky like celestial neon signs announcing there is life in the light. As the natural wonder of the Northern Lights offers a beautiful, spiritual encounter, so too does the journey through grief. May this artwork inspire yours."*

— Carlie Petersen,  
Ornament Artist



## Unity's Inaugural Luminary Walk Raises \$30,000



Under a beautiful sunset and guided by glowing luminaries, 150 participants gathered together on May 6 at Unity's Inaugural Luminary Walk to honor a loved one or support someone grieving. Prior to the 1.5-mile stroll, participants enjoyed activities including live music and stations to personalize their commemorative Walk t-shirts, and even a selfie station to take photos with family and friends. Thanks to these walkers, along with 33 fundraising teams and event sponsor Nicolet Wealth, more than \$30,000 was raised for Unity Grief and Education Center, the region's only freestanding Center designed to support individuals and families of all ages who have experienced a death.

Mark your calendar for Unity's 2nd Annual Luminary Walk to be held Friday, May 12, 2023 at Heritage Hill State Historical Park. Register as an individual walker or team by visiting <https://unityhospice.org/luminarywalk/>. For more information, contact Unity's Development Department at 920-339-5571.

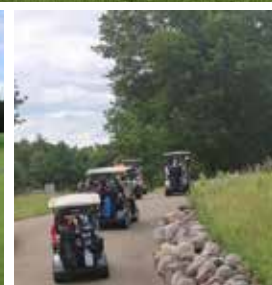


## Unity 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic

On July 12th, 29 foursomes teed off for Unity's Annual Golf Classic at Thornberry Creek Golf Course. These foursomes and our event sponsors raised nearly \$60,000 to help fund Unity's CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program which helps provide end-of-life care for all, regardless of ability to pay. Register for this year's Golf Classic to be held July 13, 2023 by calling our Development Department at 920-339-5571 or visiting [www.unityhospice.org](http://www.unityhospice.org). Have fun while doing good!

*"I joined Unity's Community Development Council because I have witnessed the positive impact the organization has on families facing end-of-life. The support Unity provides is unmatched. They take over the caregiving so families can spend quality time together making memories."*

— JoAnn Cotter, Cotter Funeral Home





*“I attended the brick ceremony and it was so lovely. They did an amazing job from all the speakers, the organizers, the landscaping crew and volunteers. Everything was so touching and the dove ceremony was breathtaking. I loved watching the doves flying around and then meeting up and finding each other in the sky. Something so peaceful and pure about that. Thanks again for all everyone does on a daily basis to help those near the end of life and their families.”*

*— Unity Memorial Brick and Bench Dedication Attendee*



## Unity's Memorial Brick and Bench Dedication

Held August 18th at the Unity Campus, more than 100 people gathered in person to dedicate a recently-purchased memorial or honorarium brick installed in Unity's gardens. The dedication ceremony is one of remembrance, honor and reflection and includes inspirational poems and stories, a dove release and a garden walk to view loved ones' bricks and benches. The dedication is open to all those who have purchased memorial or honorarium bricks and/or benches during the past year. The next Memorial Brick Dedication will be August 17, 2023. Bricks and benches may be purchased through May to be included in the 2023 dedication.

We offer our gratitude to the VandenHeuvel Estate gift which financed the replacement of all the walkways throughout the Unity gardens and to IEI General Contractors, Inc. for their work to create additional spaces where memorial benches can be placed!



*“Sometimes it truly is the ‘little’ things in life that make you laugh. For me it would be in sharing not only the pain, tears, and grief that is associated with death, but also the hope, love, and joy that can come out of a patient's journey.”*

*— Alicia, Unity Social Worker*

## Additional Ways to Support Patients and Families

Does your company hold events such as Jeans Day or Percent of Sales to benefit nonprofits? If so, please consider Unity as a recipient of funds. Thank you to groups such as Culvers, Dorsch Ford, Jerry Parins Cruise for Cancer, Oconto Elks Club and Stone Harbor for your support of Unity!



### Facebook Fundraisers

During the course of 2022, Facebook birthday and anniversary fundraisers were held to benefit Unity which raised, on average, \$250 each! We are grateful to everyone who created these fundraisers! Follow these simple steps to create your own Facebook fundraiser.



#### HOW TO START A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER

- VISIT** [www.facebook.com/fundraisers](http://www.facebook.com/fundraisers)
- CLICK** Raise Money for a Non-profit Organization
- SEARCH** "Unity Hospice"
- MODIFY** The details and click "Create"



### Unity's Online Auction

Unity's third annual online auction kicked off on Black Friday in conjunction with the holiday shopping season. Donations including products, services, vacation packages, day-trips, and unique handmade items make this event possible. If you or your organization would like to make a donation and be featured in this year's auction, please contact us!

Contact Unity's Development Department at **920-339-5571** to make a donation or inquire about sponsorship opportunities.

## Ways Your Gift Makes an Impact

\$50

One month's attendance for a child at Unity's *Generations*, the area's only community grief engagement support group designed for grieving families with children and teens ages 4-18

\$100

Books, toys, puzzles and games to support pediatric hospice patients

\$150

Helps provide basic needs for Veterans on our hospice program

\$200

Annual Spotify subscription fee for Holistic Harmonies, Unity's music program, which is proven to decrease depression, anxiety, pain and restlessness in participating hospice patients

\$310

One night of hospice stay at Unity's Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence for a patient with limited or absent financial resources

\$400

Helps fulfill the final wishes of hospice patients through Unity's *Gifted Wishes* program

\$500

CommUnity Care ensuring end-of-life care and grief support for those with limited or absent financial resources

\$2,000

Annual Compassionate Touch® training, licensing and materials used by our Certified Nursing Assistants to reduce pain, anxiety and depression through the use of this skilled touch technique

\$2,700

Annual printing of Reflections, a complimentary legacy journal for patients to document their life story as a remembrance for family members

\$3,000

Helps support annual maintenance and beautification of Unity's Gardens

### 2023 Events

- May 12** 2nd Annual Unity Luminary Walk
- June 11** Gathering of Remembrance
- July 13** 7th Annual Unity Golf Classic
- Aug. 17** Memorial Brick and Bench Dedication
- Sept. 21** Wings of Gratitude
- Nov. 24-28** Online Auction
- Dec. 6** Honor A Life Holiday Gathering

*As a nonprofit 501(c)(3), your donation to Unity may be tax deductible. There may be further tax advantages with planned giving. Contact Unity's Development Department for more information.*



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at Your Side

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WWW.UNITYHOSPICE.ORG

*If you wish to no longer receive newsletters from Unity, please contact our office to be removed from the mailing list.*

*Unity's Tax ID is 39-1750729*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Patty Allen**, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

**Kathy Kersch**, Bellin Health

**Ken Nelson III, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CPHQ**, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

**Jody Wilmet**, Bellin Health

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Functions as Unity's Board of Directors*

**Amber Allen**, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center

**Brian Burnette, MD**, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

**Heather Gartzke**, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

**Kathy Kersch**, Bellin Health

**Kathryn LaFond, MD**, Bellin Health

**Sherry LaFond**, Bellin Health

**Paul Pritchard, MD**, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

**Beth Wagner**, Bellin Health

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

*Functions as Unity's Philanthropy Ambassadors*

**Pete Baeten**, Volunteer, Retired

**Jo Beno**, Vice President Private Banking, Retired

**Mike Blaney**, Funeral Director, Retired

**Rob Charapata**, Funeral Director

**JoAnn Cotter**, Partner, Retired

**Dee Geurts-Bengtson**, Corporate Foundation Director, Retired



## Change lives – Leave a Legacy

Legacy gifts ensure end-of-life care and grief support continues for years to come. Donors to Unity have included Unity in estate planning by donating specific dollar amounts to be used as needed, a percentage of an estate, stocks and bonds, portions of retirement accounts and insurance policies. We are humbled by and grateful for these gifts that make a profound difference in so many lives. To discuss how you can leave a legacy to Unity, please call Unity's Development Director at 920-339-5571.



*"I just can't say enough about how good hospice is. It is the greatest thing ever invented. My quality of life is a hundred percent better because of the people who are taking care of me. If I didn't have Unity, I'd be in an assisted living facility. There is no doubt about that. I couldn't stay home without the help that they have given me.*

*I get a nurse every week. I get a social worker and I get a chaplain. Unity is a support system for you and your family. They have been there for my daughter and son and their spouses. I would not be alive if it wasn't for my faith in God and Unity Hospice."*

—Unity Hospice Patient