

La Crosse Promise Future Centers offer free services for all School District of La Crosse high school students

Future Center Advisors are here to help!



- Assist you in discovering opportunities in careers that are sustainable and rewarding.
- Connect you with the information and resources necessary to pursue post high school options.
- Explain financial aid and help you with the application process.
- Help you locate scholarships.
- Provide you with guidance with college selection, applications, and more.

[FUTURE CENTERS](#)

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Career Lunch & Learns

Career: Humane Officer & Shelter Director



Thank you to Amber Dvorak, humane officer and shelter director, and her dog Mowgli, for presenting at our December Career Lunch and Learn at Logan and Central High

Welcome Home for the Holidays!

A second La Crosse Promise Scholarship home is complete and another family has a brand new house to call home - in addition to a big chunk of funding for college.

The Johnson-Donofrio family moved into their new home in November. Not only did this freshly-built structure replace dilapidated homes on 9th Street across from Lincoln Middle School, their home is next door to a new home built by Western Tech for the City of La Crosse's Replacement Housing Program.

The "rebirth" of this city block reflects the strong revitalization efforts by La Crosse Promise and multiple partners in the last several years.



Celine Donofrio and her husband Phil Johnson speak with the press at their new La Crosse Promise Scholarship home on 9th Street in La Crosse.

"We could have built a new home anywhere in the city or even in the county, but we chose this neighborhood," said Phil Johnson, a teacher in the Tomah School District. "We believe wholeheartedly in the Promise and the efforts to revitalize this area. We also place a tremendous value on education and are thrilled our sons will have a head start on financing their college education."

Phil and his wife, Celine Donofrio, a city librarian, have two sons, Jacob, 15 and Lucas, 13. Upon graduation from high school, each child is eligible to receive \$25,000 from La Crosse Promise in college scholarships.

"Just one year ago, this block looked entirely different," said La

Schools.

We learned that this is not an easy job but it is very rewarding.

"You have to be emotionally ready to handle the bad stuff," said Amber who works for the Monroe County Dog Shelter & Animal Welfare Department.

Amber has been an officer for 12 years. She told the students that the hard part of the job is to see animals who have been hurt or neglected - and to deal with their owners. "You have to be able to evaluate animal behavior -- they can't tell us and we can't ask them what they've been through."



The students heard stories about stray pigs, iguanas, and roosters -- and even one about a goat and Great Dane who were best friends.

Never a dull day in this career!

How to get started in a career working with animals:

- Volunteer: Dog walkers for shelters and fund-raising for animal shelters.
- Possible jobs while you're in high school: Doggie daycare associate, vet assistant, groomer, pet store associate.
- Possible Careers: zoologist, veterinarian, zoo/aquarium staff, veterinarian assistant/tech, humane officer, wildlife refuge staff, animal trainer, groomer, doggie daycare owner, shelter staff, non-profit animal organizations staff, pet supplies/store staff.

For more information about college courses and certification for these careers, ask your Future Center Advisor!

Next Lunch & Learn:

January 18 - Central

Presenter: Arick Hendrickson

Topic:Funeral Home Director/Mortuary Science

Upcoming Campus Visits

Promise Board President Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer. "Where there once were three run-down properties there are now two beautiful new family homes. The City, the County, the Promise and some very dedicated community leaders are fully committed to revitalizing these wonderful historic neighborhoods - and we're just getting started. Not only that, there are two more children who have a jump start on their future through the Promise Scholarship program."

"There were a total of three homes at 513, 515 and 521 9th Street," said City Planning Associate Dawn Reinhart. "The City split 515 and gave a portion of the lot to 521 9th Street and the remaining portion to 513 9th Street. The City also owns 507-511 and these properties will be demolished in the Spring of 2017. The lot will be listed as a Promise eligible lot."

Builder Tom Thomson of TN Builders built the 9th Street home, as well as the La Crosse Promise scholarship-eligible home currently for sale at 717 S. 7th Street. Spies Construction built the first Promise home on 6th Street and are building a second home at 504 Johnson Street. In addition, there are four La Crosse Promise scholarship applications being processed as of December 1.

La Crosse County and City governments, local builders and top employers are all key partners in this revitalization effort, Dihlmann-Malzer said. The City of La Crosse committed to making about 30 lots available for the program in the coming years. In 2016, lots were available for as little as \$3200.

In addition, in an effort to encourage increased private development in these areas, the County launched an Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program (grants up to \$50,000) providing funding to developers interested in purchasing and demolishing low value properties for the purpose of constructing quality, market rate, single-family homes. The Johnson-Donofrio family applied for and received a county grant for their building project.

Dihlmann-Malzer points out that both of the 9th street properties are located just around the corner from another community revitalization project - the Washburn Garden which belongs to Mayo Clinic Health Systems - Franciscan Health Care and the Washburn Neighborhood Association. The 6th Street La Crosse Promise home is on the same block as a La Crosse Promise eligible home at 1212 7th Street that is



La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat praised La Crosse Promise's revitalization efforts at our press conference on December 7.



Campus visits give students the opportunity to really see what campus life is like. The tour will be hosted by college staff as well as college students who guide the tour and answer any questions the students may have. This is a valuable experience no matter what college a student is considering.

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Friday, February 17, 2017

7am - 4 pm (approx.)

Sign-up deadline: February 7

Tour includes dorm visit, admissions presentation, student Q&A panel, and lunch. Cost is \$10 for lunch. (Fee may be waived.) Space is limited. A signed permission slip is required. Please sign up with your Future Center advisor no later than February 7.

University of Wisconsin-River Falls is a public liberal arts university offering more than 40 undergraduate and graduate programs. The 226-acre campus is situated on the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls and is part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Next visit:

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Monday, March 13, 2017

Space is limited. See your Future Center Advisor for details!

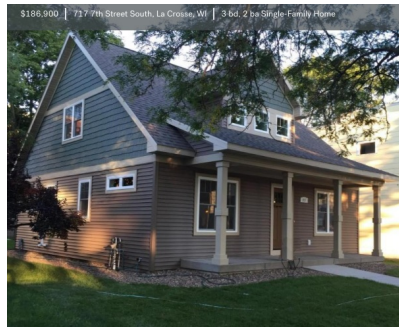
Get Your FAFSA Done!

currently being processed for the program.

"We hope people will really start noticing these incredible changes to these blocks and the rest of our targeted neighborhoods," she said. "These improvements affect everyone - not just those who live, work, and go to school in the neighborhood. It really affects all of us in the city and in the county."

[View Press Coverage Here](#)

Current Homes and Lots Available



[View Properties Here](#)

Home Designs Available



Thinking about building your dream home AND getting scholarships for college?

The new La Crosse Promise Neighborhood Program Home Design Catalog is now available to help La Crosse Promise families in planning their new homes.

View some of the plans in this booklet [available here](#).

About us



La Crosse Promise is a non-profit agency promoting education and neighborhood revitalization. We offer homebuyers up to \$50,000 in scholarships and assist high school students to help them realize their dreams for the future!

608.792.1137

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Come into the Future Center to get help completing your FAFSA and you can win \$50!

Upcoming FAFSA Workshops:

Thurs. January 19, 2-5 p.m.
Central High School

Thurs. January 26, 2-5 p.m.
Logan High School

You'll have a chance to win a \$50 gift card if you complete your application for financial aid by February 18 and submit proof of completion.

See your Future Center advisor for details!

Meet Your Future Center Advisors



Central & Luther:
Hayley Moe MSW
Call: 608-789-2054

Email: hmoe@lacrossepromise.org

Logan & Aquinas:
Andrew Lam MS. Ed
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Future Center Progress Report



Please take a moment to review our Progress Report to learn more about how we are affecting students' lives in La Crosse.

[View it here.](#)

Luther and Aquinas Students who live in the La Crosse School District



We are here to help you with your college and career plans! Contact us to set up a personal appointment!

Aquinas Students:

608.789.7034

Luther Students:

608.789.2054

[Please give at lacrossepromise.org.](http://lacrossepromise.org)



[Give now](#)
thank you.

Other Promise Programs

[Promise Cities Around the Country](#)



Forward to a Friend



The mission of La Crosse Promise is to be a private sector solution to strengthen our community and improve the quality of life for all its citizens through a strong commitment to education.