

2015 Annual Report



In June 2015, U.S. Senator Susan Collins and HUD Secretary Julian Castro visited the new Youth Outreach Drop-In Center in Lewiston.

Success by the Numbers

- 12,331** Nights of housing where youth were safe and off the streets
- 10,955** Meals served at the Shelter and Outreach Drop-In Center
- 1,907** Contacts via street outreach in urban and rural communities
- 727** Youth and families served this year by New Beginnings
- 521** Teens & young adults helped at our Lewiston Drop-In Center
- 206** Youth attended groups to learn emotional literacy & mindfulness
- 140** Teens stayed at our 24-hour Shelter from throughout Maine
- 85** % of youth served reunified with family or acquired safe housing
- 61** Youth gained life skills living at our transitional living apartments

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of New Beginnings,

Thank you for your support in 2015; it was an exciting year for the agency and for me personally. In April at our Annual Dinner, we celebrated the milestone of 35 years of continuous 24-hour service of our emergency shelter for vulnerable youth and families in crisis in Maine. I am honored to have been a part of that history for the past 28 years. New Beginnings has grown to provide over 700 young people a year with the safety, connections, and opportunities for growth that all people need to thrive.

I'm happy to report that our "Campaign for a New Beginning" came to a successful conclusion this year! Building on the momentum of major grants late in 2014, we continued to raise private funds to renovate 134 College Street in Lewiston—which was dedicated **"The Ann Geiger Center for New Beginnings"** in April. Enough renovation was complete for both Outreach and Administration to move into the new center by the summer, as we worked steadily to raise our campaign goal of \$1.25 million. And we did it! Witnessing our team of volunteers and staff accomplishing such a major effort was so rewarding; I will never forget it.

No less exciting for me was the work that our management staff did this year to design and update a comprehensive staff training curriculum and clearly articulate why and how we do our work with the youth we serve. Our innovative ideas, garnered over 35 years of research, best practices from around the nation, and most importantly from the young people themselves, are now embodied in our model of care.

Last year, I announced my plans to retire in January 2016 to the Board. It is both gratifying and difficult to leave after such an exciting final year. I have truly loved being a part of this place. As a wise person once said: hello has a sadness in it, as it is also the beginning of goodbye. I will miss **New Beginnings profoundly, but I don't for a moment regret that first "hello" in 1988 and the many good years since. The Board has appointed my colleague Mary Ruchinskis as the Acting Executive Director. I leave with confidence in Mary's ability to guide the agency through the search and toward future opportunities that new leadership can bring. It is truly a new beginning for the agency and all of the youth we serve every day.**

With love and gratitude,
Robert Rowe, Executive Director

New Beginnings Programs

Emergency Shelter

For 35 years, our youth shelter has been a safe haven 365 days a year for young people with no place to go. It is the only youth shelter in Maine licensed to provide 24 hour care for children and teens, and serves up to 12 young people ages 12-19 at a time. Nearly 8,000 young people have been served since 1980.

In 2015, 140 youth found a safe place to stay with the meals, case management, educational support, life skills, and recreation they needed **in the shelter's supportive, home-like environment**. 82% of youth at the shelter last year were able to 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 works to prevent homelessness. Families in crisis can access mediation services, even if their teen does not stay at the shelter. In 2015, 24 families participated in mediation. Three-quarters of the teens from those families were able to return to their families or remain at home with improved family relationships.

Transitional Living Program (TLP)

The Transitional Living Program offers safe and stable housing options for homeless youth in Maine. Our community-based apartment living exposes youth ages 16-21 to real-life experiences in education, employment, roommate and household management, and other personal growth experiences that teens need to successfully transition to adulthood.

Youth can live in a New Beginnings apartment for up to 18 months. TLP sites in Franklin, Kennebec, and Androscoggin counties combine group activities and supportive housing with individualized independent living skills assistance from knowledgeable and compassionate staff.

Living at the TLP prepares young people to successfully find and maintain housing after they leave the program. In 2015, 61 homeless youth accessed 8,058 nights of housing at the TLP. Over the past year, 82% of youth in the community living program made progress toward a diploma or GED.

I used to get kicked out of my house all the time.

At New Beginnings, they want me to have a good life.

Now, I feel like I can accomplish something without being judged.



Community Services: Prevention & Education

Mindfulness became a regular practice in New Beginnings' programs this year as we expanded our **Power Source Plus** emotional literacy curriculum pilot across the agency. By the end of 2015, 134 youth had participated in more than 200 group sessions, practicing meditation and learning coping skills. Results of an 18-month evaluation showed **solid improvement in emotional regulation**. We're excited to bring the program to schools and agencies as we expand mental health services.

The HIV Prevention Program continued presenting evidence-based training workshops to schools and youth agencies in 2015. A highlight this year was a **2-day workshop offered in collaboration with Maine's tribal communities**, which trained a large number of peer educators. More than 400 teachers, staff, and youth workers from across Maine attended our skills-based workshops and conferences focused on helping vulnerable youth, including those who may be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, to stay safe and healthy.

Our Youth Educational Support moved into a new learning lab at the Geiger Center this fall. The new site, along with a grant from Walmart Foundation, strengthens our ability to connect with older youth who have left school. In 2015, daily educational programming kept 75 youth from our shelter involved in education, career planning, and tutoring, and provided 18 summer expeditionary learning field trips.

Outreach & Drop-In Center

New Beginnings' outreach workers connect with teens and young adults—on the streets, in the woods, libraries, corner stores, parks, or schools—to offer emergency supplies, a listening ear, and info about how to get food or shelter in Franklin, Kennebec, and Androscoggin counties. The goal is to find and meet the needs of youth ages 14-21 who are homeless or disconnected from their families and other supports.

2015 was a momentous year for Outreach! Our **Drop-In Center's move into the newly renovated** and expanded Geiger Center location in May 2015 was the culmination of many years of planning, fundraising, and community support. This year, more than 500 young people came to the center for meals, emergency supplies, recreation, and **social support**. Many utilized the new Center's expanded offerings like educational support, **Power Source** groups, and recreational or arts activities in the gym. 122 homeless youth worked individually with staff to achieve their goals for stability, with 86% finding permanent housing.

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

PHOTO CREDIT: DARYN SLOVER / SUN JOURNAL, 2105



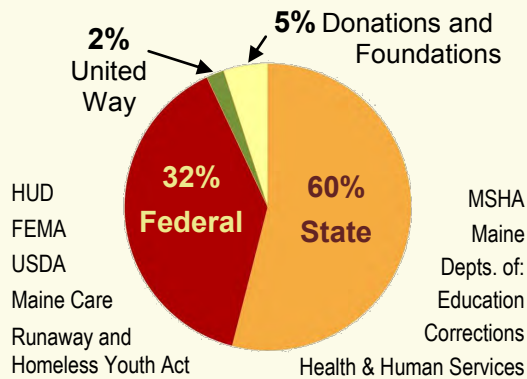
Supporters gather at the 2015 Homeless Memorial Vigil, held each December with Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless

Financial Overview

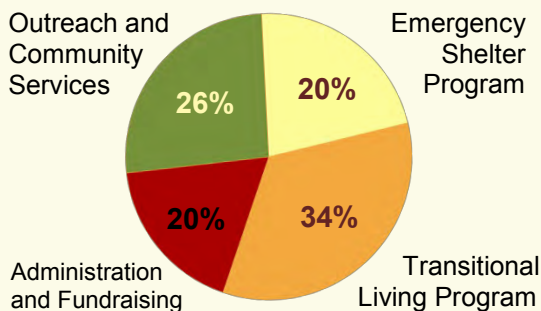
2015 Annual Budget was \$2,564,260

General operating budget does not include building campaign

Revenue



Expenses



2015 Board of Directors

*Chris Ferguson,
President*

Alex Beggs^o

Advisors

David Dubord

Dan Gagnon

Meg Greene

*Ed Desgrosseilliers,
Vice President*

Jared Golden^o

Dot Larrabee^o

Sara Holt

Kathryn Low

*Molly Shukie,
Treasurer*

Melissa McLeod

Joan Macri

Peggy McRae

Lillian O'Brien

*Danylle Carson,
Secretary*

Sandy Nesin

Tina Penney

Elaine Runyon

Darby Ray

^o Ended service 2015

Dr. Chandra Sasseville

Vicki Stuart

PHOTO CREDIT: SCHOONERSTATES 2015



This annual report is dedicated to the memory of Dorothy "Dot" Larrabee, one of New Beginnings' founders, who passed away on October 20, 2015.

Campaign for a New Beginning: from Dream to Reality



1997: First Youth Outreach Drop-In Center opens in downtown Lewiston (245 Lisbon St.)

2004: New Beginnings youth involved in plans to find larger Drop-In center location.

2011: Agency purchases former JCC at 134 College Street in Lewiston and receives 1st grant to support the project.

2012: Planning to fund renovation begins.

2013: 100% staff and Board participation launches \$1.25 million building campaign.

2014: Campaign goes public & community support increases with annual fund heating system appeal; \$500K grant from Next Generation Foundation allows Hebert to begin renovation by year-end.

2015: Fundraising continues as campaign hits \$1 million. Symbolic "ground breaking" ceremony for new Drop-In Center held in February and Geiger Family naming gift is announced: \$100K left to raise.

April 2015: The **Ann Geiger Center for New Beginnings** is dedicated; Drop-in Center construction completed.



May 2015: New Drop-In Center Opens at 134 College Street in Lewiston, ME, with expanded kitchen, recreation, counseling, and arts space to serve more youth. Peter Geiger issues \$20K "May Match" challenge which is successfully met!

June 2015: New Beginnings administration relocates to Geiger Center. U.S. Senator Susan Collins and HUD Secretary Julian Castro visit shelter and new Drop-In Center to hear New Beginnings' youth stories.

September 2015: Youth Educational Support services move into larger learning lab and classroom at the Geiger Center. The Atlantic Charitable Fund issues a challenge grant to match \$10K in new gifts & pledges.

December 31, 2015: SUCCESS! The goal of the Campaign for a New Beginning to raise \$1.25 million is achieved!

