

2021

Annual Report

Moving Our Vision Forward



Unity Grief and Education Center



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 –

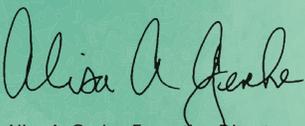
As the healthcare landscape continues to change, Unity remains committed to our communities in providing dignified and compassionate care to patients and families. We are driven to overcome barriers to quality healthcare including limited

access to services and rising costs. As the area's leader in nonmedical home care, supportive palliative care, hospice care and grief support, we strive to offer innovative programs to accommodate the changing needs of those we serve. Our strategy to move our vision forward is guided by feedback from patients, families, hospital partners, facilities, community agencies, volunteers and staff, as well as the pulse of the healthcare landscape.

2021 was the year of moving our vision forward. Programs and initiatives that grew from suggestions and ideas came alive. Research led to the why, strategies led to the how, and planning led to the when. We are intentional in our decisions so that everything we do meets the needs of our patients and families. Working together, with the help of our donors, patients, volunteers and staff, 2021 was an incredible year. We launched Telehealth, Supportive Care Management, Care Companions, and opened the doors to Northeast Wisconsin's only freestanding Grief and Education Center. These initiatives allow us to rise above the barriers to healthcare by serving patients wherever they call home and ensuring each person has access to quality care and grief support regardless of financial means.

Our vision is clear....continued commitment to doing the right thing, for the right reasons, at the right time. Your ongoing support makes this care possible!

With gratitude,



Alisa A. Gerke, Executive Director

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

TeleConnect – Connecting Patients and Families

Imagine the immense joy and incredible smiles of a mother and daughter when they were able to see the faces of each other for the first time in 10 years! Made possible through a generous grant award from Bader Philanthropies, Inc., Unity was able to begin TeleConnect, a unique program that promotes peace of mind and facilitates real-time connection between patient, family, caregiver and Unity team members. Since beginning the TeleConnect program in August 2020, Unity has conducted 408 virtual visits with hospice patients and families. In addition, Unity Grief Counselors have hosted more than 100 virtual grief groups. This technology has brought forth countless stories from patients and families happy to be able to connect at any time or place. Through TeleConnect, Unity continues to bring people together in meaningful ways, for social interaction, medical intervention and grief and spiritual support. We are grateful to Bader Philanthropies for their generosity and support of Unity's mission.

Bader Philanthropies, Inc., is a Milwaukee-based foundation, committed to improving the quality of life of the diverse communities in which it works. The organization funds innovative projects and programs, convenes partners, and shares knowledge to affect emerging issues in key areas such as Alzheimer's & Health Aging, Employment, The Arts, Urban & Jewish Education and Youth Development.



Unity Now Provides Nonmedical Home Care

For those needing assistance with bathing, dressing, grooming, light housekeeping, companionship, meal preparation, medication reminders, cognitive support, and home safety assessments, Unity launched *Care Companions*, a nonmedical home care service currently serving residents of Brown, Southern Oconto, Northeast Outagamie and Southeast Shawano counties. Nonmedical home care, also referred to by many as personal care, senior care or companion care, is designed to maximize peace of mind by pairing the client with a caregiver that best meets his or her needs so that adults may continue to live independently in their homes. *Care Companions* is a private-pay program that may be covered by some long-term care policies and is open to anyone in the area where *Care Companions* is available. For more information on how *Care Companions* can assist you or a loved one, please give us a call.



"We all want to remain in our home for as long as possible. Knowing my work as a Care Companion helps make this a reality for families is priceless. Whether it's cooking a hot meal, doing laundry, or just being a companion, I know my work makes a positive impact in the lives of those I support. That's why I choose to be a Care Companion."

Christine N – Unity Care Companion

Supportive Care Management

Introduced in 2021, Supportive Care Management (SCM) is a Unity medical service that helps those undergoing curative treatments for serious illness or chronic disease. Embracing the principles of palliative care, individualized goals are established for each patient to help Unity care teams provide the best care possible.

SCM promotes improvement in quality of life, ensures patients receive proper care and support, and reduces emergency room visits and hospital admissions. Unity's SCM team eases emotional stress through education, guidance and support to patients, families and caregivers wherever the patient calls home throughout our 13-county service area. For more information, visit us at <https://unityhospice.org/supportive-care-management/> or call us today.

Unity Supportive Care Management is a proud member within the Wisconsin Hospice & Palliative Care Collaborative (WHPCC), a strategic partnership focused on enhancing access to quality care for chronically and seriously ill patients.

ATTENDING PROVIDER
Oversees symptom management

NURSE PRACTITIONER
Manages disease and symptoms

REGISTERED NURSE
Assesses ongoing health needs



SOCIAL WORKER
Provides emotional support and connection to resources

CHAPLAIN
Offers spiritual support while respecting your beliefs

The Impact of Grief in the Workplace *Leads to development of GROW*

Our culture tells us that grief is something people should compartmentalize and quickly "get over." Workplaces struggle with how to address death and grief and often default to one-size-fits-all solutions or avoid the topic altogether.

According to the Grief Recovery Institute, **85% of workers said grief impacted their productivity** and decision-making abilities. Grief is shown to interfere with a person's mental capacity which negatively affects daily abilities, memory and interpersonal skills. Grief experts find that a person is at best 20% functional in the early weeks and months after a death. In addition, lost productivity and absenteeism related to grief cost employers \$75-\$100 billion annually.

Realizing many workplaces acknowledge grief's impact yet struggle with how to address it, Unity engaged The Karma Group to explore opportunities to bring expert grief services to area businesses. Funded in part by a grant award from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, 13 area human resource professionals from Northeast Wisconsin businesses

participated in this research to share how grief impacted their employees and work environments. Nearly all of the research participants acknowledged that grief has negatively impacted their employees and that their leaders could benefit from learning about how to talk about and navigate grief.



G.R.O.W.
Grief Resource for Organizational Wellness

After gathering and analyzing the research, Unity's Grief Services team launched the Grief Resource for Organizational Wellness (G.R.O.W.) pilot program to meet the unmet needs of employers and grieving employees. G.R.O.W. is currently providing grief education, support and consultation for select employers and employees. To learn more about how your business could benefit from these services, contact Unity Grief and Education Center at 920-339-6700.

Gifted Wishes Bring Joy

A visit with a loved one, one last trip to the cottage, a favorite meal, the chance to plant flowers...these are only a few of the wishes made possible through Unity's *Gifted Wishes* program. Funded by donations to Unity and a matching grant awarded by the Cornerstone Foundation of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc., Unity made 61 wishes come true for hospice patients in 2021. A family photo session, a tour of Lambeau, the chance to sing with the church choir one more time...making these wishes come true brings joy to our patients and their families and warms the hearts of all those involved. The wish may be small in nature, but have a huge impact. To help make wishes come true for our hospice patients, either through donations or gifts of service, contact our Development Department or visit www.unityhospice.org/gifted-wishes.



2021 Quick Facts

HOSPICE CARE

2,205 Number of our family, friends and neighbors who received hospice care

78,914 Number of virtual and in-person visits made to hospice patients by a member of Unity's care team

SUPPORTIVE CARE MANAGEMENT

81 Number of our family, friends and neighbors who received supportive palliative care

402 Number of virtual and in-person visits made to supportive palliative care patients by a member of Unity's care team

GRIEF SUPPORT

6,379 Number of individuals who benefited from Unity's grief support services

8,212 Number of phone calls made to provide grief support

569 Number of hours facilitating grief groups

181 Number of in-person grief support sessions

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

299 Number of volunteers

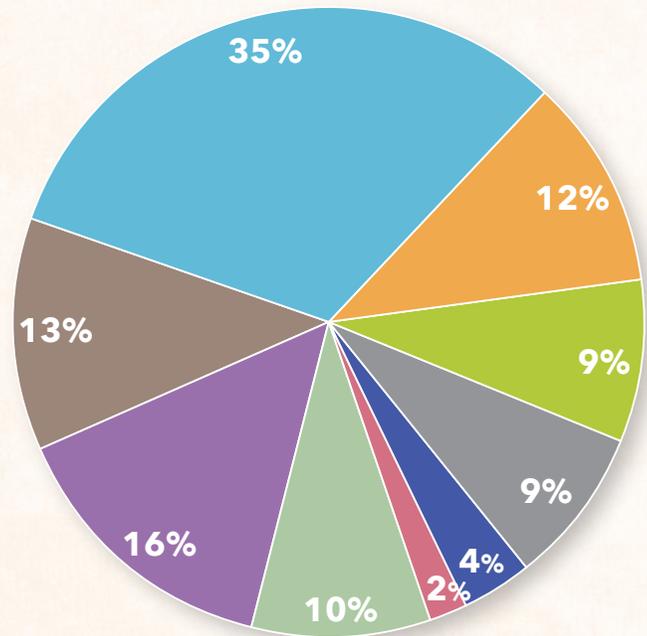
20 Number of Veteran to Veteran volunteers

24,726 Hours donated

\$705,680 Value of service

548 Number of memorial bears and pillows handcrafted from the cherished garments of loved ones to serve as lasting keepsakes

Hospice Admissions by Diagnosis



- Cancer
- Stroke/Parkinson's/ALS/MS/Other Brain Disorders
- Kidney Disease
- Lung Disease
- Heart/Circulatory Disease
- Dementia/Alzheimer's
- Liver/Intestinal Disease
- Malnutrition
- Other



Durelle Puls

Story of Durelle Puls

The Unity Care Team felt like angels hovering over me, giving me the loving comfort that I needed, every step of the way.

They engaged me in the final weeks and days of Mom's care, even though I was 2,000 miles away. They checked with me before making any changes in Mom's medication and pain management, and any other medical procedures they thought she needed. I felt like I was part of the team, that my opinion mattered, and that it was important that I feel comfortable with every decision that was made.

They described to me over the phone exactly how Mom was doing and what I might expect to happen during her final days. But they always offered hope that she might rally and be with us for a while longer; this helped me understand how much is out of our control when someone is moving closer to death.

Fortunately, I was able to spend two beautiful weeks with Mom in June, when I flew to Wisconsin for what I was quite sure would be my "good-bye." But she had declined significantly and was struggling in ways that were very challenging for me to witness. So, when the Unity angels arrived and met with both Mom and me, it was as if a gift from heaven had landed in my lap. The angels were gentle, uplifting, and kind. They were also very hands-on and practical, coming up with several new things they would try to do to bring more spirit and light into Mom's daily routine. I was so very grateful.

I encourage anyone who has a family member who has a life-threatening illness, to not hesitate to become connected with Unity and take advantage of their services. Don't hesitate.

— Joy Rewick, Durelle's Daughter

"Hospice will give you the strength that you need to connect even more deeply with your loved one because these angels will do all of the things you are not equipped to do."

Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence Receives Technology Upgrade

The Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, Unity's beautiful 12-bed inpatient facility located in De Pere, is a special place where patients facing end-of-life can come for around-the-clock care. Whether patients are admitted for short term symptom management, to provide their caregiver respite, or for care until the end of their hospice journey, our state-of-the-art facility fosters a caring and tranquil environment. Patients and families benefit from a full complement of onsite staff who provide medical, emotional, spiritual and grief support, and experience private rooms and baths, freshly prepared meals and family gathering areas with gorgeous views of the grounds and gardens..

Spurred by the challenges associated with COVID, community philanthropists Jack and Engrid (Inky) Meng, through their non-profit foundation, offered to fully fund the cost of technology upgrades throughout the Meng Hospice Residence to ensure every patient has the ability to virtually connect with loved ones no matter the day or time. These upgrades will serve to modernize the Meng Hospice Residence technology network to provide better connectivity for patients and their families while they use Zoom audio/video technology with iPads. Additional upgrades consist of enhanced features on the in-room televisions which include information about Meng Hospice Residence services and answers to frequently asked questions. All upgrades will be fully implemented in mid-2022.

We are humbled for the continued support provided by Jack and Inky and thank them for the profound impact they make on patients and families.



"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

Announcing the Opening of Unity Grief and Education Center! *The area's only center of its kind in our region*

A place to heal, share experiences, and find hope – this is what grieving individuals will experience at the new Unity Grief and Education Center. What began as an idea is now a first-of-its-kind center located in the heart of our region at 2079 Lawrence Drive in De Pere. With a vision to create a community where no one must grieve alone, Unity Grief and Education Center offers a warm, inviting, and supportive space where individuals of all ages are given the opportunity to grieve in their own way. The Center houses Unity's experienced Grief Services team consisting of licensed counselors, social workers, and trained volunteers. It features dedicated counseling rooms to accommodate adults, children, and families, as well as a large room for education and public outreach. Services provided in-person, virtually, and by phone include individual and family grief counseling, grief support groups, supportive telephone calls, memorial events and literature. Generous donations allow Unity to offer compassionate grief support at no charge to the community.

Unity would like to thank New York Life for their generous grant, as well as The Karma Group for their pro bono, in-depth focus group research. Their belief in our mission helped us hear and understand the voice of community members, as well as Unity donors, employees, and volunteers. The staggering research results from 21 focus groups concluded that gaps in grief support exist in Northeast Wisconsin and showed Unity's professional and compassionate Grief Services team was the only resource with the depth and breadth of expertise capable of providing the expanded grief programming needed. Unity Grief and Education Center is proud to now fill the gap with a dedicated space to provide programs and support.

For more information about Unity Grief and Education Center, or to schedule a tour or appointment, call 920-339-6700. To make a donation in support of the Center, visit us at www.unityhospice.org/donate/.



5th Annual Golf Classic



Under beautiful skies, 27 foursomes teed off July 13th for Unity's 5th Annual Golf Classic at Thornberry Creek Golf Course. Thanks to these foursomes, along with our event sponsors, more than \$60,000 was raised to help support Unity CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program that helps ensure quality end-of-life care is available for all, as well as Unity Gifted Wishes, a donor-funded program that fulfills wishes for Unity hospice patients. To register or sponsor this year's Golf Classic to be held July 12, 2022, call our Development Department or visit our website www.unityhospice.org. Have fun while doing good!

Wings of Gratitude - *Honor. Remember. Inspire.*

In celebration of World Gratitude Day in September, Unity launched *Wings of Gratitude* as an opportunity for public expressions of gratitude for someone who has made a positive impact in his or her life.

A unique program promoting the celebration of gratitude, it offers the opportunity to recognize those who have made a difference. Whether you honor or remember a family member, coworker, neighbor, friend or caregiver, your donation to *Wings of Gratitude* keeps their good gestures

alive while making compassionate end-of-life care and grief support available for those in Northeast Wisconsin.

Through *Wings of Gratitude*, the public is invited to submit a written message of appreciation or cherished memory, as well as a photograph, to honor a special person. The message of gratitude is published on Unity's *Wings of Gratitude* website which can easily be shared on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

To support Unity by submitting a message of gratitude, visit www.UnityHospice.org/Wings-of-Gratitude.



Culver's Dine-to-Donate for Unity

In celebration of November's National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, Culver's partnered with Unity to donate a percentage of proceeds from dine-in and carry-out orders at seven participating restaurants. A huge thank you to Unity volunteers who distributed literature and spoke with customers to raise awareness of the benefits of hospice and palliative care. We thank Culver's for being an active member in our communities and for making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Unity's Memorial Brick Dedication

On August 19th, more than 100 people gathered in person to dedicate a recently purchased memorial or honorarium brick installed in Unity's gardens. This dedication ceremony is one of remembrance, honor and reflection and includes inspirational poems and stories, a dove release and a garden walk to view loved ones' bricks. The dedication is open to all those who have purchased memorial or honorarium bricks during the past year. The next Memorial Brick Dedication will be held August 18, 2022. Bricks may be purchased through May to be included in the 2022 dedication.



Unity's 7th Annual Honor a Life Holiday Gathering



In December, Unity hosted the 7th Annual Honor a Life Holiday Gathering. Honor a Life continues to remain a source of hope and support during the Holiday season, while providing an opportunity to honor and remember loved ones. In this year's virtual Honor a Life Gathering video, local musician Hannah Rose sang the words "there's a hope hovering, breathe it in." This message of

hope was shared on social media through the Honor a Life Facebook Live virtual event which had over 230 live views, and reached another 3,400 people after the event. The 2021 Honor a Life holiday ornament was created by local artist, Carlie Peterson, and featured a peaceful winter scene overlooking a river, guiding us to the light of hope. The purchase of ornaments supports grief programming. Unity's 8th Annual Honor a Life Holiday Gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at the National Railroad Museum.

Gathering of Remembrance

Gathering to honor and remember loved ones has been challenging over the past year, yet remained a commitment by the Grief Services team. In Spring 2021, a Gathering of Remembrance video tribute was shared with bereaved clients and included reflective music, candle lighting, honoring loved ones by name, and an inspirational message of hope and healing.

We were grateful to welcome bereaved back to the beautiful Green Bay Botanical Gardens in Fall 2021, giving bereaved the opportunity to gather safely at the Gardens or to receive a link to a recording of the Gathering. By offering both in person and virtual options, we were able to provide support to our bereaved in a way that was most comfortable and meaningful for them.



Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC has Record-Breaking Year!

Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC continues to thrive! Our volunteers, donors and loyal shoppers helped 2021 be a record-breaking year, raising funds to support CommUnity Care, a financial-assistance program that allows us to provide hospice to those in our service area, regardless of ability to pay. Household items, gently worn clothing and furniture can be donated by anyone during shoppe hours.

Visit us Monday through Saturday and browse our trove of treasures including antique and vintage items, beautifully organized and displayed china, and unique pieces of fine jewelry. Our inventory is always changing which allows us to keep the sales floor fresh and exciting for our customers!

To shop, donate or join our incredible volunteer team, give us a call or send us a message!

Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC

1641 Commanche Ave., Green Bay, WI
920-339-5501
www.facebook.com/UnityResaleShoppeLLC/

Store and Donation Hours

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Shoppe hours are subject to change.



Ways Your Gift Makes an Impact

- \$50** One month's attendance for a child at Unity's Generations, the area's only community grief engagement support group designed for grieving families with children and teens ages 4-18
- \$60** Materials for three Veteran lap afghans handcrafted by Unity volunteers
- \$150** Helps provide basic needs for Veterans on our hospice program
- \$310** One night of hospice stay at Unity's Jack & Engrid Meng Hospice Residence for a patient with limited or absent financial resources
- \$400** Helps fulfill the final wishes of hospice patients through Unity's *Gifted Wishes* program
- \$500** A personalized 4' x 8" Memorial or Honorarium Brick installed in Unity's Gardens
- \$1,000** A personalized 8' x 8" Memorial or Honorarium Brick installed in Unity's Gardens
- \$1,500** Small Wood Leaf Installed on Unity Grief and Education Center Donor Wall
- \$2,000** Annual Compassionate Touch® training, licensing and materials used by our Certified Nursing Assistants to reduce pain, anxiety and depression through this skilled touch technique
- \$2,500** Large Wood Leaf Installed on Unity Grief and Education Center Donor Wall
- \$3,000** Helps support annual maintenance and beautification of Unity's Memorial Gardens

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.



Strength at Your Side

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

920.338.1111 | 800.990.9249

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Ken Nelson III, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CPHQ,
HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

Jody Wilmet, Bellin Health

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Functions as Unity's Board of Directors

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Brian Burnette, MD, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

Kathy Kerscher, Bellin Health

Kathryn LaFond, MD, Bellin Health

Paul Pritchard, MD, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital

Beth Wagner, Bellin Health

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*Functions as Unity's Philanthropy
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Mike Blaney, Retired Funeral Director

Rob Charapata, Funeral Director

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Mark Richards

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Gwen Wilke

Deb Winters

What Legacy would you like to leave Northeast Wisconsin?



A legacy gift to Unity ensures your values live on while making 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 for 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!

Request a Virtual or In-Person Educational Speaker

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.