



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW BAUGHMAN

Community members, housing advocates, and representatives from non-profit organizations celebrated the launch of the One Better Way capital campaign Thursday night last week.

WDEOC launches One Better Way capital campaign for Day Resource Center

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EAU CLAIRE — Local organizations are hoping to support the efforts of the Day Resource Center following

the launch of the One Better Way capital campaign last week.

Located on 1 Better Way near downtown Eau Claire, the Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council said the Day Resource Center (WDEOC) is close

to completion. The building will operate as a space for both WDEOC members organizing programs and resources and Hope Gospel's Community Haven House.

Campaign/from A3

With ongoing construction and renovations, WDEOC officials have said they plan to have the side of the building supporting the Community Haven House in operation by Jan. 1, 2026.

Becky Seelen, co-chair of the One Better Way campaign, said, "What's really exciting about this is that, yes, we need a day shelter for people who need to get out of the elements to keep them safe, but this is going to be more than that. This will have resources available for them to get to wellness, so we can get them back to having housing or whatever they need."

"As someone who's a volunteer and sees individuals who need help, it's sometimes way more difficult than we realize... We'd hop in our car and our car would be full of gas or we would go on our phones [and see] when social security offices open, we'd make

an appointment online. No big deal. Somebody who doesn't have those resources to just try to get across town and be able to apply, and now don't have a place for them to mail your social security card, how do you do that?"

Last week Thursday night, community members, housing advocates and representatives from non-profit organizations were invited to learn about the campaign and efforts to support the work being done to centralize a lot of key resources for the community's homeless population.

The campaign seeks roughly \$6.4 million raised through a campaign fund established with the Eau Claire Community Foundation. Major donors have already supported the project, including a \$500,000 contribution from the City of Eau Claire, \$422,000 donation from the Pablo Foundation, a \$250,000 donation announced last

week from C&M Home Builders, a donation from the Mayo Clinic Health System, local businesses and community members.

Cody Filipczak, co-owner of C&M Home Builders, said, "The community has been great for me and my family, so it's pretty easy to give back to it because of that."

"This is something that is huge. You drive down Galloway Street and see all the people standing out there in a horrible situation... To be able to have a building like this with so much support and staff is just huge."

Seelen said their campaign goal will help operate the building for the next three years.

"This has been a long time coming for a lot of organizations and individuals who've been working on this for years, so I'm excited about it," she said.

For more information on the One Better Way campaign, visit onebetterway.org.