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**NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Unity Provides \$1.2 Million in Charity Care in 2009
Annual Report Issued to Community**

Green Bay, Wis. – May 18, 2010 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced it has issued its annual report to the community, disclosing 2009 charity care expenses, accrued in providing palliative, hospice and bereavement care throughout Northeast Wisconsin, totaled more than \$1.2 million.

In 2009, Unity cared for 1,977 people through hospice and palliative services and an additional 6,888 people through bereavement care. Two-thirds of the patients were cared for at home, while almost one-third were cared for at nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Unity's 12-county service area. An additional 115 patients received care at the Jack and Engrid Meng Residence, Unity's hospice residence in De Pere. This is nearly a 16% increase in people served over 2008.

Over \$1.2 million in charity care was provided in the care of individuals using Unity's services in 2009. The hospice benefit's Medicare reimbursement structure does not cover the full cost of care: labor, supplies, medication and bereavement services for loved ones. Unity further supports the community through its palliative care program's skilled staff, room and board assistance at its hospice residence, and bereavement care for the general public, all of which are not Medicare-reimbursed.

"Our mission is to care for people who need our services, even if they cannot personally afford the care," states Nicole Curran, Unity Executive Director. "Through operational efficiencies and the generosity of the community's donations, Unity was able to meet the charity care needs of individuals with serious illness, at the end of life or in dealing with issues of grief and loss in 2009. We feel

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honored to be asked into patient homes at such a meaningful time and thank the community for recognizing the growing needs of their friends and neighbors, and ensuring these programs continue to thrive. As we look toward an increased patient census again in 2010, we hope the community will again provide their support to the charity care needs of the patients entrusted in our care.”

To view a copy of Unity’s 2009 annual report or access a donation form to contribute to Unity’s 2010 appeal, visit www.unityhospice.org/donations or call Unity at 800-990-9249.

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 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) and the Hospice Organization and Palliative Experts (HOPE) of Wisconsin.

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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