

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Local Team Selected to Participate in the
Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute**

PIERCE AND ST. CROIX COUNTIES, Wis. – Healthier Together Pierce and St. Croix Counties was selected to participate in the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute’s Community Teams Program, a year-long leadership training program that helps prepare local residents to address their communities’ most pressing health concerns.

“Healthier Together has a history of working on nutrition-related issues, with a focus on low-income populations, who are disproportionately at risk for obesity and chronic disease,” said Jean Needham, interim executive director of the St. Croix Valley United Way. “Our team is excited about the opportunity to work with the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute on new strategies that will make healthy choices easier for those struggling to make ends meet.

The team from Healthier Together includes members from the two-county region’s hospitals, public health departments, UW-Extension and United Way. The team will receive training and technical assistance in building stronger community partnerships, implementing sustainable change strategies and measuring their own success from national and state experts as they work to address nutrition issues affecting low-income residents of the two-county area.

The Healthier Together team is one of just five teams selected for participation in this year’s program. The five teams come together three times during the program for workshops, participate in regular webinars, and also receive technical assistance through local site visits.

(more)

Cutline: Members of the Healthier Together team selected to participate in the HWLI Community Teams Program include (front, from left) Kelly Appeldorn, HealthPartners; Amy Hess, Pierce County Public Health; Sarah Johnson, UW-Extension; (back, from left) Natasha Ward, Baldwin Area Medical Center; Ruth Lehmann, St. Croix County Public Health; Mary Lestrud, UW-Extension; Jean Needham, United Way St. Croix Valley; and Heather Logelin, Allina Health.

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About Healthier Together Pierce & St. Croix Counties

Healthier Together – Pierce & St. Croix Counties is a community coalition working to create and maintain healthy communities and provide a more strategic framework for local health improvement activities. For more information, visit healthiertogetherstcroix.org.

About the Community Teams Program

The Community Teams Program is one component of the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute, a program of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. The program is funded through the Wisconsin Partnership Program and Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin. For more information, visit hwli.org.

