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NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Young Artist's Collage Donated for Use in Unity's 2010 Holiday Card

Green Bay, Wis. – December 14, 2010 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced the donation of the use of “Snowman,” an original collage of construction paper and white paint created by the late Mariah Jean Klein, for its 2010 holiday card fundraising campaign, *Gift from the Heart*. The fundraiser is a major annual campaign 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, 750 patients receive palliative and hospice care, and more than 5,000 family members receive bereavement support from Unity's trained staff.

The snowman piece was created by Mariah at a daycare art session when she was just two years old. In 2007, Mariah was diagnosed with a very rare brain tumor. Within a week, she went from running, playing and laughing to limping, dragging her right foot and slurring her words. She found art to be therapeutic during the course of her illness.

“We are grateful to the Klein family for allowing us to be a part of their lives in caring for Mariah and now in the use of Mariah's artwork in our annual holiday fundraising project. To care for people of all ages who need our services, it takes the support from many members of the community,” comments Nicole Curran, executive director.

In 2007, Unity was invited into the Klein family's home to begin care of Mariah as she continued on her journey of life with cancer. Through 16 months of treatment, Unity was present.



Mariah’s mother, Micki, shared, “As a parent, the idea of caring for a child who had a terminal disease was very devastating. Unity eased our minds and provided whatever we needed to make Mariah comfortable throughout her journey with cancer.” At the age of four, Mariah lost her courageous battle. Her spirit lives on in the hearts of all of those she touched during her life.

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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