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## Funding Shortfall Threatens Eau Claire Sojourner House Operations – Community Leaders Rally to Protect Critical Service

**Eau Claire, WI** – For more than a decade, Eau Claire's <u>Sojourner House</u> has been a lifeline for those experiencing homelessness in the community, providing safety, stability and compassion to those with nowhere else to turn.

Now, due to declining funding and a shortage of volunteers, <u>Catholic Charities of the Diocese of</u> <u>La Crosse</u> is faced with the difficult decision of potentially reducing Sojourner House's operations from year-round to just six months per year. This change would leave many in Eau Claire without a safe place to turn during the heat of summer.

"Sojourner House is more than just a shelter—it is a place of refuge, dignity and hope," said a representative from Catholic Charities.

Recognizing the Sojourner House's vital role in the community and the urgent need to sustain year-round operations, local leaders, including representatives from the City and County of Eau Claire, the <u>Diocese of La Crosse</u> and the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce, have begun discussions to explore solutions that would guarantee year-round support for those experiencing homelessness.

Further information will be shared in the coming weeks on how the community can help support Sojourner House and ensure its continued operations in the community.

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