

Partnering with youth to succeed in the new normal

When Alice* moved into New Beginnings Transitional Living Program (TLP) in late 2019, she never imagined she would be experiencing a pandemic lockdown less than a year after she was homeless. Alice first stayed at Marian's Place after her stepfamily would no longer let her live in their home. At age 16, she was accepted to live at the TLP for up to 18 months while she worked on her education, employment, and life skills so she could eventually live on her own.

When Alice moved into the TLP staff-supervised apartments in Lewiston, she was attending high school in a nearby town but had fallen behind while homeless. She was struggling to keep up with school, work a fast-food job, and save the money she needed to be able to eventually move into her own apartment.

With the encouragement of her TLP case manager, Alice began working with New Beginnings' Youth Educational Support Program (YES) in January 2020.

YES offers New Beginnings' youth individualized services and support to help them stay in school, get their GED/HiSet, graduate, explore careers or college, or reconnect them to education if they've dropped out. Staff teach academic skills, but also help youth learn daily goal setting, "soft skills," and support their interests and talents using positive youth development strategies.

During Alice's first in-person meetings with YES staff, she received weekly one-on-one tutoring and homework help. Staff helped her check on grades and discussed strategies to improve her academic performance. Alice even chose to participate in science and art activities



with YES during her school vacation week. Things were going well until COVID-19 hit Maine.

When Maine schools transitioned to fully remote learning in early April, YES specialists were able to quickly pivot to providing virtual appointments with youth thanks in part to flexible mini grant

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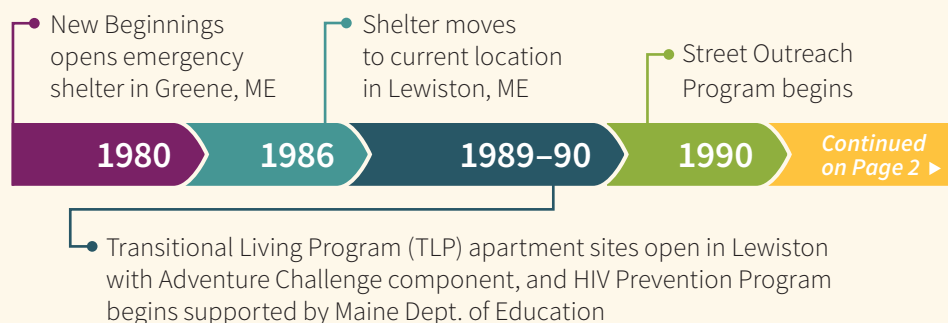
**Youth name changed to protect privacy*

A "new beginning" for New Beginnings' website

Launch of new and improved website planned for November 1.

The dedicated staff at NB have been working non-stop to ensure better access to the information our youth, donors, supporters, and community members need. Some improvements include mobile responsiveness, one touch calling, a streamlined donation process, and fewer levels for easier navigation.

40 Years of New Beginnings for youth



AGENCY NEWS B R I E F S

SHELTER IS NOW 'MARIAN'S PLACE'

In case you missed our summer news – our youth shelter has been renamed in honor of former Director Marian Carney. Learn more at www.newbeginmaine.org/marians-place-dedicated/

COVID-19 RESPONSE All of our programs are “essential” and have continued to operate during the pandemic. Please find regular updates at www.newbeginmaine.org/covid-19 on our website.

RECENT GRANTS We are grateful for receiving COVID-19 response support in 2020, including grants from the John T. Gorman, Rocking Moon, Sewall, Onion, and Maine Community Foundations; United Way of Androscoggin County; Hartford Group; Healthy Neighborhoods/ LA Metro Chamber; Liberty Mutual; Good Shepherd Food Bank; Harvard Pilgrim; and Hannaford. Thank you to ME Association of REALTORS Foundation for a housing assistance grant, Raymond J. & Mary C. Reisert Foundation for educational support, and Family + Youth Services Bureau for a federal 3-year Street Outreach grant.

YOUTH ACTION BOARD The statewide YAB is recruiting young adults with lived experience of homelessness/ systems of care. **Contact** Bridgette Semler at bridgette@newbeginmaine.org or call/text 207-402-9106.

YHDP UPDATE Despite setbacks due to COVID-19, Maine's Youth Homeless Demonstration Program work has continued this fall by finalizing a Coordinated Community Plan. Requests for Proposals will be announced in Spring 2021. **Contact** chris@newbeginmaine.org for more information.

New Normal

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support from the Onion Foundation and Lewiston Healthy Neighborhoods COVID-19 funds. Laptops were purchased to allow youth to continue safely meeting with staff virtually without leaving the TLP during the stay at home order.

YES staff reached out to Alice's school and got a clear understanding of her remote learning expectations, especially with a social studies course where she was struggling. Alice met with YES staff on video nearly every weekday in April and May. Over 30 appointments, staff were able to help Alice successfully keep up to date with her assignments.

Without New Beginnings' Educational Support, Alice and many other New

Beginnings youth would not have been able to stay connected while distance-learning during COVID-19, let alone make progress during the spring semester. In May, Alice was the first student in her social studies course to successfully complete all of her assignments and complete the class!

Alice has since moved out of the TLP to her own apartment and continued to pursue her education. The YES program continues to support youth as they adapt to the “new normal” of hybrid and distance learning through both socially-distanced in person and virtual/online services.

For more information about New Beginnings' Educational Support, contact Program Coordinator Allie Smith at (207) 521-6664 or allie@newbeginmaine.org.



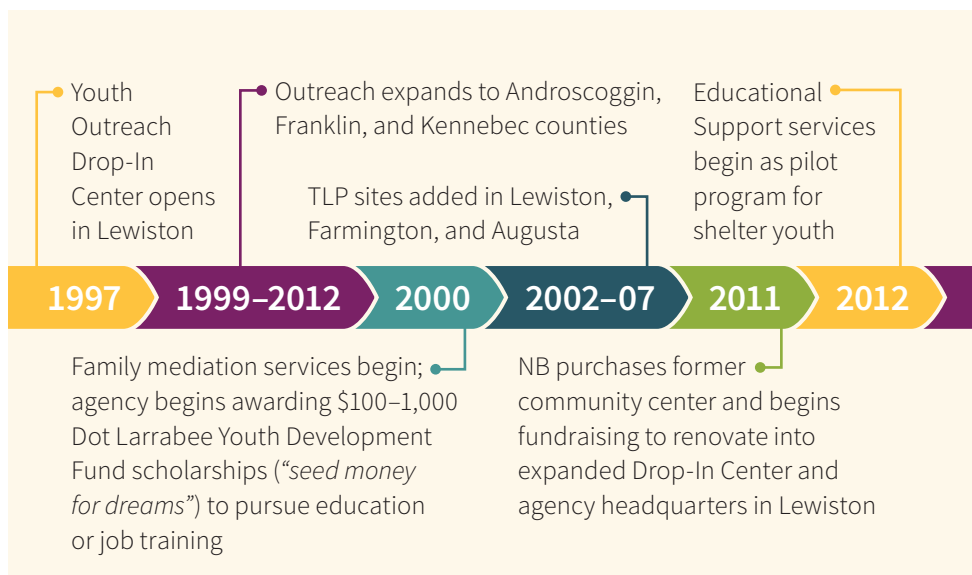
New Beginnings

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Join New Beginnings staff & board members for a virtual tour and Q&A.

Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 12–1pm

To RSVP, please visit: newbeginmaine.org/events



NOVEMBER IS... RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH PREVENTION MONTH

Join us for an online documentary film screening of
THE HOMESTRETCH



Get the link to stream the film online at:
NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG/EVENTS

Watch at home, then log on for Q+A with NB staff

**November 12, 2020
8pm**

For the trailer and more info about the film visit:
HOMESTRETCHDOC.COM



1 IN 10 YOUTH

BECOME **HOMELESS** EACH YEAR

ONE IS TOO MANY

LEARN MORE AT:

NewBeginMaine.org

SPECIAL THANKS...

New Beginnings would like to thank the City of Lewiston for supporting our awareness campaign by lighting up city hall green for the month of November and for supporting their community by allowing our street side awareness banners at Main Street and Pine St. in Lewiston!



New Beginnings **40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**We can ALL help
end youth homelessness**

Find out how you can help this November at: **NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG/NRPM2020**

Outreach, Drop-in, Educational Support, and administrative offices move into Ann Geiger Center (134 College St., Lewiston) after successful \$1.25M building campaign

NB begins offering low barrier trauma-informed mental health services

NB launches 100-day challenge to identify and support Franklin County rural homeless youth

NB celebrates 40 years of services and renames youth shelter Marian's Place

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

NB becomes fiscal sponsor of Outright L/A

NB pilots PowerSource Plus social-emotional literacy/mindfulness curriculum; incorporated into all programs after successful evaluation showed improvement in youths' emotional regulation

NB helps establish first statewide Youth Action Board to ensure homeless and system-involved youth have a voice in policy-making

Maine receives \$3.35M HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant with NB as lead agency



134 College Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

GIVING TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2020

Make a difference! Kick off your annual giving at:
NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
AUBURN, ME
PERMIT NO. 80

YOU CAN HELP US REDUCE COSTS

If the person receiving this newsletter should no longer receive our mailings, please email **nicole@newbeginmaine.org** with a request to remove/update contact information.



United
Way



Help make the holiday season brighter for homeless youth!

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, every December New Beginnings distributes holiday gifts to youth in our programs in Lewiston, Augusta, and Farmington. This year we need your support to make it possible for 100 youth to each get a care package containing gifts & winter necessities.

SIGN UP TO DONATE!

- nicole@newbeginmaine.org
- (207) 795-4077

See the full Holiday Wish List online:
NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG/HOLIDAY



SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER

Street side banners at Main & Pine in Lewiston. . . . **all month**
Lewiston City Hall lights it up green! **all month**
Wear Green Day. **11/10**
Film Screening "The Homestretch" **11/12**
New Beginnings Virtual Open House 12-1pm **11/19**

DECEMBER

Giving Tuesday **12/1**
High Risk Adolescent HIV/AIDS Prevention. **12/1-12/3**
Lewiston-Auburn Candlelight Vigil. **12/21**



We are still seeking sponsors for our 40th anniversary print and online storytelling project—rather than for an in-person event.

Interested? Please contact Nicole:

- nicole@newbeginmaine.org
- (207) 795-4077 x209

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 | 4:30PM - 5:30PM

NATIONAL
HOMELESS PERSONS'
MEMORIAL DAY



THE FIRST DAY OF WINTER.
THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR.