



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attention: Community Editors, Business, Health Care  
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## UNITY HEALTH CARE, “BRIDGING CARE” TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

**Washington, DC** - Unity Health Care, Inc. (Unity); formerly, *Health Care for Homeless*, continues to serve the growing number of homeless veterans in the District. In its recently released report, the National Alliance to End Homelessness show that 7.5% of the nearly 12,000 veterans in the city are living on the streets, in shelters or in assisted housing.

The report indicates that given the increasing number of homeless veterans, the Veteran Administration cannot provide all the wrap-around services that today's homeless veterans need. With the District's homeless population nearing 12,000, based on the current projection; by end of 2007, Unity Health Care will provide services to over 70% of the District's homeless population many of which are homeless veterans. These services included comprehensive care, which addresses the specific chronic health problems of the homeless such as heart disease, diabetes, infectious disease including tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, in addition to mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and regular primary medical care.

“Increasingly, the number of requests for services to the homeless veterans; including veterans from World War II through Operation Iraqi Freedom have grown throughout Unity Health Care,” says Vincent A. Keane, CEO/President, Unity Health Care. “Each day, our homeless services work with the Veterans Administration to meet the demand for ‘bridge services’ - -outpatient care, medical infirmary, and housing with wrap around medical care on site,” added Keane. “These services help the veterans transition from one service program within the VA to others that have perquisites that most veterans find hard to meet without the support and services of programs like Unity Health Care's,” says Sister Eileen Reid, Health Center Director, Unity's Federal City Shelter Health Center.

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Unity Health Care (Unity) provides health care to medically underserved in the District of Columbia, including almost 12,000 homeless men and women either in the streets or at shelters throughout the city. Unity offers a full range of health services regardless of patients' ability to pay. Operating in more than 30 sites, including 11 community-based health centers, 9 medical sites in homeless shelters, 3 specialized health centers, and in the 2 city jails. Unity's mobile outreach vans travel throughout the city, providing care to homeless persons and “hard to reach” substance abusers. In 2006, Unity provided care to more than 70,000 people who accessed services more than 321,000 times.