FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
For four decades, Unity has held the privilege and responsibility of positively impacting patients and families facing life-limiting illness. Those we serve live on farms, on Washington Island, on tribal lands and in our cities. They represent many cultures and span 100 years in age.

Many have final wishes...attend a wedding or graduation, hold a new grandchild, attend a Packer game or simply visit with family and friends. They wish their remaining days to be peaceful, pain free and meaningful. Each and every day, Unity takes great pride in meeting the unique needs of our patients and families through quality, compassionate care.

As the first hospice in Wisconsin and the third in the nation, our history is carved from the foresight of those who joined together to create Unity. The wisdom of these founders combined with ongoing support from donors, staff, volunteers and the healthcare community allows us to provide end-of-life care to all, regardless of ability to pay. They help make possible the Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, the only Residence of its kind in our 13-county service area, and allow us to provide the area’s most comprehensive grief support. As your neighbor, we are grateful for the support of our mission and trusting us with the care of your loved one.

Our 40th anniversary gave us time to reflect on the thousands of lives impacted by the wisdom and generosity of those in our community. As we position our organization for the future, we ask that you give consideration to ways in which you can continue to impact our patients and families. Whether you share your positive hospice experience with others, offer your time as a volunteer, or give a financial gift, you will impact a life...and for that we are forever grateful.

Warmly,
Alisa A. Gerke, Executive Director

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Unity Celebrates 40 Years of Service
A crowd of more than 300 gathered on Unity’s De Pere Campus September 16th to celebrate Unity’s 40 years of service to the community. Volunteers arrived at dawn to cut vegetables and assist community members Tom Vandehei and Ed Castelic in preparing bobbyh. Sweet treats donated by staff and volunteers, as well as bushels of apples donated by Hillside Apples, were served throughout the day. Attendees also enjoyed roasted corn as they listened to family friendly tunes by Big and Tall under the tent.

Children enjoyed playing carnival games, getting their faces painted and choosing a balloon creation from Mischief and Magic. Thanks to the donation of Lamers Bus Lines, Inc. and driver Terry Suttner, attendees were graciously shuttled back to their cars after an enjoyable day in the sun.

Nursing Services Redesign
Through evaluation of Unity’s 2017 Employee Engagement Survey, it was clear that our RNs, LPNs and CNAs desired enhanced clinical support in the field as well as the opportunity for a stronger presence with patients at the bedside. Action was taken to identify a structure that would provide the education and support desired to enhance the patient and family experience. We are excited to share the following benefits resulting from Unity’s Nursing Services Redesign:

- The development of standardized Nursing practices to ensure we exceed the expectations of patients and families
- The creation of three new Nurse Educator roles to mentor new staff and develop more clinically prepared nursing teams
- Nursing Team Leaders now have more time dedicated to managing the quality and delivery of care provided while ensuring superior customer service
- Internal career advancement opportunities to retain valued staff
Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC Opens for Business

Thanks to financial support of generous donors as well as the labor and expertise provided by Best Built, Performa, Verde Hair, and VOS Electric, the Shoppe opened its doors to the public in Spring 2017. The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting event September 20th was attended by members of the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Jim Schmidt and many community supporters.

Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC provides a meaningful and inviting place for the community to donate and purchase cherished household goods and clothing. Sales of items help fund CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program which helps ensure everyone facing the challenges of life-limiting illness, death and grief has access to the specialized care and support they need. Thanks to community donations, our inventory is ever-changing with fabulous deals and unique treasures!

The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers who help with receiving, sorting, pricing and sales. To volunteer, please contact our volunteer department at 800-990-9249. For a list of acceptable donations, visit www.unityhospice.org.

Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC
1641 Comanche Ave., Green Bay, WI

Store and Donation Hours
Tuesday - Thursday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Unity’s 2nd Annual Golf Classic

Unity’s 2nd Annual Golf Classic was held July 20th at Thornberry Creek Golf Course. Over $40,000 was raised to help fund Unity’s CommUnity Care, a financial assistance program which helps provide end-of-life care for all, regardless of financial status. 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. Unity’s 3rd Annual Unity Golf Classic is July 19th, 2018. Sponsorships and foursome reservations can be made by calling Unity’s Development Department.

Unity’s Memorial Brick Dedication

More than 100 individuals gathered in Unity’s gardens August 17th to dedicate their recently-purchased memorial or honorarium brick. The moving dedication ceremony of remembrance, honor and reflection included inspirational poems, stories, dove releases and a garden walk to view loved ones’ bricks. If you are interested in participating in our next Memorial Brick Dedication on August 15th, 2018, call Unity’s Development Department at 800-990-9249 to purchase a brick prior to June 30.

Unity’s 3rd Annual Honor a Life Tree Lighting

More than 100 people braved cold and icy conditions to gather on Unity’s campus in November for a moving holiday event to honor loved ones. Keepsake bags were placed on the trees with care. Attendees were comforted with heartfelt reflections and the sound of a memorial bell as the name of their loved one was read. Unity’s 2018 Honor a Life Tree Lighting will be held indoors on December 15th during the National Railroad Museum Festival of Trees. Memorial ornaments will again be sold with sales helping to fund Unity’s Grief Programs. Call 800-990-9249 to order an ornament.
Why Your Ongoing Support Is Needed

EXPENSES
$13.6 million Direct patient care expenses
$6.1 million Operating expenses
$278,686 Value of services provided to under- and uninsured patients
$343,000 Value of grief support services provided to children and adults

“Mom died with dignity. She was pain free and comfortable thanks to the highly skilled RNs and CNAs at the Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence. Thanks to all those who fundraise and donate to make this happen for those who do not have the means to afford this level of end-of-life care.”
- Joan and Jane, Daughters of Marie H.

HOSPICE CARE QUICK FACTS
1881 Number of family, friends and neighbors who received hospice care
333 Number of Veterans who received hospice care
12 Average age of pediatric patients who received hospice care
93,220 Number of visits made to hospice patients by a member of Unity’s care team
99% Percentage of patients who lived their final days outside of a hospital setting

Location of Hospice Care

TREATMENT PLUS QUICK FACTS
91 Number of family, friends and neighbors who received Treatment Plus care
3,491 Number of visits made to Treatment Plus patients by a member of Unity’s care team

GRIEF SUPPORT QUICK FACTS
7,667 Number of individuals who benefited from Unity’s grief support services
1,102 Number of hours grief counselors spent facilitating support groups
100% Percentage of Navigating Grief, Grief Connection and Healing Thru the Arts attendees who would recommend the support groups to others
98% Percentage of families who reported their bereavement needs were met

VOLUNTEER SERVICE QUICK FACTS
261 Number of volunteers
58 Number of new volunteers
20,112 Hours shared
501 Number of patients directly served by volunteers
800 Number of memorial bears handcrafted from the cherished garments of loved ones to serve as a lasting keepsake
$463,789 Value of hours shared
9.7 Full-time employee equivalents

“An investment in Unity is an investment in the community. I’m proud to be a financial supporter of Unity because of the good they do. Unity makes things so much easier for the families we all are privileged to serve.”
- Joe Schinkten, Unity Donor and Volunteer
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.

HOSPICE CARE
- For individuals with a life expectancy of six months or less
- Only patients under the age of 18 can receive life prolonging treatment
- Focus of care is optimizing comfort and holistic wellbeing
- Care is provided wherever a person calls home - in a private home, Unity’s Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, assisted living facility, skilled nursing facility and hospital
- Care visits occur 24/7

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 a private home, assisted living facility and hospital
- Education about ever-changing disease progression
- Care visits occur 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday

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 wellbeing
- Care is provided in a private home
- Care visits occur 24/7

Dedicated Washington Island Hospice Nurse

Washington Island, located off the northern tip of Door County and home to more than 700 year-round residents, remains accessible only by ferry or plane. As the only hospice agency to serve Washington Island residents, Unity staff found it challenging to provide timely support to patients and families due to the limited ferry schedule. That is, until recently. Thanks to funding made possible by the Ruth and Hartley Barker Memorial Fund, Callsen Family Fund, Martha Cherry Fund, Anne and Richard Egan Charitable Fund, Bernice and Gene Hawkins Charitable Fund of the Door County Community Foundation and the R. Bruce & Alyce S. Kopsekær Trust, Unity Hospice now employs a nurse who resides on Washington Island and is able to provide immediate care and support for those facing an end-of-life journey.

“We had an Island resident come home from the hospital last Thursday afternoon who started hospice. The Unity Island Nurse was able to meet the family at home and help the resident get situated. He declined quickly over the weekend and the Unity Nurse was able to provide instant comfort meds as well as support for the family. Given we are still on the winter ferry schedule with only 2 boats a day, had we not had the Unity Island Nurse, hospice wouldn’t have been able to get here until Friday. As it turns out, the resident passed away Sunday morning. It was a blessing to have the Unity Island Nurse available to go to their home over the weekend to support the family during this difficult time.”

Christine M. Andersen, R.N.
Executive Director
Washington Island Community Health Program (WICHP)
THE STORY OF ELEANOR KOTLARIK

"I was totally blown away by the care, compassion, professionalism and respect I experienced with Unity Hospice.

Mom had congestive heart failure and dementia. When hospice was recommended by the assisted living staff, I wasn’t sure what to expect.

The first thing mom asked me about hospice was, “Well, how much is it going to cost me and do I have enough money?” I said, “It’s taken care of by Medicare which you paid for all your life. So you don’t have to worry about the cost.”

The approval went through the same day. I was literally shocked… because next thing you know there is the oxygen mask, the oxygen unit, a much better wheel chair and then a bed. It’s like, holy cow, fasten your seat belt these guys are serious.

With Unity on board, it took the care up three to five notches. It was amazing. Unity could focus just on my mom and not worry about that next buzzer. Even as her overall health deteriorated, her quality of life and attitude towards life was made much better with Unity Hospice. It really makes a difference to have that one-on-one interaction of hospice personnel.

Hospice was amazing. It’s not just helping the person, it’s helping the family. For me especially, I felt more educated in what to expect. They were trying to prepare my mom too, as well as my sister and my wife. You kind of want to make peace with yourself. You want to make peace with those around you. And you want to enjoy the time that you have as much as you can in as little pain as you can. And I think all of those bullets were touched on and improved by her care from Unity.

Mom passed in her sleep. You really can’t get more peaceful than that. I know for a fact her last period here on earth was made better by Unity. She had a better outlook on life and better quality of life. I was also grateful that when mom did pass, a lot had already been organized and planned out. I found the preparation that came with Unity Hospice during the last few months, the last few weeks and ultimately the last few days, made things so much easier.

I would highly recommend anyone who thinks their loved one might be approaching end-of-life to ask about hospice sooner rather than later. The longer you wait the more care you miss out on.”

— John Kotlarik, son of Eleanor

Patient & Family Advisory Council

With our commitment to exceed expectations of care, we’re excited to announce the launch of Unity’s Patient and Family Advisory Council. Consisting of family members served by Unity and Unity staff, the Council is empowered to take an active role in enhancing the patient and family experience by providing real-time feedback and creative solutions for program development. Benefits of the Council include:

- Promotes respectful, effective partnerships between patients, families and staff
- Develops programs and policies that directly impact patient and family needs
- Empowers participants to become an active participant in their own healthcare

The Council meets monthly and members commit to a one year term. If you are interested in serving on Unity’s Patient and Family Advisory Council, please call 800-990-9249 and speak with Unity’s Quality Manager.

Veteran’s Services

Due to the increase in the aging population, Unity finds itself in a position to ensure more Veterans experience the most meaningful and sensitive end-of-life journey possible. Unity is committed to provide Veteran-recognized care to our nation’s heroes and is fully equipped to care for the unique set of needs Veterans and their family members bring—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

- Customized Care Plans - Goals of care are based on the branch and era of military service, service-related illnesses/conditions and past traumatic experiences.
- Specially Trained Psychosocial Staff - Staff are trained to assist with unresolved issues associated with the stresses of military service, PTSD, depression and suicidal thoughts.
- Grief Counseling - Unity’s Grief Counselors support Veterans loved ones through one-on-one support, grief groups and memorial services with special Veteran honor and recognition.
- Veteran To Veteran Volunteer Program - This program partners Veteran volunteers with Unity patients who have served in the military. The camaraderie created between Veterans has proven to be supportive for all involved, bringing great peace and closure.
- Community Partnerships - Unity’s collaboration with area Veteran of Foreign Wars posts, American Legion posts and Veteran Administration agencies connects families with the resources needed for Veteran benefits, military honor funerals, burial assistance, honor flight applications and more.
- Patriotic Lap Blankets - Veteran patients receive a handcrafted red, white and blue lap blanket as a token of our appreciation for their service.
- Sgt. David L. Rasmussen Veteran Fund - This fund supports Veterans receiving care from Unity who are in need of financial assistance to cover the costs of basic needs.
Ways Your Gift Makes an Impact

On behalf of our Management Committee, staff, patients and their families, we offer our sincere gratitude for your willingness to support our mission. Your support is transformed into loving care 365 days per year. Your gift provides hope and ensures quality, compassionate end-of-life care is available for all.

$30 Covers attendance for one child at Unity’s Generations Support Group, the area’s only community support group designed for grieving families with children and teens ages 6-18.

$60 Offsets the cost of Unity’s “Filled With Love” program, where keepsake bears and pillows are handcrafted from the cherished garments of loved ones served by Unity.

$100 Covers one week of Unity’s Treatment Plus services for a critically-ill individual who has limited or no financial resources.

$150 Helps offset yarn expenses for volunteers to handcraft patriotic lap blankets for veteran patients.

$285 Covers one night of hospice stay at Unity’s Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence for a patient with limited or no financial resources.

$400 Covers one month of Unity’s Treatment Plus care for a critically-ill individual with limited or no financial resources.

$500 Covers the purchase of a personalized 4”x8” Memorial/Honurarium Brick installed in Unity’s Gardens in honor or memory of a loved one.

$1,000 Covers the purchase of a personalized 8”x8” Memorial/Honorarium Brick installed in Unity’s Gardens.

$1,425 Supports five nights of custodial 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 medication and supply delivery for Unity patients or an entire year of Unity’s Generations Family Support Group.

$5,000 Your name inscribed on the Tribute Placard displayed at the Unity Resale Shoppe, LLC to help offset store operating costs.

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.

Residence Refurbishment

Our community is blessed to have the Jack and Engrid Meng Hospice Residence, the region’s only inpatient facility where those facing end-of-life receive personalized care around the clock. Due to the wisdom and generosity of community members who came together 10 years ago to fund this state-of-the art facility, nearly 2000 patients have received unparalleled, specialized care in the comfort and serenity of a homelike environment.

Unity’s commitment to exceed the expectations of patients residing at the Meng Residence and their families led to the exploration of a facilities refurbishment plan. Working with Bellin Health’s engineering department and Somerville Inc., a plan was developed for updates to begin in 2018.

With steadfast commitment to Unity’s mission to bring the best end-of-life experience to those in our communities, Jack and Engrid Meng generously offered financial support to fully fund the refurbishment project. They hear the personal stories and know the profound difference the Meng Residence makes for patients and families. Patients are able to focus on meaningful moments with family and friends while Unity staff handle intensive symptom management and personalized care. We are humbled by the ongoing support of Jack and Engrid (Inky) Meng and the impact they have on those in our community. Unity is grateful for gifts that allow us to serve in the best way possible.

“Every day we are inspired by Matthew 25:40: “…whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Helping people go through the most difficult time of their lives in comfortable surroundings, being treated with exceptional care and concern by the Unity staff and with their loved ones is very important to us.”

- Jack and Inky Meng
Mike Blaney –
A Donor’s Perspective

I first became aware of the care Unity Hospice provides back in the '70s when I began serving as a Director for Blaney Funeral Home. The families who had been under Unity's care would share such wonderful stories about their experiences. Over the years, I've gotten to know many of Unity's staff personally and I've continued to recognize the impact the organization makes in our community.

About ten years ago I joined Unity’s Community Development Council. Members of the council serve as Unity’s philanthropic ambassadors. I've enjoyed volunteering at many different fundraising and awareness events including the Cellicon Green Bay Marathon, Unity's Golf Classic and Unity's Tree Lighting Ceremony. They have all been great ways to give back and have fun at the same time.

I encourage everyone to make Unity part of their personal ministry. Whether you have just a little bit of extra time to volunteer or can support Unity financially... you’re making a lasting impact on families going through an end-of-life journey.

The older I get, the more I appreciate the things that make me smile. When I think of the amazing people of Unity, I smile.