

June 2017



# La Crosse Promise

YOUR DREAM. OUR PROMISE.

## In their own words... What has the Future Center done for me?

Every spring, we survey seniors to find out what kind of impact we have made and to discover how we can serve students better.

We'll post their impressions here.

### SETH

**Central High School  
Class of 2017**

**Attending University of  
Minnesota**



"My advisor was so friendly and open and always available for me.

"She helped me with preparing for college, applying for scholarships and college, and everyday issues I have faced in life.

"I believe working with the advisor has really changed my future. I was unsure of where I wanted to go to college and what I wanted to be but the Future Center gave me lots of opportunities and knowledge to figure it out."

## Congratulations

## Condemned House Demolished to Make Way for New Promise Home



A deteriorating eyesore in the has been removed from the Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhood to make way for a new single family home and an opportunity for \$50,000 in scholarship funds.

La Crosse Promise Board members and neighborhood onlookers were on hand to witness the exciting demolition of a condemned property on Johnson Street on June 12.

To mark the occasion, La Crosse Promise held a press conference, featuring board members and the owners of the property, Delores and Ray Spies of Spies Construction. The Spies' purchased the lot from the city as part of ongoing strategic revitalization efforts.

## WATCH DEMOLITION!

"The before and after picture of this property will tell the story," said Executive Director Brian Liesinger (above, speaking to the press). "Spies Construction is transforming the site of a condemned structure into a beautiful, new single family home for a La Crosse family. We are proud to be attaching a La Crosse Promise scholarship to this project."

The property at 504 Johnson Street was completely demolished and plans for a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house are underway, with a scheduled completion date of October 1. Spies is seeking a homebuyer, who will be eligible for the scholarship funds through our incentive program.

"If anyone is interested in purchasing the home within the next few weeks," said Delores Spies, "they will have the opportunity to pick out fixtures, colors, flooring, and maybe even move walls."

"Because we got the acquisition and demolition grant offered by the county," added Ray Spies, "we will be able to use funds to upgrade some of the materials for this project-including the siding. This is going to be a really nice place for a family coming to this neighborhood."

## Class of 2017

Congrats Central and Logan High School class of 2017! It's been an honor to serve you. Best of luck as you start the next chapter of your lives!



La Crosse Promise is contributing to the revitalization of the Washburn and Powell-Poage-Hamilton neighborhoods in La Crosse through an incentive program that provides the funds for qualifying families. Five new homes have been built since the program launched in 2015 and five Promise families occupy these homes on Denton, 7th Street, 9th Street and 6th Street in the Powell-Poage-Hamilton and Washburn neighborhoods.

## Events

**Come see us this summer!**



*Making La Crosse Promise windsocks at the Cameron Park Farmer's Market*

**Cameron Park Farmer's Market:** June 23, August 19 and September 15 (4 - 6 p.m.)

**Neighborhood Time Travels Walking Tours with Michael Scott (free!)**

*Starts at Southside Neighborhood Center*

August 12 (11 a.m.), September 7 (6 p.m.) and October 14 (11 a.m.)

**Steppin' Out in Pink: Gundersen Health System Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness**  
September 9 (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

In addition, another Promise eligible home is currently being built on 5th Street and new construction begins next month on a Promise eligible home on 9th Street across from Lincoln Middle School (see story below). Another home is being renovated on 5th Avenue. All of these families have been approved for scholarships.

The initial target of the program is to award the scholarship funds to 30 households. This placed-based scholarship program is the only one in the country that offers scholarships to residents who build, buy or renovate homes in select neighborhoods.

Those interested in the program can find out more at [lacrossepromise.org](http://lacrossepromise.org).

## Lot Cleared and Ready for the Next Scholarship Family!

### Family Moving Back to Wisconsin Will Benefit from Promise Program

## Future Centers

**What's your dream? We**

are here to help you  
achieve it!



Our Future Centers offer free drop-in services for all School District of La Crosse high school students.

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

Logan High School:  
608.789.7034

Central High School:  
608.789.2054

Summer contact:  
608.789.2049



Where two unsightly structures once stood (one in front of the other) at 511 9th Street will soon be a beautiful new home (left) for a family returning to Wisconsin.

Chad and Michelle Staehly of Firestone, Colorado recently purchased the lot from the city and are building a two-story home this summer. The couple is originally from Green Bay and Michelle

attended University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. The Staehly's two sons will be our youngest "scholarship winners" so far.

### **Demonstration of Impact**

This is exciting news for La Crosse because the Staehly's home will be the third new home on the block that has been built in two years. A Promise home was built last year and a city home was built in 2015. A county grant for acquisition and demolition was awarded to the homeowners at 513 9th Street. All of the lots were purchased and cleared by the city.

## **Pictures of Progress**

*9th Street between Division and Ferry*

### **2015**



This is how the street looked in 2015 before the Promise home at 513 9th Street was built. The home on the left (507/11 9th Street) has been cleared and will be the Staehly's home (design above). The home in the center is now a brand new two-story Promise home owned by the Johnson-Donofrio family. The home on the right is a new home built in 2015 as part of the city's Replacement Housing Program.

### **2017**





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This is how the street looks today but not for long! A new two-story home will be built on the site this summer replacing two dilapidated structures that were removed by the city,

## Current Homes and Lots Available



Ready to build or buy your dream home and receive up to \$50,000 in scholarships?

[View Properties Here](#)

A new Promise Scholarship-eligible home is currently being built at 504 Johnson Street  
Call us at 608.792.1137 to find out more!

## Home Designs Available



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

The La Crosse Promise Neighborhood Program Home Design Catalog is available to help La Crosse Promise families in planning their new homes. View some of the plans in this booklet [available here](#).

### OUR MISSION:

La Crosse Promise is a catalyst for community revitalization through education.

### 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!

608.789.2049 or 608.792.1137

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

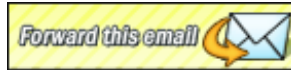
Please give at [lacrossepromise.org](http://lacrossepromise.org)



[Give now](#)

THANK YOU!

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.*