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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Island Artist Donates Design for Unity's 2008 Holiday Card

Green Bay, Wis. – December 10, 2008 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced the donation of “Fish Net Reel at Christmas,” an original watercolor by Washington Island artist John Davies, for its 2008 holiday card fundraising campaign, Gift from the Heart. The fundraiser is one of two major annual campaigns designed to raise awareness and funds for support of the non-profit's palliative, hospice and bereavement programs in Northeast Wisconsin. On an average day, 550 patients receive palliative and hospice care, and nearly 4,000 family members receive follow-up bereavement support from Unity's trained staff.

“Fish Net Reel at Christmas” symbolizes the commercial fishing era that still thrives on Washington Island and in the communities in Northeast Wisconsin that dot the Lake Michigan shoreline. Fishing for whitefish, chubs and more, the fish net reels allowed fishermen to dry and repair their mile-long gill nets. With the use of polyester nets today, fish net reels have taken the role as decorative features at many Island homes.

“We are grateful to John for his generous donation of his artwork to our annual fundraising project. Through his support, and the support of so many people in the community, we are able to care for all people who need our services,” comments Nicole Curran, executive director.



Spending his young life in Canada, John Davies first began art classes as a high school student in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Professional training at Michigan State University and Northwestern University led to advanced positions with Stephens Biondi DeCicco, a commercial art studio in Chicago. From 1988 until his retirement in 1997, John operated his own art studio, Prairieville. A member of the Washington Island Artists Association, John's work has been featured at the Washington Island Art & Nature Center. John is a member of Unity's Washington Island volunteer team, providing care to Island residents.

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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