

New Beginnings News



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CURRENT VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES:

- ☞ Tutor a youth
- ☞ Cook meals at Shelter or Drop-In Center
- ☞ Assist with Marketing and Social Media
- ☞ Donate Thanksgiving or Holiday meal items
- ☞ Help with holiday gifts

Contact Ethan May
795-4076 for more info.

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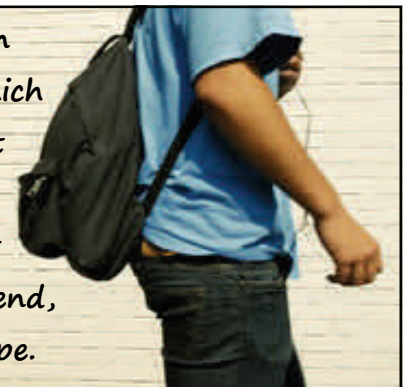
Young Man Finds Hope at New Beginnings

Chris* was 17 years old and living with constant conflict and threats of violence at home when he came to the New Beginnings Emergency Shelter in Lewiston. A teacher at his high school had told him about the shelter when she realized how severe things had gotten at home. Chris describes the shelter as giving him “a place to stay with food, someone to talk to, and a warm bed, also hope to continue with school. The staff is good at helping you transition to living there ... you can tell everyone (at the shelter) was coming from a hard life.”

Chris stayed at the shelter for 2 weeks while staff worked on getting

**Not youth's real name*

I am a senior in high school, which I never thought would happen ... even when it seems like the end, there is still hope.



him into the New Beginnings Transitional Living Program (TLP). Chris then moved into the TLP Supervised Apartments, giving him stability and support to learn the skills he needs to live independently. Now 18, Chris is on track to graduate and wants to continue his education to become an electrician. When asked what would have been different if he had not

come to New Beginnings, Chris says, “I’m a senior in high school, which I never thought would happen. I have a job and a vehicle. I experienced a lot of difficult things, but now I have plans to deal with those situations. Without New Beginnings, I would have missed out on a big life lesson: it gets worse before it gets better. Now I know that even when it seems like the end, there is still hope.”

Homeless Youth Panel to be held at Bates

November is Runaway and Homeless Youth Month and New Beginnings has helped to organize a panel called “Invisible Strength: Connecting with Homeless Youth.” The panel is part of the Civic Forum

series of the Harvard Center at Bates College. The panelists, including New Beginnings’ staff and youth, will share data and stories about the needs and strengths of homeless youth, and describe how positive

youth development strategies successfully engage homeless youth in Maine’s towns, cities, and rural areas. Join us on Thursday, November 7, at 7:30 pm at the Muskie Archive (70 Campus Ave. at Bates in Lewiston).

New Staff Opens Minds to Learning



Sarah Vazquez joined New Beginnings in 2013 as a part time Education Specialist. The educational support pilot program she started is now going strong.

Why this job, working with these youth?

I've always been really interested in developing programs that can truly meet underprivileged youth where they are at. I enjoy being the person who can help someone recognize the assets they didn't realize they had.

Like them, I had many challenges growing up. I also had mentors that helped me learn that I could always count on education. I want to be that mentor for youth at New Beginnings, to help them see that learning is constant even when your life circumstances keep on changing.

What do you like best & find most challenging?

My favorite and most challenging parts of the job are really the same things. Since the youth I work with are in constant

transition, I have to make every encounter count.

I have to always remain genuine, listen, and make sure that every young person gains something each time we meet – we may only work together that one time!

Why is this service so needed by our youth?

New Beginnings saw that there were many youth whose educational needs were not being met by existing programs.

This pilot had to be highly individualized to meet the



TD Charitable Foundation and Best Buy Children's Foundation grants supported the pilot & learning lab, where Sarah meets with a student.

Whether it is an academic skill or learning how to set goals, each lesson has to be relevant to their life and increase their belief in their ability to learn.

Both the logistics and the relationship-building are quite challenging, but the best part is when that student walks away with a skill they can apply.

youth's needs. First thing, I do an assessment to determine each youth's learning styles, skills, and to find out what they would like to learn.

I work with some youth who dropped out years ago because they believed that they couldn't learn. Others are enrolled in high school and work with

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“Learning is constant, even when your life circumstances keep on changing.”

- Sarah Vazquez,
Education Specialist



Dance at College Street: Thanks to the generosity of some local foundations, New Beginnings replaced the roof of our newest building at 134 College Street in Lewiston this spring. That repair allowed the internationally-known Bates Dance Festival (BDF) to utilize the building's gymnasium as a short-term rehearsal space. In exchange for similar use for the next several summers, BDF refinished the water-damaged original hardwood floors to a beautiful new shine! New Beginnings is looking forward to more renovations and community collaboration at the new building in 2014.

Agency News Briefs:

New Program for Homeless

Families: The Home to Stay program can help adults and families who are homeless (e.g. staying in a shelter, outdoors, in their car, etc.) to get into stable housing quickly. Services can continue to help maintain stability for up to a year. Contact Lacey Donle at Outreach: 207-795-6831

Host Homes on Hold: This May, Maine Department of Corrections informed New Beginnings that funding was no longer available for the Host Homes Program. New Beginnings continues to research alternate funding, but is no longer operating Host Homes at this time.

New Board Members: Four new community members joined New Beginnings as volunteers in 2013:

Vicki Stuart, CEO of Central Maine Credit Union, was re-elected to the Board of Directors in April after taking a leave of absence. Welcome back, Vicki!

Peggy McRae, RN, a Nursing Director at CMHVI, was elected to the Board in May and is active on the Fundraising Committee.

Kathryn Low, PhD, Associate Dean of the Faculty and professor of psychology at Bates was nominated as a Board Advisor in June.

Ted Small, Esq., an attorney with the firm Isaacson and Raymond in Lewiston, was elected to the Board in August.

Welcome to all and thanks for sharing your time and expertise!

Street Outreach Grant: New Beginnings is excited to announce the agency's recent award of a highly competitive 3-year federal grant to continue street outreach services for homeless youth in Lewiston-Auburn (207-795-6831) and Farmington (207-778-6193).

Donor Spotlight: Tina Laplante

Tina Laplante is the Controller at International Paper (IP) in Auburn, a former president of the New Beginnings' Board of Directors, and longtime donor to New Beginnings.

Tina has worked for IP for more than 20 years, and International Paper makes it easy for Tina to give to New Beginnings through their employer match program.

Tina grew up in Lewiston and now lives in Auburn, so she advocates for giving back locally. "I feel really strongly about the importance of New Beginnings' mission," Tina says, "I am proud to support such a great organization. I like knowing my donations are having a positive impact in my local community."

Thank you for your support over the years, Tina!



"I like knowing my donations are having a positive impact."



Whether camping, picking apples, riding a horse, or going to the big city for the very first time, the **Adventure Challenge** program trips have been teaching New Beginnings' youth life skills and confidence experientially for more than 20 years.

Open Minds, *continued from page 2*

me to keep up with their work when their school is too far away to attend while they are staying at our Shelter. I also help youth that are suspended or have been expelled.

What we do complements the public high schools and the local GED/adult education programs. Our support makes it possible for some youth to stay in school, and for others to

begin to see that learning happens in many ways and in all kinds of settings.

After we work together, that young person may realize that they *can* go back to school, get a job, or get their GED.

Every day I am holding up a positive mirror and giving the youth I work with a new opportunity to take a look.





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436 MAIN STREET
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Funded in part by the Department of Health and Human Services



LIVE UNITED

Can You Make the Holidays Brighter for Homeless Youth?

New Beginnings distributes gifts to more than 75 youth each December. We are looking for individuals and groups to **sponsor a holiday gift drive** this year.

We need to collect 75 large gift bags filled with new, full-size bottles of hygiene supplies, toilet paper, gloves, and socks. We are also seeking art supplies, alarm clocks, new adult-size underwear, new hooded sweatshirts (adult L, XL, & XXL), and local fast food or grocery store gift cards. **Call 795-4077 if you can help!**



Central Maine Imaging Center staff donated 20 full gift bags in 2012!

View New Beginnings' complete holiday wish list online at www.newbeginmaine.org



Save the Date: Candlelight Vigil
 FOR NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSON'S MEMORIAL DAY
Friday December 20, 2013
The first day of winter. The longest night of the year.
 Location TBA in Lewiston
 Sponsored by Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless