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**Eau Claire Community
Foundation Mission:**

*We strengthen our
community by offering
opportunities to establish
charitable legacies, making
grants, and by serving as a
catalyst to address
community needs.*

For Immediate Release

Eau Claire Community Foundation Receives Over \$9.3 Million from Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation

Eau Claire, WI – September 16, 2024

The Eau Claire Community Foundation (ECCF) is proud to announce the transfer of over \$9 million from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation. This significant contribution includes approximately \$4.5 million in existing endowments from the Foundation of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. An additional \$4.8 million in funds from the Healing Place Endowment and the Healing Place Fund will be consolidated to the existing Monsignor Klimek Healing Presence Endowment. To determine the use of these funds, HSHS and Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation are engaging with AMK Nonprofit Coaching LLC to conduct a thoughtful and participatory study to evaluate the current needs of the community around grief and holistic healing services and determine the best way to meet such needs.

The Foundation of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital has long been a pillar of support for the Chippewa Valley community, and this transfer of funds underscores its continued commitment to enhancing the well-being of local residents. ECCF is proud to be selected as one of the new stewards of HSHS funds, ensuring these resources continue to serve the community effectively. With the transfer of funds, ECCF anticipates that over \$370,000 in additional funding will be made available each year to programs that support health and health disparity.

Wesley Escondo, President of the ECCF, commented:

"To be selected alongside the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, Chippewa Valley Technical College Foundation, and the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin is an honor. ECCF is grateful to HSHS for its commitment to fulfilling the original intent of these endowments and entrusting us to create the continued impact that these endowments deserve. The Monsignor Klimek Healing Presence Endowment, the Healing Place Endowment, and the Healing Place Fund have provided invaluable support to countless individuals, and we are committed to upholding and expanding upon this legacy."

ECCF is dedicated to managing the transferred funds with the utmost care and with respect for the donors' original intent. Through this responsible stewardship, ECCF aims to continue HSHS's tradition of fostering a vibrant and resilient community.

About Eau Claire Community Foundation:

Since 1997, ECCF has awarded more than \$30 million in grants to over 700 nonprofit organizations. Its diverse array of funds allows donors to support causes that are important to them. To learn more, visit eccfwi.org.