

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**We Need your Help to End Homelessness in Eau Claire**  
*Join the Community Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>!*

**Eau Claire, WI - October 15th, 2018** – Homelessness is a concern for many communities, and Eau Claire is no exception. Several agencies in the area combat homelessness daily. But is it possible to end homelessness in Eau Claire? Many individuals and community partners believe that we can. “Homelessness is a major problem with no simple solution. As a community, we can engage in a collaborative effort that can generate a power that can make a difference” says Keith Johnathan, Executive Director of the City of Eau Claire Housing Authority and Housing Manager of the Housing Division of the City of Eau Claire.

An initiative to end homelessness in Eau Claire is beginning the week of October 22, 2018. Several local agencies have been instrumental in securing the services of consultant Erin Healy, J.D. to coordinate next steps. Ms. Healy’s specialty is to help communities identify and address factors which affect homelessness. She’s helped other communities, like La Crosse, create a plan to address homelessness.

Ms. Healy will meet with many Eau Claire groups to better understand each group’s role in dealing with the issue of homelessness. These meetings will give her a history of how we have managed homelessness. She will then hold a meeting with community members to focus on how we can end homelessness in Eau Claire.

**All community members are invited to join this community conversation on Thursday, October 25th from 1 - 3pm at the RCU Corporate Office (200 Riverfront Terrace) to build a plan to end homelessness.** Please attend, as your input is crucial to bring an end to homelessness in our community.

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This initiative is coordinated by the City of Eau Claire Housing Division and Housing Authority, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services, Eau Claire Area School District, Joining our Neighborhoods Advancing Hope (JONAH), and the Eau Claire PORCH Committee.

