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NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HOSPICE/PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

Reaches Out to Community for End-of-Life Education

Green Bay, Wis. – November 6, 2008 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced its celebration of November as National Hospice/Palliative Care Month through increased community education of support options during advanced illness and at the end of life. These initiatives are part of a broader national campaign launched by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), encouraging people to learn more about hospice before they are faced with a health care crisis. The proclamation recognizing November as National Hospice/Palliative Care Month is annually made by the President of the United States. President George W. Bush’s 2008 Proclamation can be read in full on the White House website.

Hospice and palliative displays have been placed throughout Unity’s twelve-county service area, including the St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Center in Green Bay and the Algoma and Kewaunee Public Libraries. Unity nurse, social worker and grief counselor staff are scheduled to speak at both public and private events throughout Northeast Wisconsin to help participants understand what hospice is, the services provided, when hospice or palliative care is appropriate and other vital health care issues with which all consumers should be familiar. The importance of communicating wishes to family and loved ones—early and often—will be emphasized, and ways to help initiate these difficult discussions will be provided. Unity staff is available to speak at additional venues, at no charge, and can be reached at 800-990-9249 to schedule a date and speaker.



NHPCO reports that 1.4 million patients were served by the nation’s hospice providers last year. Hospices helped these patients and their family caregivers live as fully as possible – up until the end of life. Hospice ensures that people coping with a life-limiting illness will live with dignity, comfort and compassion.

“As hospice and palliative professionals, our mission is to serve patients and families, and we’re committed to making sure they receive the care they want,” said Nicole Curran, Unity’s Executive Director. “We are proud to offer the kind of care that provides pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support and spiritual care, not only to patients but their families as well. National Hospice/Palliative Care Month provides a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of the available care options.”

About Unity

Unity, a not-for-profit leader in hospice and palliative care, is a partnership of Green Bay’s three not-for-profit hospitals – Bellin Health, St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital. Unity is a continuation of the former Bellin Hospice program founded in 1977. Unity provides community-based hospice and palliative care, residential hospice care and grief support in twelve counties in Northeast Wisconsin. Unity is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO).

Unity is based in the Green Bay area with offices in Marinette, Shawano and Sturgeon Bay. For more information call (920) 338-1111 or visit www.unityhospice.org.

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