



LEADERS IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
A caring not-for-profit partnership of Bellin Health, St. Mary's and St. Vincent Hospitals

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unity Announces Volunteer Training in Sturgeon Bay

Green Bay, Wis. – March 11, 2009 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced a day-long training session has been scheduled in Sturgeon Bay for Tuesday, March 24th for Door County residents interested in becoming a Unity volunteer.

Since 1997, Unity has cared for residents of Door County, providing support for individuals with serious or terminal illnesses. Unity depends on the generosity of community members who share their time and talents to help carry out this very important mission. As a Medicare-funded program, Federal regulations require the involvement of volunteers in hospice care. Growing needs for hospice and palliative care by Door County residents has necessitated the growth in Unity's volunteer team.

Unity volunteers assist patients and their families by providing respite for families, companionship and support for patients, transporting patients and even easing some of the daily activity burdens of light housekeeping and meal preparation. Individuals of all ages are welcome to join Unity's volunteer team. Daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. Volunteers receive initial and continual training to ensure that they feel comfortable in any volunteer roles they wish to become involved. "Our volunteers share with us that providing companionship for our patients is one of the most rewarding forms of giving back," says Lisa De Sieno, Director of Outreach. "While volunteers provide assistance as patients and families face a very difficult time, they also gain personally from the experience."

Individuals interested in attending the training are asked to call Unity at 920-743-6440 or 800-990-9249 by Thursday, March 19th to complete an application and pre-training materials. Additional information about volunteering with Unity can be found at www.unityhospice.org.



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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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