



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2011

Contact: Renee Sally
Phone: (202) 715-7886
Mobile: (202) 553-0199
Email: rsally@unityhealthcare.org

UNITY HEALTH CARE GALA MARKS 25 YEARS OF CARING FOR THE DISTRICT'S MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED RESIDENTS

Washington –**On Friday, December 3, 2010**, more than 500 supporters of Unity Health Care (Unity) joined the leadership of this DC nonprofit organization as it celebrated its 25th Anniversary in providing health and human services to the medically underserved in every ward of the District of Columbia. The Gala, themed “*Hope, Health and Healing...Continuing the Journey*” was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel located at 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW. Unity’s 25th Anniversary Benefit Gala included acknowledgments, dinner, dancing, and celebration. WUSA 9 NEWS NOW anchor Dr. JC Hayward served as Mistress of Ceremonies and Honorary Chair for the evening. Among the guest, Councilmember David Catania, DC At-Large, Ward-6 Councilmember Tommy Wells and remarks given by Dr. Mary Wakefield, Administrator at Health Resources and Service Administration. In her absent, First Lady Michelle Obama pre-corded a congratulatory video for this mementos celebratory occasion. *To view First Lady Obama’s video; visit our website at www.unityhealthcare.org.*

In commemoration of its 25th Anniversary, Unity awarded its prestigious *Dr. Jesse B. Barber, Jr. Community Health Care Award* to Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia. The Award named in honor of the memory of one of its founders, Dr. Jesse B. Barber, Jr., recognized Mayor Gray’s leadership and commitment to the constituents of the District of Columbia.

In addition, past Board Chair Charles Barber *the son of the late Dr. Jesse Barber, Jr.*, Vincent A. Keane, President and CEO of Unity, and Dr. Marlene Kelley, former Chairperson Unity’s Board of Directors awarded Dr. Janelle Goetcheus, Unity’s Chief Medical Officer and Founder of Health Care for the Homeless Project (*now Unity Health Care, Inc.*) with the *Servant Leadership Award*. This milestone celebration recognized Dr. Goetcheus’ lifetime commitment to compassion, advocacy, and care for the most medically vulnerable residents of the District of Columbia. Vincent A. Keane, President and CEO, states, “*As Unity continues to address the health care challenges over the next decade, we have established the Dr. Janelle Goetcheus Servant Leadership Scholarship.*” Keane added, “*the scholarship will provide annual tuition and stipend support in the amount of \$10,000 each, to two emerging leaders to enable them to develop Servant Leadership skills.*”

Performances by Urban Nation H.I.P H.O.P Youth Choir founded by Sheila Johnson Newman and renowned DC musician and Grammy Award Winner Dr. Rickey Payton, Superfly Disco, the Mid-Atlantic Region’s Premier live 70’s disco band. All proceeds raised from the gala will benefit Unity’s program and services operating out of its 29 neighborhood based community health centers including its mobile outreach vehicles.

Founded in 1985 as “Healthcare for the Homeless Project,” Unity Health Care is Washington, DC’s largest nonprofit health and social services organization serving more than 81,000 individuals and families annually. Unity serves individuals and families in all eight wards of the District of Columbia through its network of health service centers that include Community Health Centers, sites serving homeless individuals and a mobile medical outreach unit. Unity serves the most vulnerable residents of the District including the uninsured, working poor, homeless, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. For more information about Unity Health Care, Inc., visit our website at www.unityhealthcare.org or contact our Marketing Department at (202) 715-7887.

###