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NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unity Raises Awareness During National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

Green Bay, Wis. – October 25, 2011 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, is proud to celebrate November as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, along with providers across the nation. This outreach effort encourages people to learn more about hospice and palliative care before they are faced with a health care crisis. The hospice and palliative care philosophy encompasses caring for the whole person – mind, body and spirit. These outreach initiatives are part of a nationwide campaign launched by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). A proclamation recognizing November as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month is made annually by the President of the United States. NHPCO reports that more than 1.5 million people with a life-limiting illness are served by the nation’s hospice and palliative providers each year.

“Coping with a serious illness may be one of the hardest things patients and their families do. Our mission is to help them focus on living,” said Nicole Curran, Unity’s Executive Director. “Through our hospice, palliative and bereavement programs, we provide expert care to manage symptoms and pain, give psychosocial support and offer spiritual care. National Hospice and Palliative Care Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness of these health care options in our community.”

Palliative and hospice patient care staff provide expert medical care wherever patients reside to help them and their families achieve their goals no matter where they are in the disease progression. The care staff answers questions, offers guidance on what to expect and helps families with the duties of being caregivers. The staff also provides emotional and spiritual support for the entire family during



and after their loved ones passing. Volunteers provide companionship and support to families caring for a loved one.

“We help people understand their illness and what options are available, then work with them to define and carry out their wishes,” added Rance Hafner, MD, Unity’s Medical Director. “It’s about living the best life possible.”

About Unity

Unity is a not-for-profit provider of hospice, palliative care and grief support in 12 counties in Northeast Wisconsin and has offices in the Green Bay area, Marinette, Shawano and Sturgeon Bay. A continuation of the former Bellin Hospice program founded in 1977, Unity is a partnership of Bellin Health, St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital. Unity is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO). For more information call (920) 338-1111 or visit www.unityhospice.org.

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