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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unity Hospice Release Statement on the Passing of Former President Jimmy Carter

De Pere, Wisconsin, January 7, 2025 - With profound sadness, Alisa Gerke, Executive Director of Unity, Northeast Wisconsin's pioneering nonprofit provider of, hospice care, palliative care, nonmedical home care, and grief support, today released the following statement on the passing of former President Jimmy Carter:

"With heavy hearts, Unity joins the nation in mourning the passing of former President Jimmy Carter — an incredible statesman and humanitarian. His long and impactful life, spanning almost a century, is reflective of a steadfast dedication to service. As a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, he will be remembered for his persistent efforts in seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts, advancing democracy and human rights, and promoting economic and social development."

"When President Carter chose to receive hospice care in his hometown of Plains, Georgia, he and his family made the decision that countless others do — to receive care in the comfort and solace of their homes, surrounded by the love and support of family. His nearly two year journey in hospice care serves as a testament to its profound value, transcending the misconception that it is merely a choice for the last days of life. President Carter demonstrated hospice can be a deeply comforting and compassionate approach for those facing life's final journey."

"Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the entire Carter family and to those who drew inspiration from his life's extraordinary work."

Born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia, President Jimmy Carter served as the 39th President of the United States from 1977-1981. In his later years, President Carter and his wife, First Lady Rosalynn Carter, both elected hospice for end-of-life care. Their decision sparked a national conversation about critical end-of-life care options available to Americans.

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*A caring nonprofit partnership of Bellin Health,
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Navigating end-of-life care decisions can be challenging for individuals and their families. However, it's crucial to recognize the multitude of healthcare options available at any stage of life. These options encompass both in-patient and at-home care, as well as nonmedical home care and comprehensive end-of-life services like hospice and palliative care.

For interviews with Unity Executive Director Alisa Gerke, related to hospice care and its benefits, please contact Christy Brozak at cbrozak@unityhospice.org.

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Unity is Northeast Wisconsin's pioneering not-for-profit healthcare provider that offers a full complement of care solutions including nonmedical home care, supportive palliative care, hospice care, and grief support. With a commitment to seamlessly adapt care to the everchanging needs of each patient and family, Unity works tirelessly to enhance quality of life through innovative services and unique programs ensuring the wishes and goals of patients and families are always met. As the only locally owned and operated advanced illness provider in the region, Unity partners with area skilled nursing facilities, assisted-living facilities, and pharmacies, ensuring seamless care in all settings. Unity is the sole organization offering inpatient hospice at seven area hospitals and is a collaboration between Bellin Health, HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, and HSHS St. Vincent Hospital. Established as the third hospice program in the nation, Unity launched Wisconsin's first palliative care program in 2002, the area's first hospice residence in 2007, the region's only Grief and Education Center in 2021, and the area's first pediatric hospice program in 2024. Learn more at www.unityhospice.org.

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