



New Beginnings 2014 Annual Report

New Beginnings has improved the lives of Maine's homeless youth and families in crisis since 1980. We believe all youth deserve to feel safe and have a healthy & stable adulthood. Thank you for supporting our work.

Success by the Numbers

- 13,403** Nights of housing where youth were safe and off the streets
- 13,212** Meals served at the Shelter and Outreach Drop-In Center
- 1,754** Contacts via street outreach in urban and rural communities
- 741** Youth and families served this year by New Beginnings
- 477** Youth and young adults helped at our Lewiston Drop-In Center
- 153** Teens stayed at our 24-hour Shelter from throughout Maine
- 75** % of youth served reunified with family or acquired safe housing
- 62** Youth gained life skills in our transitional living apartments
- 38** People accessed Home to Stay permanent housing assistance

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of New Beginnings,

Each and every day, young people in need come to our programs and find a safe place to make a fresh start. As an organization, we continue to change and grow just like the youth we serve.

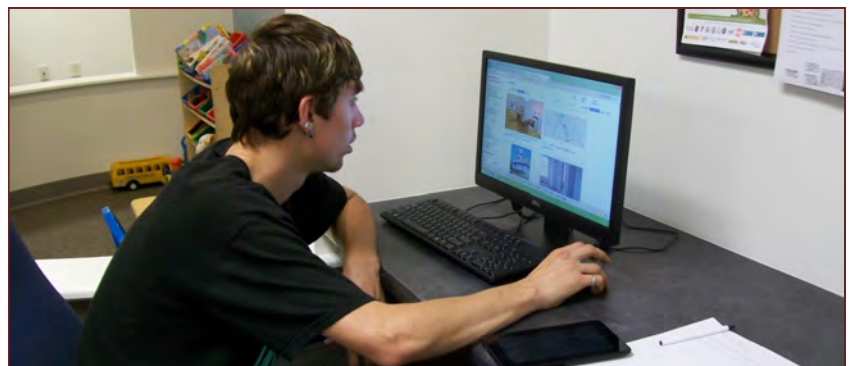
This year we launched the \$1.25 million *Campaign for a New Beginning* to renovate our new agency headquarters and expanded Youth Outreach Drop-In Center in Lewiston. The generosity of our staff, board, and the **community will allow more of Maine's most vulnerable youth to come in** out of the cold and find caring adults waiting to help at the new center.

While we look to the future, we also prepare to celebrate our history with **our shelter's 35th anniversary in 2015! The shelter continues to change young people's lives every day, just as it has daily since opening in 1980.**

In 2014, over 700 children, teens, young adults, and families were able to start building a brighter future because of supporters like you.

Thank you so much for making their new beginnings possible.

Robert Rowe, Executive Director



New Beginnings Programs

Emergency Shelter

Since 1980, our youth shelter has been a safe haven 365 days a year for young people with no place to go. Ours is the last remaining shelter in Maine licensed to provide 24 hour care for children and teens, and can serve up to 12 young people ages 12-19 at a time. In 2014, 153 youth got the shelter, meals, case management, educational support, life skills, and recreation they needed in a supportive home-like environment. 75% of the youth that utilized the shelter were able to either reunify with family or go on to our TLP or another permanent placement.

In addition to emergency shelter, we provide 24-hour phone referrals and family mediation that can prevent homelessness. All full-time staff were trained in facilitating family mediation this year with funding from the Simmons Foundation. Mediation is available to families in crisis, even if their teen does not stay at the shelter. 75% of youth participating in family mediation were able to return home, and 80% of them did not need a repeat shelter stay.

Transitional Living Program (TLP)

The Transitional Living Program offers a long-term housing option for homeless youth that includes the essential, real-life experiences with education, household management, employment, and personal growth that teens need to successfully transition to adulthood. Youth ages 16-21 can live for up to 18 months in our supervised group living or independent apartments in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Kennebec counties. Our TLP combines stable housing, supportive group activities, and knowledgeable staff to help youth and young adults learn to successfully live on their own.

In 2014, 62 homeless youth accessed 7,729 nights of safe transitional housing, along with life skills education, adventure challenge programs, and caring adult support to achieve their goals. 82% of TLP youth made progress toward their diploma or GED in 2014.

I learned to be much more confident making decisions for myself.

There is no way I would be where I am now without the help of New Beginnings.

Community Services: Prevention & Education

For 20 years, our HIV Prevention Program has helped youth reduce **their risk. Maine's legislature restored the Department of Education** funds for our HIV prevention program this year, allowing us to train teachers and youth workers from across Maine in best practices for working with youth at high risk for HIV, and with youth who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender.

Our Prevention Educator lead 47 HIV prevention groups for 98 youth in our shelter this year, along with implementing the **PowerSource** curriculum to help youth better recognize and manage their emotions. **By the end of the year, 140 youth from all of New Beginnings' programs had participated in at least one of the 112 PowerSource groups provided. Evaluation of the program's effectiveness is underway with John T. Gorman Foundation support.**

The Educational Support Program continued a 2nd year of connecting homeless youth with education and the love of learning. In 2014, our Education Specialist helped 68 youth with assessments, education or work goals, and tutoring. Summer expeditionary learning had shelter youth planning 11 field trips to locations across southern Maine. An expanded collaboration with College 4 ME Androscoggin introduced the CHOICES career exploration software. The Dot Larrabee Fund awarded \$1,200 in scholarships to youth pursuing their education.

Outreach & Drop-In Center

The Outreach program provides a life-line for youth who are low-income, living in unstable circumstances, or homeless. Our staff connected with over 1,700 youth in 2014 – on the streets, in the woods, libraries, corner stores, parks, or at schools – to offer emergency supplies, a listening ear, and info about how to get food and shelter in Franklin, Kennebec, and Androscoggin counties.

This year 477 youth ages 14-21 came to our Drop-In Center in Lewiston for a safe place off the streets to get food and supplies, use a phone or computer, and enjoy recreational activities. Of those youth, 165 chose to work closely with an outreach worker to make changes in their lives. This individualized support is essential for young people that have often not been engaged with education, employment, or their families, and may have substance use or mental health issues.

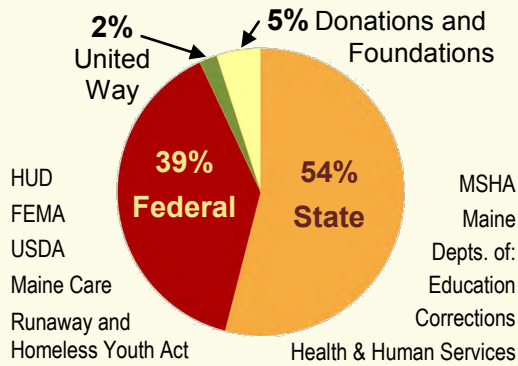
In 2014, our housing referral program, Home to Stay, also helped 38 people (homeless adults and their children) rapidly access permanent housing.

Financial Overview

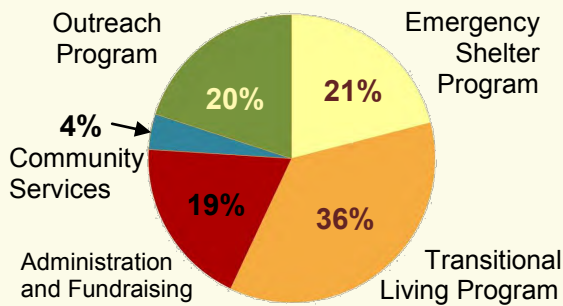
2014 Annual Budget was \$2,492,802

General operating budget does not include building campaign

Revenue



Expenses



How You Can Help

Volunteer

Cook a meal, spruce up a building, tutor a youth, or join a Board committee

Sponsor

Host a fundraiser, hold a donation drive, or support one of our events

Visit

Come see our new building or schedule a tour of our program sites

Give

Help homeless youth with a secure gift today at www.newbeginmaine.org

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