

Mediation Reconnects Families

"When I came to New Beginnings, I had nowhere else to go." Jeremy* was 15 the first time he experienced homelessness with his family. His mother had recently married his stepfather, both of whom struggled with substance use. Jeremy was an only child, but old enough that a lot of focus was placed on him to do things around the apartment. He cooked microwave meals, did what little bit of cleaning he knew, and went to the local market to use his mother's food stamps. After his family was evicted for nonpayment, they had to go to a local family shelter. "It was a really scary experience to have my life tossed into a trash bag and then have to sleep with complete strangers."

Not long after that first night, Jeremy's stepfather was arrested for drug possession. His mother decided to go to a local inpatient rehab program to get help, so Jeremy was left with extended family. Sleeping on a couch, in a home he didn't

know, he became even more depressed. He was being verbally abused and felt more confused and alone than ever. After his sixteenth birthday was forgotten, Jeremy began getting in trouble inside and outside of school and was asked to leave what was the only place he could call home at the time. He had been talking with counselors at school throughout the whole ordeal and was pointed to the New Beginnings emergency youth shelter, now known as Marian's Place. "It was a good starting point that gave me some time to figure out what to do next. Thankfully, the staff had already dealt with these situations and were able to help me with a place to stay until I could reconnect with my mom."

Jeremy was only at Marian's place for a few weeks before his mother was out of rehab and was able to establish housing and begin working on a better life for herself and her son. Jeremy and his mom begin Family Mediation with staff from

"When I came to NB I had nowhere else to go."



Marian's Place. "There was a lot of anger at the first meeting but she's my mom and she was trying, so I wanted to be there for her." The staff worked with Jeremy to educate him on community resources as well as reviewing various scenarios and how he could navigate those situations appropriately as they arose. During the Family Mediation meetings Jeremy and his mother were able to sort through their problems and reconnect with each other in a positive way.

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ANNUAL FUND 2021 A successful year

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the support of donors like you, our annual fund 2021–22 was able to **exceed** our ambitious \$85,000 goal! We'd especially like to thank Northeast Bank, Androscoggin Bank, Owen Larrabee & Melissa Albertson, Ned & Kitsie Claxton, Norway Savings Bank, Shawna Reed & John Nixon, James Pittman, The Jeff & Sonia Gorman Family Fund, Jane Dwinell, Karen & Dianne Krzywda-Nelder, Aimee & Chris Labbe, Forage Market, Richard & Barbara Bicknell, Tax Abilities LLC, Lewiston-Auburn Children's Fund, Michael & Tina Penney, Liberty Mutual, Roopers, Pamela Gates, Mechanics Savings Bank, Brann & Isaacson, Mary Hunter & Jim Parakilas, Angelina M. Conte, Donald G. Marean, and the more than 300 other individuals and businesses who contributed!

Thank you for giving the gift of hope to the youth we serve!

*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

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2021 IN-KIND DONORS

Meet the Newest Members of our Board of Directors

BETHANY BELANGER, TRES.

Northeast Bank

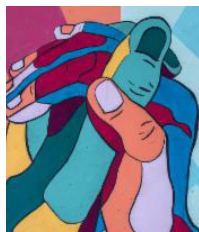
Our youth are our future and New Beginnings provides empathy, support, and a safe environment for youth to grow and thrive in our local communities.



BEVERLEY G. H.

YAB Member

I support New Beginnings because they help young people get the supportive services they need, including accessibility to mental health services, shelter, and food.



STEVEN MCDERMOTT

Governors Energy Office

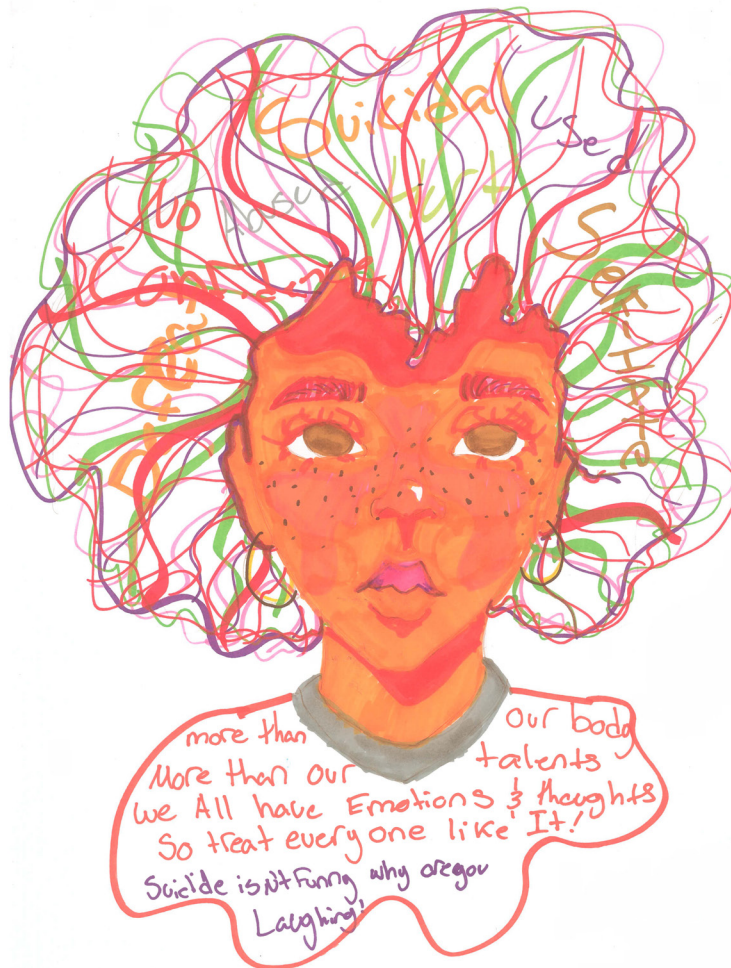
I want to support the work that helps to ensure that all of our community's youth have the support they need to thrive, regardless of the situation they are currently facing.



PEGGY MCRAE, RN

Maine Medical Center

I've rejoined the Board to support New Beginnings as a valuable resource in our community for homeless and at risk youth throughout the state.



*This youth artwork was recently in **NB INK**, the new art and literature Zine created by youth from New Beginnings programs, and distributed by the Drop-In.*

Mediation *Continued from Page 1*

Marian's Place staff helped the family to create plans of action in the event things did or did not go well when they reunited at home. After several meetings with Jeremy and his mother a plan had been established, so an exit plan was created. Within a week, Jeremy left the shelter and was able to move home with his mother and start fresh.

In 2022, we will begin offering no-cost family mediation through all New Beginnings' programs. Call Marian's Place 24-hour Helpline (207) 795-4070 or the Youth Outreach Drop-In Center (207) 795-6831 to access Mediation services.

AGENCY NEWS BRIEFS

DAY ONE COLLABORATION

We have started a new mental health services pilot with Day One offering services in all of our programs and based out of our 436 Main Street offices. Clinician Nick Dyer is accepting referrals; for more info call the Day One referral line at: 207-767-0991

RECENT GRANT THANKS

We're grateful for grants from Avangrid Foundation in partnership with Central Maine Power, the local affiliate of AVANGRID in Maine for general operating, Atlantic Charitable Fund for COVID-19-related staffing needs, and Doree Taylor Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, for general operating support.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

This month we're celebrating the promotion of Deb Brauer to Marian's Place Shelter Coordinator (reach her at deborah@newbeginmaine.org or 207-795-4077) and saying goodbye to Mental Health Director Marc Madore after 18 years dedicated to serving NB youth. See many more updates at newbeginmaine.org/staffnewsspring22.

2021 IN-KIND DONORS

*New Beginnings would like to thank
our 2021 In-Kind and Holiday Drive Donors for
their generous support of our youth.*

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Wendy Schlotterbeck

*If your name does not appear
in this list but should, please
contact Nicole Pollock:
nicole@newbeginmaine.org*



134 College Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

*New Beginnings
partners with youth to
create lasting change
so all youth have a
safe place to live
and opportunities
to grow.*

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THANK YOU!

to the staff, youth, and community
members who came out to support the
Homeless Vigil on December 21, 2021

[NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG/VIGIL-2021](https://newbeginmaine.org/vigil-2021)



WISH LIST

Baby Gates
Apartment Furnishings
Towels
Phone Chargers
Power Banks
Bicycles
Sleeping Bags
Tents
Flashlights/headlamps
Adult size New Underwear – *all
sizes and styles for all genders*

DETAILS ONLINE:
newbeginmaine.org/wish-list

PLEASE NOTE: We welcome in-kind donations of needed wish list items year-round. Please contact Nicole with any questions: 207-795-4077.