

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Jara Richter <jaraleelynn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 3:10 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members; Neumann, Mark  
**Subject:** Re: Tent Encampment proposal, Southside La Crosse

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jaraleelynn@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**\*\*\* CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. **\*\*\***

Dear Mark Neumann, I apologize for the incorrect spelling of your last name. Auto correct sometimes does a good job, but in this case they didn't spell your name correctly and I didn't catch it.

On Wed, Aug 7, 2024 at 2:59 PM Jara Richter <[jaraleelynn@gmail.com](mailto:jaraleelynn@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Mark Newman and La Crosse City Council members,

I am writing about the proposed tent encampment on the corner of 33rd St. in Mormon Coulee Road for our homeless population.

I have a strong affinity and support for our homeless community in La Crosse. I have worked at UWL for 24 years prior to my early retirement, as the Assistant Director of University Centers overseeing the COVE — Center for Organizations Vision and Engagement. Much of my work centered around volunteer opportunities and connecting students and faculty/staff with needs in the community. I represented UWL in the initial partnership with the United Way, Western Technical College, and Viterbo University to create Ugetconnected for our campus and the greater community.

Closest to my heart, was food and housing insecurity among our students and within our community. I oversaw the UWL food pantry, and was the co-coordinator of a tri-campus and community project that focused on educating and creating awareness among our community regarding our homeless population within La Crosse. The name of that event was Facing Homelessness in La Crosse. Western Technical College students interviewed participants who volunteered to tell their story, UWL Students took those interviews and turned them into written stories which Viterbo Students acted out on stage at the Weber Center March 20 and 21, 2017. I've attached pictures of the program.

I tell you this because I want you to understand that I have sincere compassion for this vulnerable population. I believe it will not be in the best interest of the homeless population nor the neighborhood on the corner of Mormon Coulee Road and 33rd St., South to move ahead with this plan.

This population will not be in a safe space at this location. It is located right next to a very busy highway where pedestrians, including myself, have found ourselves in dangerous situations trying to cross on foot. One person was tragically killed not that long ago here. In addition, there is no running water, no bathrooms, no electricity and no services to assist these residents.

The neighborhood surrounding this area is full of families with kids, elderly and retired communities. This encampment poses many concerns for noise, safety, and lower property values.

I understand that there is no easy solution to this situation. I am passionate about this vulnerable population finding a more suitable and safer place to call their temporary home. I am willing to meet with anyone to assist

in problem-solving this delicate and important issue. Please reach out to me, or let me know who I should reach out to in order to assist in a positive resolution for those involved.

I feel very strongly about this issue, and since I am retired and in improved health after several years of being off the radar recovering, I am hopeful I can assist in finding collaborative solutions.


Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,  
Jaralee Richter  
4816 33rd St S



*present*

# FACING HOMELESSNESS IN LA CROSSE

A photograph of a person sitting on a dark wooden bench against a light-colored wall. The person is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black and white striped beanie. They have their head buried in their hands, suggesting distress or despair.

*A collaborative community project*

**MARCH 20 & 21, 7:00 PM**  
**WEBER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**





*Special thanks to:*  
 Aaron Rasch for his pre-production music  
 Lily A. Janezich for the composition and  
 performance of the "Homeless" poem

**Facing Homelessness in La Crosse**

**Cast and Production Devisers**

- Jessica Askey
- Ioannis Atlasis
- Gemma Cooper
- Jessica Derks
- Alicia Diaz-Valls
- Jackson Lamb
- Rachel Munoz
- Justin Niebow
- Dorothy Oberfoell
- Calvin O'Connell
- Zoe Oskarsson
- Maxwell Rosa
- Maija Salo
- Isabella Weiss

**Production Team**

Show Direction and Production ..... David Gardiner  
 ..... Jeffrey Stolz  
 Technical Assistant ..... Jared Miller

*Please turn off all cell phones  
 and electronic devices.*

*Taking pictures or using recording  
 equipment is prohibited.*

## About the Facing Homelessness in La Crosse Project

The Facing Homelessness in La Crosse project is a year-long, tri-campus service-learning project designed to encourage mutual vulnerability, understanding, empathy and trust. It exists to connect project members and community members human to human. Neighbors who have or are currently experiencing homelessness were invited through community agencies to participate in this venture. Stories were then carefully and respectfully collected by Western Technical College students, published into stories by University of Wisconsin-La Crosse students, and brought to life on stage by Viterbo University students.

The goals of the project are to:

- Empower individuals to tell their story and/or find their voice. Document the stories and bring them to life on stage.
- Connect our community human to human and neighbor to neighbor with respect, dignity, and empathy.
- Involve students from three campuses to increase their connection to the community, and engage them in critical thinking.
- Encourage community action to assist in ending homelessness in La Crosse.

Stories of each of the nine community members whose experiences inspired this production can be found online at <https://endhomelessnesslacrosse.org/facing-homelessness>.

## Western Technical College Partners

*Ann Lichliter, Human Services  
Associate Faculty*

### STUDENTS

Katelyn Camling  
Alyssa Cooper  
Amber Ducklow  
Tabitha Figueroa  
Emily Grenier  
Vanessa Hegge  
Krista LaFleur  
Rochelle Lemke  
Laura Osborne  
Morgan Pederson  
Marcellese Powell  
Krystal Reed  
Dora Schieffer  
Robert Schroeder  
Krystal Springer  
Elizabeth Stanish  
Danielle Van Nuland  
Autumn Welch

## University of Wisconsin -La Crosse Partners

*Laurie Cooper Stoll,  
Faculty*

### STUDENTS

Hailey Anick  
Erin Baldwin  
Taylor Balistreri  
Lindsey Barlow  
Abby Bishop  
Kylee Britton  
Ashley Clark  
Olivia Dorscheid  
Mallory Hemmersbach  
Ethan Ingalls  
Kaytee Johns  
Taylor Klokow  
Patricia LaDue  
Lizzy Megard  
Kaitlin Meye  
Ellie Miller  
Matthew Mitch  
Sam Mozey  
Lucy Putnam  
Eric Rahman  
Brianna Reeder  
Jenna Sandstrom  
Carissa Schlafen  
Sam Steingraber  
Callie Timm  
Madison Wescott  
Peter Xiong  
Roosevelt Yang