

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Beginnings announces new Executive Director: Chris Bicknell

Lewiston, ME – July 15, 2016

New Beginnings' Board of Directors announced today that they have selected Chris Bicknell to serve as the agency's Executive Director. "After a very thorough search, the Board is excited to welcome Chris Bicknell to lead New Beginnings into the future," said Christopher Ferguson, President of New Beginnings' Board. "Chris brings extensive nonprofit management experience to our agency, and I especially value that he has focused his career on our core population of youth at risk of homelessness."

Chris Bicknell will begin his tenure at New Beginnings the second week of August. An open house where members of the community can meet and welcome Chris will be held in September at the Ann Geiger Center for New Beginnings in Lewiston.

Chris Bicknell comes to New Beginnings from the Opportunity Alliance in Portland, where he most recently served at the Director of Access and Intake. Chris has more than 25 years of experience in the field of human services, including as a consultant, trainer and presenter about working with high-risk youth, restorative justice, youth employment, harm reduction, and trauma-informed care.

A founding member of the Maine Homeless Youth Provider's Network, Chris coordinated Preble Street Teen Services in Portland for more than 9 years, and was instrumental in the design and opening of their \$4.5 million Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter in 2012. A passionate advocate for youth and creativity, Chris has a Master's degree in Art Therapy and has served as volunteer with the Telling Room in Portland.

"Becoming the Executive Director of New Beginnings is my dream job," said Chris Bicknell, "I am looking forward to bringing my enthusiasm, fresh perspective, and experience to the dedicated team of staff and volunteers at New Beginnings. Together, we will continue and build upon New Beginnings' successful history focused on improving the lives of vulnerable young people in Maine."

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About New Beginnings

Since 1980, New Beginnings has helped build a brighter future for homeless youth in Maine. Each year, the agency provides 700 children, teens, and adults with opportunities for the safety, connection, and growth that all people need to thrive. New Beginnings' spectrum of housing and services prevent young people from becoming homeless, support families in crisis, and help vulnerable youth grow into healthy and stable adults.

To learn more, visit WWW.NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG or call 207-795-4077. For 24-hour referrals, please call New Beginnings' youth shelter at 207-795-4070.