

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Lieske Giese, RN, MPH

Director/Health Officer

715-839-4718

After 5:00 p.m. – 715-514-7881 (cell)

[Elizabeth.Giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

**Community Partners Form Action Team to Promote Healthy, Positive Relationships**

**Eau Claire, WI, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015** – *Everyone is positively impacted by a lifetime of healthy, positive relationships.* Eau Claire Healthy Communities recently re-energized an effort to address the increasing severity of intimate partner violence in our community. Members of Bolton Refuge House, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Family Support Center of Eau Claire, Planned Parenthood and community neighbors have joined forces to form the an action team under Eau Claire Healthy Communities working to address the issues of intimate partner violence through the promotion of healthy relationships.

Intimate partner violence affects millions of Americans each year. The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive acts) by a current or former intimate partner. This type of violence impacts people of every race, gender, age, and income level. In 2012, 521 incidents of domestic violence were reported to Eau Claire law enforcement. Since 2009, incidents of domestic violence reported to Eau Claire law enforcement have increased by 11%. This does not include those incidents that were not reported, which sadly is a common occurrence. Statewide, there has been a 5% increase in reported sexual assaults and rape incidents from 2009 to 2010. Survivors of intimate partner violence not only suffer directly from these experiences, but afterwards they often report significant long and short term health effects.

This Healthy Communities action team was recently selected to participate in the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute Community Teams Program, a year-long leadership training program that will prepare the team to engage residents on solving the tough issues of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. "We are excited to take what we learn through this program to work with the community and start the conversation about how we can collaboratively **prevent** violence." says Nick Zupan, Action Team Member and Community Teams Program participant.

The Community Teams Program is funded through the Wisconsin Partnership Program. The team will receive training and technical assistance from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) in building stronger community partnerships, implementing sustainable change strategies and measuring their own success from national and state experts.



---See infographic on next page---



**TOGETHER**  
WE WILL CREATE A HEALTHY AND SAFE FUTURE FOR ALL YOUTH

When we teach skills for healthy relationships now, we create safer, healthier communities for everyone in the future.

**START EARLY**  
Healthy parent-child relationships, positive family dynamics, and supportive communities provide a strong foundation for children.

EFFECTIVE, non-violent communication and conflict RESOLUTION

POSITIVE interactions based on respect and TRUST

**CONTINUE THROUGH ADOLESCENCE**  
Positive, healthy teen dating and peer relationships have many benefits for youth.

REDUCED anti-social and unhealthy behaviors

BETTER interpersonal skills, communication, negotiation skills, and EMPATHY

POSITIVE self-image and leadership skills

IMPROVED school performance

**CARRY INTO ADULthood**  
Healthy adult relationships benefit entire communities.

More ENGAGED citizens

More PRODUCTIVE workforce

SAFER communities

LESS partner violence

More ATTENTIVE students in schools

**EVERYONE** is positively impacted by a lifetime of healthy, positive relationships.

Visit [vetoviolence.cdc.gov](http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov) to learn more about creating safer, healthier communities.

