UNITY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

Green Bay, Wis. – April 9, 2012 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced that, along with other national, state and community organizations, it is leading an effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making—an effort that has culminated in the formal designation of April 16, 2012, as National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD).

As a participating organization, Unity is offering information and tools for the public to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives (healthcare power of attorney and living will) in accordance with Wisconsin state laws. These resources are available at Unity’s website www.unityhospice.org under the “Resources” section.

“As a result of National Healthcare Decisions Day, many more people in our community can be expected to have thoughtful conversations about their healthcare decisions and complete reliable advance directives to make their wishes known,” shared Rance Hafner, MD, Unity’s Medical Director. “Fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient. Healthcare providers and facilities will be better equipped to address advance healthcare planning issues before a crisis and be better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so.”

For more information about National Healthcare Decisions Day, please visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.
About Unity

Unity is a not-for-profit provider of palliative, hospice 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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