

# 2019 Tribute Annual Report



*“We cannot change the outcome,  
but we can affect the journey.”*



Strength  
at Your Side

*A caring nonprofit partnership of Bellin Health, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital  
Medical Center and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital*





## Dear Friends –

Typically, my annual greeting would highlight the countless ways you helped Unity impact the end-of-life experience for patients and families throughout Northeast Wisconsin and how your amazing gifts ensured each day was lived to the fullest. The stories in this Tribute reflect the good work you made possible.

But these are unprecedented times. As the world, our nation and our communities look to survive the challenges related to COVID-19, Unity remains steadfast in our commitment to providing personalized care and support to those facing advanced illness, death and grief. Our commitment to patients, families and community partners has not wavered.

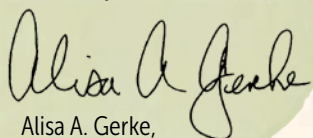
Now, more than ever, your financial gift is needed.

Gifts ensure we can...

- Continue to provide vital end-of-life care to patients regardless of financial means.
- Incorporate new strategies to support the needs of those grieving.
- Overcome the financial hardship of purchasing unprecedented levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the safety of staff, patients and families.
- Implement telehealth services to remotely monitor patient symptoms, provide video consultations and host family meetings.
- Reopen Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC where cherished household items can be donated or purchased in support of our patients and families.

We are facing unforeseen challenges and your gift today will help us meet these challenges head on. We remain strong because of you and we remain committed to those we serve.

Gratefully,



Alisa A. Gerke,  
Executive Director

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

### Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence

De Pere is home to the Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, the region's only inpatient hospice house where those facing end-of-life receive 24-hour skilled nursing care in the comfort and serenity of a home-like environment. The Meng Residence has made a profound difference in the lives of more than 2,000 patients and families over the past decade.



*"Helping people go through the most difficult time of their lives in comfortable surroundings, being treated with exceptional care and concern by Unity staff and with their loved ones is very important to us."*

– Jack and Inky Meng

### Gifted Wishes Creates Meaningful Moments

Adding life to days and creating special moments is the heart of what we do. Thanks to *Gifted Wishes*, a unique program launched by Unity in 2019, the final wishes of our hospice patients are coming true for an even more meaningful end-of-life experience. With help from a Unity Social Worker, patient wishes ranging from "big" to "small" are being identified and granted throughout the year, some of which include:

- Assisting with a family gathering to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or wedding
- Family photo session
- Day of pampering complete with home hair and nail salon
- Airline ticket for a loved-one to visit
- Ticket to a special sporting or entertainment event



- Transportation to a family cottage or other meaningful destination
- Keepsake bear memorializing the voice of a loved one
- Dinner at a favorite restaurant

As a *Gifted Wishes* donor, your simple act of kindness will add life to days for seriously ill individuals receiving hospice care from Unity. Please call our Director of Development at 920-339-5571 for more information on making wishes come true.



# Refreshed Vision Inspires New Business Development Department

Ongoing strategy work conducted throughout 2019 inspired Unity's leadership team to refresh the organization's vision statement and prompted the formation of a Business Development Department. Unity welcomed Chuck Hawkins, Business Development Director and Casey Burkett, Business Development Representative, in summer 2019. The new statement serves as framework for choosing future courses of action to meet the changing needs and expectations of care in our communities.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Chuck Hawkins; Casey Burkett.

## Mission

To bring the best end-of-life experience to our communities by delivering unwavering strength, compassion and support

## Vision

Leading community transformation in aging, death and grief

## Values

Excellence  
Collaboration  
Integrity  
Compassion  
Accountability

*"I'm honored to be a member of the Unity family and excited to help launch new services and programs so residents of Northeast WI can age well wherever they call home."*

*– Chuck Hawkins*



## Honoring our Nation's Heroes

One out of every four dying Americans is a veteran. Unity's new pinning program, led by Unity Veteran Volunteers, is a special way to recognize the service and sacrifice of our Veteran patients. During a pinning ceremony, a Unity Veteran Volunteer presents the patient, oftentimes surrounded by family and friends, with a personalized certificate of appreciation and pins a metal flag on the patient's military shirt or hat.

*A veteran is pinned during a Veterans Day pinning ceremony hosted by Unity Hospice on Monday, Nov. 11, 2019, at Renaissance Assisted Living in De Pere, Wisconsin.*

## Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

In May of 2017, Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC opened its doors with the mission to provide a meaningful place for the community to donate and purchase cherished furniture, décor, housewares, and clothing. The shoppe continues to grow and has added special events like the Winter Wonderland Reveal, Shoppe Hop and Sidewalk Sales. Volunteers continue to be the heart of operations assisting with sorting, cleaning, pricing, and staging merchandise as well as providing customer service.

"There are so many great reasons to volunteer at the Shoppe. The customers and those dropping off their donations are wonderful. I love listening to the stories of their loved ones, and hearing the history behind their belongings," said Lori Huber, Resale Shoppe Volunteer.

Proceeds raised by Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC help fund Unity's CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program ensuring everyone needing quality end-of-life care has access to Unity's services.

Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC is always in need of gently used furniture, décor and clothing, and accepts donations anytime we are open. To donate, shop or volunteer, visit us at:

### Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC

1641 Commanche Ave., Green Bay, WI

920-339-5501

Facebook.com/UnityResaleShoppeLLC/

### Store and Donation Hours

*May vary during holiday season.*

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



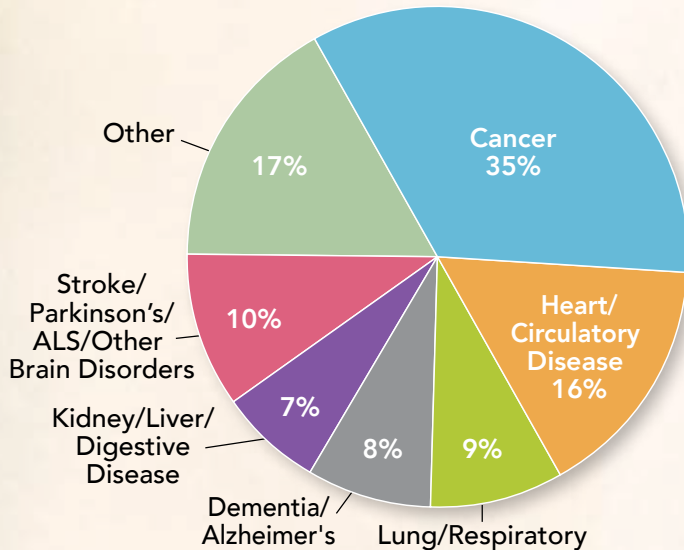
Lori Huber, Resale Shoppe Volunteer.



## HOSPICE CARE QUICK FACTS

2,281	Number of our family, friends and neighbors who received hospice care
294	Number of Veterans who received hospice care
7	Average age of pediatric patients who received hospice care
78,531	Number of visits made to hospice patients by a member of Unity's care team
80%	Percentage of patients who lived their final days outside of a hospital setting

### Hospice Admissions by Diagnosis



## TREATMENT PLUS QUICK FACTS

70	Number of our family, friends and neighbors who received palliative care
1,939	Number of visits made to Treatment Plus patients by a member of Unity's care team

## GRIEF SUPPORT QUICK FACTS

9,946	Number of individuals who benefited from Unity's grief support services
1,202	Number of hours grief counselors and volunteers spent facilitating support groups
100%	Percentage of <i>Navigating Grief &amp; Generations</i> attendees who would recommend the support groups to others <sup>1</sup>
98%	Percentage of respondents who report Unity's grief support services were compassionate and personal <sup>2</sup>
97%	Percentage of respondents who would recommend Unity's grief support services to others <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: 2019 Unity Grief Support Survey

<sup>2</sup>Source: July-December 2019 National Hospital and Palliative Care Evaluation of Grief Support Services (EGSS)

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE QUICK FACTS

347	Number of volunteers
58	Number of new volunteers
26,089	Hours served
\$655,356	Value of service
25	Number of patients served by Unity's Veteran to Veteran Companion Program
903	Number of memorial bears and pillows handcrafted from the cherished garments of loved ones to serve as a lasting keepsake
175	Number of patriotic lap blankets knitted for Veteran patients
12.54	Full time employee equivalents

## THE STORY OF BOB KOMMER

"My husband Bob was diagnosed with congestive heart failure in July of 2017 and was on hospice for 2 ½ years. I just love the fact that everyone was concerned about Bob, but there was also a very deep concern about me. Unity doesn't just treat the patient, they treat the entire family. You think you can handle it all, but believe me, you can't. There are so many avenues Unity takes over to make your life easier which makes for a healthier relationship with everybody. Unity sat down with us and the entire family and explained everything that was going to happen...the different stages he would be going through, the medications, the eating. The respect they showed Bob and everybody else was unbelievable.

We used the Meng Residence for respite care. Bob called it Unity's Hotel. He liked it there because he loved the Pepsi, candy bars and food. I can't say enough about the facility and the friendly staff. I should have used it even more. It gave him a break and me a break. Sometimes all I did was sleep.

Bob was a Veteran in the Navy and loved his Unity Veteran Volunteer. The two of them clicked right away. It was a match made in heaven.

A week before Bob died, I said to him, 'people like to send memorial money and I don't want any...what do you want me to do with it.' His wishes were for it all to go to Unity and I was determined to do that."

-Jan Kommer, beloved wife of Bob



Bob Kommer



# What is Hospice

Hospice is not a place, but rather a philosophy of care to maximize quality of life for patients and families facing life-limiting illness. Hospice is appropriate when aggressive treatments are no longer working and the focus turns to comfort instead of a cure.

For patients who are appropriate for hospice, the earlier they begin care tremendously impacts their quality of life. "There is so much more opportunity to stabilize a patient's medical condition and address the holistic needs of the entire family when services are provided for several months," expressed Dr. David Schrier, Unity's Medical Director. "In fact, research studies show those with a terminal illness who choose hospice care tend to live longer and have better quality of life than those who choose conventional, end-of-life medical care," said Schrier.

Unity's approach to care is centered around the wishes and goals of the patient and family, focusing as much on the grieving family as on the dying patient. Our team of professionals works to coordinate care between the patient's own doctor and family members. We provide pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support as well as ongoing education to guide the family and ensure a better quality of remaining life for their loved one. Care is provided wherever the patient calls home. Donations to Unity ensure we are able to provide care for all.

## YOUR CARE TEAM

**Skilled Nurse**

**Volunteers**

**Certified  
Nursing  
Assistant**

**Chaplain**

**Social Worker**

**Grief  
Counselor**

**Attending  
Physician**

## HOSPICE CARE

- For individuals with a life expectancy of six months or less
- Children may receive life extending treatment during course of care
- Focus of care is optimizing comfort and quality of life
- Care is provided in a private home, Unity's Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing homes and hospitals
- Care visits occur 24/7

## TREATMENT PLUS

- For individuals with a life expectancy of 7-24 months
- Life extending treatment is expected and acceptable for all ages
- Focus of care is reducing hospitalizations and optimizing quality of life
- Care is provided in private homes and assisted living facilities
- Care visits occur 7a.m. to 5p.m., Monday through Friday
- Education about ever-changing disease progression

## Ways Your Gift Makes an Impact

- \$30** Covers attendance for one child at *Generations*, the area's only community support group designed for grieving families with children and teens aged 4-18
- \$60** Offsets the cost to handcraft three keepsake bears or six pillows out of the cherished garments of loved ones, a service provided by Unity's *Filled With Love* program
- \$100** Covers one week of Unity's Treatment Plus services for an individual who has limited or absent financial resources
- \$150** Offsets yarn expense for volunteers to handcraft patriotic lap blankets for Veteran patients
- \$295** Covers one night of routine stay at Unity's Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence
- \$400** Covers one month of Unity's Treatment Plus care for a chronically-ill individual with limited or absent financial resources
- \$1,475** Supports five nights of routine care for one hospice patient at Unity's Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence
- \$2,000** Covers annual licensing, training and materials for 20 Certified Nursing Assistants to provide Compassionate Touch® for hospice patients
- \$2,500** Covers an entire year of Unity's *Generations* program

*As a nonprofit 501(c)(3), your donation to Unity may be tax deductible. There may be further tax advantages with planned giving. Contact Unity's Development Department for more information.*



## Unity's 4th Annual Golf Classic

Under beautiful skies, 30 foursomes teed off July 18th for Unity's 4th Annual Golf Classic at Thornberry Creek at Oneida Golf Course. Thanks to our foursomes, event and hole sponsors, nearly \$50,000 was raised to help fund Unity's CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program which helps ensure everyone, regardless of financial resources, has access to Unity's Treatment Plus and Hospice Care services. To register for this year's Golf Classic taking place July 16, 2020, contact our Development Department or visit our website at [unityhospice.org](http://unityhospice.org).

BELOW: Ashok Rai, Brooke Rai, Kristy Maney and PJ Madson.



*"Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped raise funds. You will never know the difference you made in our lives. We couldn't have managed without Unity. Thank you so much for helping my mom, me and the rest of our family."*

*– A very grateful daughter*

Call **920-339-5571** for information about these programs.

## Unity's 5th Annual Honor a Life Holiday Gathering



Mark Richards, Unity Chaplain

More than 300 people joined together in the spirit of community and reflection December 17th at the National Railroad Museum. The moving ceremony included the lighting of candles to honor and remember loved ones. This year's Gathering will be held December 15, 2020. Memorial ornaments will again be sold with proceeds helping fund Unity's grief services, all of which are offered free to the community.



*"The train caboose represents our loved ones' souls leaving their station here on earth. The lantern, glowing and unmoving, symbolizes the light our departed loved ones left behind. As we honor our loved ones, the lantern illuminates event brighter."*

*– Carlie Petersen, Ornament Artist*

## Unity's Memorial Brick Dedication

More than 200 people gathered in Unity's gardens August 15th to formally dedicate their memorial or honorarium bricks. Each family was invited forward as the name of their loved one was read and a dove was released in his or her honor. If you are interested in participating in our next Memorial Brick Dedication on August 20, 2020 call Unity's Development Department to purchase a brick prior to June 1.





# Unity's Grief Services Focus Group Research

Our mission to bring the best end-of-life experience extends to Unity's grief support programming. Unity's bold commitment to our communities, that no one must grieve alone, led us on a journey to assess and evaluate the changing needs of those grieving throughout Northeast Wisconsin. Thanks to funding from a generous New York Life grant, combined with pro bono work provided by The Karma Group, Unity undertook in-depth focus group research to understand the voice of community members as well as Unity donors, employees and volunteers.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The staggering research results from 21 focus groups conducted October 2018 through January 2019 were shared at the Legacy of Hope event on November 7th at Backstage in Green Bay. Steve Meyer, Principal and Chief Strategy Officer at The Karma Group, unveiled the following findings to over one hundred event attendees:

1. We lack a vocabulary for grief.
2. Our culture is challenged with a mythology about grieving that is, in many ways, unhealthy.
3. Unresolved grief is a root cause issue often leading to individual, familial and societal breakdowns.
4. Unresolved grief leads to illness, self-medication, and lost productivity.
5. There is a rapidly increasing need for grief services as many traditional support mechanisms are changing.

Steve was joined by a panel of local children and parents served by *Generations*, Unity's support group for children ages 4-18 who experienced the death of a loved one. The panelists shared cherished stories about their loved ones and their journey to find hope and healing. Through the research and the voices of panelists, we heard loud and clear that Unity is the only area resource with depth of professional expertise in grief counseling.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Unity has more resolve than ever to fill the gaps of grief support needs in our communities. We know grief is unique for every person and we are committed to creating the space and opportunity for people to talk, to connect and to grieve. Join us in growing the 2nd Annual Legacy of Hope. Call Grief Service Director Jenny Boeckman at 920-338-1111 to join the planning committee and develop a community luncheon to raise funds in support of grief programming.

For more information - <https://youtu.be/CRNydzCAQGY>



Front Left to Right: Jarek, Jozef, and Alex Kralovec. Back: Mark Kralovec

*"When I think back on that first year after losing my wife tragically to brain cancer, it was an absolutely devastating experience to go through as a husband and father of three young boys. I had no idea where to even begin to start to recover, not only for myself but also for my children. Generations became that beginning for us, a place where both the kids and I could feel safe to talk about our grief and also realize we were not alone on this journey".*

— Mark Kralovec



## What Legacy would you like to leave Northeast Wisconsin?

A legacy gift to Unity ensures your values live on while you make a lasting impact for generations to come. Whether you choose to gift a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or life insurance, you'll make a profound difference in the long term sustainability of Unity and the end-of-life experience of those in our community. To discuss legacy gift options, please call our Director of Development at **920-339-5571**. If you are leaving a legacy gift to Unity, please let us know!





Strength  
at Your Side

Unity Limited Partnership  
2366 Oak Ridge Circle  
De Pere, WI 54115

920.338.1111 | 800.990.9249

WWW.UNITYHOSPICE.ORG

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Tom Bayer**, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin

**Doreen Kluth**, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin and Prevea

**Jody Wilmet**, Bellin Health

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Functions as Unity's Board of Directors*

**Tom Bayer**, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin

**Brian Burnette, MD**, Green Bay Oncology

**Amy James, MD**, Bellin Health

**Doreen Kluth**, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin and Prevea

**Sally Luehring**, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin

**Paul Pritchard, MD**, Prevea Health

**Lois Van Abel**, Bellin Health

**Helen Wellens, NP**, Bellin Health

**Jody Wilmet**, Bellin Health

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

*Functions as Unity's Philanthropy Ambassadors*

**Pete Baeten**, Volunteer, Retired

**Jo Beno**, Retired Vice President Private Banking

**Mike Blaney**, Retired Funeral Director

**Rob Charapata**, Funeral Director

**JoAnn Cotter**, Partner, Retired, Wipfli LLP; VP – AfterCare, Cotter Funeral Homes and Cremation Care

**Dee Geurts-Bengtson**, Director of Corporate and Foundation Sponsorships, St. Norbert College

920.338.1111 or

800.990.9249

[www.unityhospice.org](http://www.unityhospice.org)

## Be Empowered. Request a Unity Speaker Today!

Unity offers free education on a variety of end-of-life topics for members of faith communities, civic groups, clubs, schools, businesses and health care organizations. Education is presented by experienced physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, chaplains, certified nursing assistants and administrative staff. All presentations can be tailored to meet your time requirements and area of interest.

### AVAILABLE TOPICS

- Advance Care Planning
- Care for the Caregiver
- Care of the Dying/Hospice 101
- Compassion Fatigue
- End-of-Life Symptom Management
- Grief and Loss
  - Children and Grief
  - Grief and Self Care
  - Grief in the Workplace
  - Journey of Grief
  - Life after Caregiving
  - Talking to Children about Death and Dying
- Respecting Valor Veteran Centered Care



Call 920-338-1111 to schedule a free education session.

### THE STORY OF EILEEN ALLMAN

Eileen Allman, devoted crafter and beloved wife of John Allman, received hospice care from Unity for six months before passing away in July 2019 from congestive heart failure. John reflected on the experience he and Eileen had with Unity:

"We were treated with the utmost respect. I have nothing but good things to say about everyone who came here. You could tell they were a team when they showed up at the house. They all had a part to play in the overall caregiving. Chaplain Steve spent a day with Eileen practically every week for six months. He knew her better than anyone. He even led her funeral service since our pastor was out of town when she passed.

I wish people knew what hospice really was. I simply thought hospice was somebody who takes care of you medically at end-of-life. They surely do that but there's so many more facets to care. Why didn't we agree to help sooner? Hospice isn't end-of-life, it's palliative care when you need it."



Eileen and  
John Allman