

Before New Beginnings, I was headed down a bad road.

The staff helped me become a better friend, daughter, sister, ... a better ME.



New Beginnings 2013 Annual Report

New Beginnings has improved the lives of Maine's homeless youth & families since 1980. We believe all young people deserve to feel safe and grow toward a healthy and stable adulthood.

Thank you for supporting our work.

Success by the Numbers

- 14,320** Nights of housing where youth were safe and off the streets
- 12,420** Meals served at the Shelter and Outreach Drop-In Center
- 1,612** Contacts via street outreach in urban and rural communities
- 653** Youth and families served this year by New Beginnings
- 465** Youth and young adults helped at the Lewiston Drop-In Center
- 158** Youth stayed at our 24-hour Shelter from throughout Maine
- 81** % of youth served reunified with family or acquired safe housing
- 1** New Home to Stay program to rapidly house homeless families

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of New Beginnings,

One of the things we take seriously at New Beginnings is our name. For the youth we serve, each new day brings fresh challenges that they must meet to make a new start. In the face of instability and a lack of resources, these youth bravely create a new beginning. As adults, we have a lot to learn from young people about growth and change. If you are like me, your own teen years may seem distant. Youth's stories invite us to remember that we all have the common experience of adolescence to draw on, when life's path was less sure. May their courageous faces inspire you as they do me.

Organizational growth requires some bravery, too. True to our name, we believe that innovative programs, based on what we have learned from the youth we serve, are essential to their success. 2013 brought fresh and exciting opportunities to deepen our services: We collaborated with Maine Housing to expand our adult services and rapidly house homeless families; received a generous grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation to fund an ambitious project to assess the feasibility of incorporating mental health services; began fiscal sponsorship of Outright Lewiston-Auburn; completed the successful first year of our pilot educational support program; and continued to raise the funds needed to launch our first-ever building campaign in 2014.

Your gifts of time and support form the foundation from which we and the youth we serve can take brave steps. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of Maine's homeless youth and families.

Robert Rowe, Executive Director

New Beginnings Programs



Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Seventy-nine homeless youth ages 16-21 accessed safe housing, life skills education, adventure challenge programs, and the caring adult support they needed to learn to live independently through the TLP in 2013. Youth can live for up to 18 months in TLP supervised group living or independent apartments located in Androscoggin, Franklin, and Kennebec counties.

Regular contact with knowledgeable staff and supportive groups increase youths' skills and promote the essential, real-life experiences with education, employment, household management, and personal growth that young people need to transition to adulthood.

The TLP provided 7,556 nights of service in 2013 and 85% of youth that exited the program moved into safe and stable housing.

Emergency Shelter

Since 1980, New Beginnings' Emergency 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 at any given time.

In 2013, 158 youth ages 12-19 got the safe accommodation, meals, case management, educational support, life skills, and recreation they needed in the shelter's supportive home-like environment. Of the youth that utilized the shelter this year, 50 reunified with family members and 56 went on to our TLP or another permanent placement.

In addition to meeting youth's immediate shelter needs, we provide 24-hour phone referrals and family mediation services that work to prevent homelessness. Mediation is available to families in crisis, even if the young person involved does not stay at the shelter. This year, 39 youth and families participated in mediation. Of those, 59% were able to return or remain home and more than 90% did not return for a repeat shelter stay.

Outreach & Drop-In Center

The Outreach program provides a life-line for youth ages 14-24 that are low-income and homeless or living in unstable circumstances.

New Beginnings Outreach workers connected with over 1,600 youth this year on the streets, in the woods, libraries, corner stores, parks, or at schools to offer emergency supplies, a listening ear, and information about how to get food and shelter in Franklin, Kennebec, and Androscoggin counties.

This year 465 youth ages 14-21 came to the downtown Lewiston Outreach Drop-In Center for a safe place off the streets to shower, get food and basic hygiene supplies, use a phone or computer, and enjoy recreational activities.

Outreach workers focus on building trusting relationships with youth over time. In 2013, more than 150 young people chose to work closely with an Outreach worker to make changes in their lives. This individual support is essential for youth that have often not been engaged with employment, education, or their families, and may have substance use and/or mental health issues.

In 2013, 86% of youth that worked with an Outreach case manager found stable housing.

Community Services: Prevention & Education

New Beginnings HIV Prevention Program has been helping youth reduce their risk for nearly 20 years. In 2013, the program broadened its focus, adding new pregnancy prevention and emotional literacy groups. Our Prevention Educator worked with 121 youth and trained 53 staff from 22 schools and agencies in risk-reduction strategies this year.

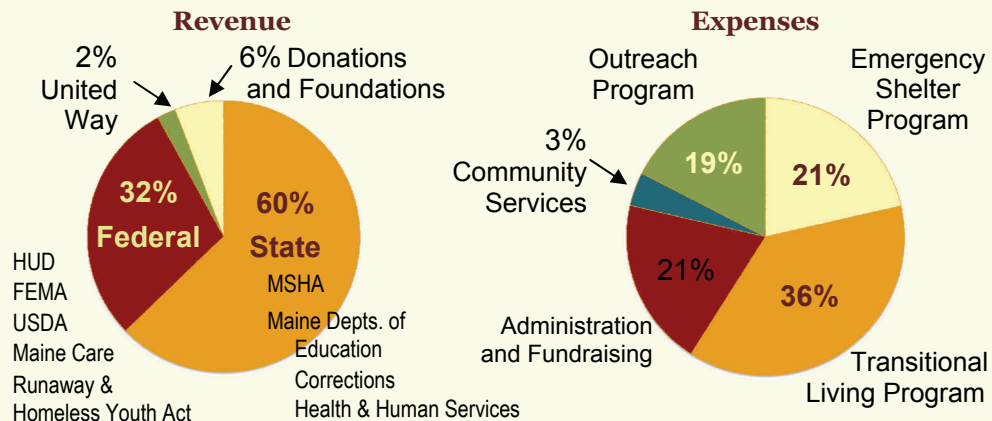
With support from TD Bank, Best Buy, and L-A Children's Fund, we began a pilot educational support program in 2013 to reconnect homeless and at-risk youth with education and the love of learning. Over the first year, our Education Specialist helped more than 100 young people with individual tutoring, assessments, homework, educational field trips, and groups.





Financial Overview

2013 Annual Budget was \$2,438,476



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Thank You!

We appreciate every gift and apologize for errors or unintentional omissions. Please notify us of any corrections 207-795-4077.

Annual Report 2013

NEW BEGINNINGS, INC.
436 MAIN STREET
LEWISTON, ME 04240



How You Can Help

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Cook a meal, spruce up one of our buildings, or tutor a youth in need—call 207-795-4076

Sponsor

Host a fundraiser, hold a donation drive, or support one of our events—call 207-795-4077

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