NEW IN 2016

DEAR FRIENDS,
As we prepare to celebrate 40 years of service, we reflect on the patients, families and community members served by Unity in 2016. This annual report provides over-arching statistics, each representing a family who was impacted. It would take volumes of pages to share the personal stories. Their journeys inspire us to ensure our patients and families have the best day possible, each and every day. Unity believes the end of life deserves just as much care and respect as the beginning. Our mission to bring the best end-of-life experience to our communities is made possible by our generous donors, talented volunteers and dedicated staff.
We encourage you to partner with us through a financial donation or gift of time. Help ensure all facing the challenges of life-limiting illness, death and grief have access to the care and support they need.
Warmly,
Alissa A. Gasko
Executive Director

Care Programs

• Treatment Plus – In March, Unity’s palliative program was redesigned to better align with Unity’s mission and vision... to provide an extra layer of support to individuals in advanced stages of a life-limiting illness. Our newly structured program provides expert interdisciplinary care and case management earlier in a patients end-of-life journey.

• Care Choices – Unity is proud to be the only hospice in Northeast Wisconsin selected to pilot Medicare’s Care Choices Program. This program provides a new option for Medicare patients to receive hospice care while continuing curative treatment. This five year pilot program will test the benefit and cost-effectiveness of providing hospice services to patients not yet ready to forego conventional treatments.

• Compassionate Touch® – Made possible by the generosity of a private donor, Unity’s Certified Nursing Assistants received specialized training to offer this intentional skilled touch technique. Compassionate Touch® combines communication skills and gentle massage of the hands, back and feet. The technique is designed to reduce pain, anxiety and depression among patients.

Quality Enhancements

• Patient/Primary Caregiver Satisfaction Rounding – With a commitment to providing excellent patient care, Unity leaders implemented a satisfaction rounding program. Every other week, caregivers of Unity hospice patients are contacted telephonically to ensure expectations are being met. Caregiver feedback continues to be used to positively impact communication and services across the course of care for patients and their families.

• Point-of-Care Charting – With the goals of enhancing coordination of care and the timing of care delivery, staff embraced an organization-wide initiative to increase the utilization of point-of-care charting. This process involves collaborative documentation with a patient and his or her family throughout the course of a visit.

• Safety Zone – In partnership with Belin Health, Unity launched Safety Zone, an electronic portal that enables timely and efficient reporting and trending of safety and service recovery opportunities.

Fundraising Events

• Golf Classic – The first-ever Unity Golf Classic was held July 21st at Thumberley Creek at Oshkosh. More than $40,000 was raised to fund Unity’s Community Care, a financial assistance program which helps to cover end-of-life care costs for under- and uninsured patients. A special thank you to the 112 golfers in attendance and numerous sponsors whose support helps ensure our community has a vital and enduring end-of-life program.

• Memorial Brick Dedication – On August 4th, 50 individuals who recently purchased a memorial or honorarium brick joined with family and friends at Unity’s campus to attend a moving dedication ceremony of remembrance, honor and reflection. The event included inspirational poems and stories, dove releases and a garden walk to view loved ones’ bricks.

• 2nd Annual Honor a Life Tree Lighting – More than 200 people gathered on Unity’s campus on November 12th to participate in a very moving event to honor loved ones. Keepsake tags with loved ones’ names were thoughtfully tied to the trees for families to acknowledge and remember.

Attendees were comforted with heartfelt memorial readings and reflections. Refreshments and holiday music from the First United Methodist Church Handbell Choir were enjoyed by all. The lighting of Unity’s holiday tree symbolized hope for those who have passed and our hope for the year ahead. We thank everyone who attended or gave from their heart through monetary or in-kind gifts.

• Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC – In December, Unity’s Management Committee approved plans to open the Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC in May 2017. The Shoppe will provide a meaningful place for family members to part with items that meant so much to a loved one. It will also serve as an inviting place where the entire community may donate or purchase cherished household goods. Sales of these items will help provide a sustainable revenue stream for Unity, ensuring specialized end-of-life care will be available to all.
WHY YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Money Received Through Public Support
$527,664 Financial gifts received from 2,666 generous donors

Expenses
$13.4 million Direct patient care expenses
$6 million Operating expenses
$456,044 Value of services provided to under-and uninsured patients through Community Care

HOSPICE CARE QUICK FACTS

1,865 Number of family, friends and neighbors who received hospice care
15 Average age of pediatric patients who received hospice care
103,868 Number of visits made to hospice patients by a member of Unity’s care team
99.1% Percentage of patients who lived their final days outside of a hospital setting
98.3% Percentage of families who would recommend Unity hospice care to others

Location of Hospice Care
- Jack & Engrid Meng Hospice Residence 2.5%
- Hospital 0.9%
- Nursing Home 14.9%
- Private Home 50.3%
- Assisted Living Facility 31.4%

THE STORY OF LAVONNE BOGART

“I met Lavonne when I was a junior in high school. Six years ago, doctors discovered a lump in her breast. She made the choice to have a double mastectomy. She was great for three years, but then her cancer came back in her hip, bones and liver. She got really weak toward the end and wanted to stay home. I agreed to take care of her the best that I could.

I wouldn’t have been able to do it alone - never in a million years. Unity took care of everything. I had the idea that hospice just took care of patients, but Unity cared about everybody in the family.

I was impressed that anything I asked for was there often within the same day. I even called Unity one night at 3:00 am because Lavonne got sick and I needed assistance washing her up. Unity arrived within a half hour. When they say 24 hours a day, seven days a week, they mean it!”

Jim Bogart, Lavonne’s husband of 59 years

TREATMENT PLUS QUICK FACTS

201 Number of family, friends and neighbors who received palliative care
5,684 Number of visits made to Treatment Plus patients by a member of Unity’s care team

GRIEF SUPPORT QUICK FACTS

8,222 Number of individuals who benefited from Unity’s grief support services
1,112 Number of hours grief counselors spent facilitating grief support groups
78 Number of new grief support groups offered
25 Number of hours grief counselors spent facilitating support groups at middle schools
24 Number of people supported through Unity’s new Healing Through the Arts workshop
100% Percentage of Navigating the Waters of Grief and Generations attendees who would recommend the support groups to others

$394,000 Value of grief support services provided to children and adults

VOLUNTEER SERVICE QUICK FACTS

292 Number of volunteers
16,223 Service hours
501 Number of patients directly served by volunteers
825 Number of memorial bears and pillows handcrafted from the cherished garments of a loved one to serve as lasting keepsakes

$363,123 Value of service
7.8 Full-time employee equivalents

Unity’s Continuum of Care

Unity’s care team, comprised of nurses, social workers, chaplains, certified nursing assistants, grief counselors and volunteers, is committed to providing the highest quality of care. Our end-of-life care services have grown to include Hospice, Treatment Plus and Care Choices. We pride ourselves in exceeding the expectations of patients and families through prompt pain and symptom control, doorstep medication delivery, visit frequency tailored to needs and ongoing education and support.

TREATMENT PLUS

- For individuals with a life expectancy of 7-24 months
- Life prolonging treatment is acceptable
- Focus of care is reducing hospitalizations and optimizing quality of life through advanced disease management
- Care is provided in private homes, assisted living facilities and partner hospitals
- Education about ever-changing disease progression

Ways Your Gift Makes an Impact

$30 One month’s attendance for a child at Unity’s Generations, the area’s only community grief support group designed for grieving families with children and teens ages 6-18

$60 Three Veteran lap afghans handcrafted by Unity volunteers

$100 One week of Unity’s Treatment Plus services for one chronically-ill individual who has limited or absent financial resources

$285 One night of hospice stay at Unity’s Jack & Engrid Meng Hospice Residence for a patient with limited or absent financial resources

$400 One month of Unity’s Treatment Plus care for one chronically-ill individual with limited or absent financial resources

$500 A personalized 4” x 8” Memorial on Honorarium Brick installed in Unity’s Gardens as a lasting tribute

$1,000 A personalized 8” x 8” Memorial or Honorarium Brick installed in Unity’s Gardens as a lasting tribute

$1,425 Five nights of hospice stay at Unity’s Jack & Engrid Meng Hospice Residence for a patient with limited or absent financial resources

$2,000 Annual Compassionate Touch® training, licensing and materials enabling our Certified Nursing Assistants to reduce pain, anxiety and depression through this skilled touch technique

$2,500 Annual medication and supply delivery for Unity patients

$5,000 Your name inscribed on the Tribute Plaque at the Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC

HOSPICE CARE

- For individuals with a life expectancy of six months or less
- Only children can receive life prolonging treatment
- Focus of care is optimizing comfort and holistic well-being
- Care is provided in private homes, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing homes, partner hospitals and Unity’s Jack & Engrid Meng Hospice Residence
- Education, support and grief counseling for patients, family members and caregivers

CARE CHOICES

- For individuals with a life expectancy of six months or less
- Life prolonging treatment is expected
- Focus of care is optimizing comfort and holistic well-being
- Care is provided in private homes, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing homes and partner hospitals
- Education, support and grief counseling for patients, family members and caregivers

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Development Director Diana Buzz at 920-339-8571

THE STORY OF JAMES MILLER

“My dad was 88 years old and a real character. Up until last year, he was very independent. He lived on the river and was an avid fisherman, but only made it out on the boat a couple of times last summer. He started experiencing confusion, shortness of breath, and increased anxiety. He wanted to sleep all the time and was self-medicating. It began getting tougher for him to walk and get around. It got to the point where we really didn’t feel secure with him being alone by himself or driving. My older brother decided to stay with him and in the meantime, I called Unity Hospice. Thankfully, due to his underlying heart conditions, he qualified for their service.

I’m a nurse and have always been the go-to caregiver in my family. What was wonderful with Unity on board was that I no longer needed to be his nurse and could just focus on being his daughter. The Unity staff listened to my suggestions and shared ideas of their own, all focused on my dad’s comfort and quality of life. They were able to build a relationship with my dad. They knew his likes and dislikes. They knew us as family members. It really gave me peace of mind to have Unity caring for my father. When I tell people about my dad’s final days, I always say it was the most horrible, yet the most beautiful thing I’ve ever experienced in my life. He was comfortable and very much at peace. I cannot thank Unity enough.”
— Mary Beth Furnelle, Daughter of James
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Tom Bayer, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin
Larry Connors, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital
and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
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
Larry Connors, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
Amy James, MD, Bellin Health
Sally Luehring, HSHS Division Eastern Wisconsin
Paul Pritchard, MD, Prevea Health
John Rocheleau, Bellin Health
Helen Wellens, APNP, NP, Bellin Health
Jody Wilmet, Bellin Health

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Functions as Unity’s Philanthropy Ambassadors
Jo Beno, Nicolet National Bank
Mike Blaney, Blaney Funeral Home
Dee Geurts-Bengston, St. Norbert College
Tom Mahoney, St. Francis Xavier & Saints Peter and Paul Church
Mitchell Musial, Mann Law Firm, Ltd.

Jerry Parins — A Donor’s Perspective

“I retired from the Green Bay Police Department and began working for the Green Bay Packers full-time in ’92. My life was great. Then, one evening when I was almost 64 years old, my whole world crashed. I found I had a cancerous tumor in my rectal area. My good friends Pat Dougherty and Vandervest Harley-Davidson wanted to do something for me and my cancer. This is how “Cruise for Cancer” started. Our first ride was in 2004 while I was still having chemotherapy.

As the cruise started getting bigger and raising more revenue, Unity was always right there and number one of our organizations to support. I’ll tell you, when it comes up in conversations with me, Unity is on top of the ladder. Having hospice involved helps take a big load off your shoulders. People caring about people….Unity is the leader in that.”

Jerry Parins, Former
Green Bay Packers
Corporate Security Director

920.338.1111 or 800.990.9249 | WWW.UNITYHOSPICE.ORG
If you wish to no longer receive mailings from Unity, please contact our office to be removed from the list.