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**NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Unity Volunteer Wins Award from State Hospice and Palliative Organization

Green Bay, Wis. – November 4, 2011 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced that volunteer Ann Renard received the *Volunteer of the Year Award* for organizational support services from the Hospice Organization and Palliative Experts (HOPE) of Wisconsin, the state organization representing member hospices throughout Wisconsin. The award was presented at HOPE's Fall Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin, on October 27, 2011, and is given annually to recognize the contributions of hospice volunteers throughout Wisconsin.

A Unity volunteer for nearly 15 years, Renard has served in many capacities, ranging from office assistance, community outreach, fundraising, bereavement and patient care. As a member of the organization's Community Development Council, which she chaired in 2010, Renard raises awareness of care programs available to the community and helps ensure funding to meet its mission.

Having been touched by the love and compassion of a hospice volunteer during her father's fight with cancer, Renard devotes much of her time to patient care, including transporting patients to appointments, providing respite for caregivers to have a break away from home, crocheting comfort shawls for patients, sitting vigil with patients at the end of life, and preparing baked goods at Unity's hospice residence for visiting family and friends. Renard shares, "My heart is warmed every day knowing that a few hours of my time truly made a difference in the lives of Unity's patients, their families and their caregivers." In 2010 alone, she volunteered over 400 hours in the support of Unity's programs. Renard is part of a group of more than 260 volunteers who are vital to the mission of Unity.

A former operations executive with IBM, Renard retired in 2007. She makes her home in Green Bay with her husband, Mark. They have two children: Carrie (spouse Calvin) and Andy.



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

HOPE of Wisconsin is the membership organization representing the licensed hospices in Wisconsin. As a 501(c)(3) organization, HOPE of Wisconsin provides education, legislative influence and partnership opportunities to all individuals and organizations in the state of Wisconsin who influence quality end-of-life decisions and care to strengthen the provision of hospice and palliative care. For more information, visit www.wisconsinhospice.org.

About Unity

Unity is a not-for-profit provider of community-based hospice and palliative care, residential hospice care and grief support in 12 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 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 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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