

We partner with youth to create lasting change so all youth have a safe place to live and opportunities to grow.

A note from our Executive Director

COVID changed things, but youth needs remain



Dear Friends and Supporters,

For New Beginnings, 2021 meant discovering what a return to full in-person services could look like. In January and February we hosted COVID-19 vaccination clinics for our staff and youth clients to make sure we could provide our services as safely as possible. Our Residential Services (Marian's Place shelter and TLP apartments) operated continuously, and our Outreach and Community Services fully re-opened to in-person services by spring 2021.

COVID-19 has changed our world, but homeless youth needs have not. In 2021 we maintained our focus on ensuring that Maine youth facing housing instability, hunger, exploitation, or abuse could find the help they need, while re-building in-person relationships between staff, youth, and collaborating providers. Education and Employment services offered

DEAR FRIENDS *continued on back page* ▶



“New Beginnings’ staff are wonderful, they helped keep me off the street ... they are the only reason I graduated high school.”

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

12,594 
Meals served at the Shelter & Outreach Drop-In Center

564 
Youth and families served this year

10,512 Nights of housing where youth were **safe and off the streets** 

 **5,394** Street outreach interactions with urban and rural youth

84% of youth served reunified with family or acquired safe housing

 **335**

37 Youth gained life skills at our **transitional living apartments** 

 **57** Teens from throughout Maine stayed at our 24-hour shelter

Teens and young adults served by our Outreach & Drop-In Center

OUR PROGRAMS

With your 2021 support, New Beginnings improved the lives of 564 unduplicated young people.

Thank you for helping Maine youth find safety, connection, and opportunities for growth.



MARIAN'S PLACE YOUTH SHELTER

Marian's Place at New Beginnings is the only program in Maine that is licensed to provide 24-hour emergency housing and support for youth ages 10–19 years old who have run away, are homeless, or at high risk due to intense family conflict.

Since 1980, Marian's Place has met youth's immediate safety and basic needs with food and shelter. Supportive services like case management, prevention groups, education and employment support, and family mediation help youth improve their skills and work toward stability.

In 2021 Marian's Place served 57 youth with over 1,900 nights of safe shelter off the streets and 6,200 meals. Despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 housing shortages, 86% of youth had safe exits, with 78% reunifying with family or discharged to stable housing.



STREET OUTREACH

New Beginnings' Outreach Program works to find and engage young people ages 14-21 at high risk for homelessness and exploitation through street outreach in Lewiston-Auburn and surrounding rural counties, a Drop-In Center, and intensive case management to help find housing and gain stability.

Since 1990, Street Outreach and Drop-In have offered services to meet youths' immediate safety and basic needs (food, clothing, shelter referral) and comprehensive case management to connect youth to resources in downtown Lewiston, with rural satellite offices serving Franklin and Kennebec counties.

In 2021, Outreach served 335 unduplicated young people through 5,400 interactions (on the streets, via phone/text/social media, and/or at Drop-In), 5,300 Drop-In Center meals, and 986 mobile food pantry meals. 67 homeless youth worked individually with case managers to achieve their goals.

YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB)

The Maine Youth Action Board (YAB) sponsored by New Beginnings is an independent statewide forum for members ages 14-24 with lived experiences including homelessness, poverty, or interaction with state systems of care (child welfare, corrections/juvenile justice, behavioral health, etc.) to work on issues affecting their peers. YAB strives to influence positive, systemic change while highlighting the values of respect and diversity amongst its membership, and has been active in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) and Maine's Homeless Continuum of Care (MCoC).

In 2021, YAB continued to offer youth paid leadership opportunities to consult, train providers, and advocate to ensure youth/young adult voice is valued and 'at the table' where decisions are made that impact Maine young people.



TRANSITIONAL LIVING

New Beginnings' Transitional Living Programs (TLP) provide supportive housing in Lewiston, Augusta, and Farmington for up to 18 months to help homeless youth ages 16-21 develop the skills they need to live on their own.

Since 1989, TLP has offered teens and young adults supervised and community living apartments that combine case management with real-life experiences in education, employment, Adventure Challenge trips, and life skills. Learning to manage finances, roommates, rent, and chores prepares youth for their next steps, and aftercare helps them successfully maintain housing after exit.



In 2021, TLP served 37 young people with 8,520 nights of transitional housing. 100% were either pursuing education or working by the time they left TLP, and 94% discharged from TLP into safe, stable housing.



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

New Beginnings' Education and Employment services offers trauma-informed 1-on-1, video, and small group support, field trips, and outdoor activities to help youth engage with or reconnect to school, discover their strengths, improve academic skills, and pursue their training, employment, or higher education goals.

In 2021, 82 youth from New Beginnings' programs received educational and employment support over 574 interactions. The program grew with funding from City of Lewiston CDBG and private grants from Bangor Savings Bank, MCF Francis Hollis Brain Fund, and STK Foundations. In fall 2021 Coordinator Allie Smith left to pursue law school and Specialist Signe Lynch was promoted to coordinate services and a new ME Department of Education partnership.

Mental Health Program Transitions

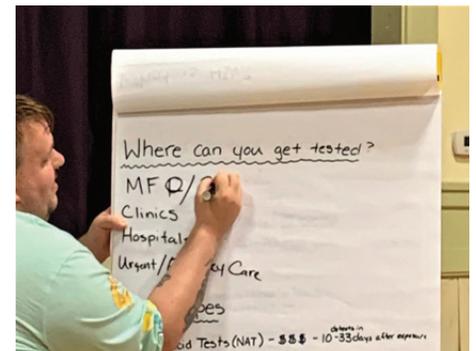
Youth who are at risk of homelessness are a diverse population that needs flexible mental health care. In 2015, New Beginnings became a licensed mental health agency to explore offering new service delivery models designed to meet the needs of the youth we serve. Over the past 5 years, an average of 40 youth per year accessed informal counseling, engagement, and outpatient therapy with New Beginnings' in-house clinicians and interns.

Late in 2021, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to end the program because it was not financially sustainable, and instead begin exploring a new pilot collaboration with Day One to provide on-site access to mental health and substance use counseling for youth in our Lewiston-based programs.

PREVENTION & TRAINING

New Beginnings' Prevention & Training coordinates effective, skills-based risk-reduction education serving youth in all agency programs to reduce harm, increase knowledge, and decrease risk of STI/HIV transmission, substance use, and other high-risk behaviors. The program coordinates a pregnancy-prevention project with Maine Family Planning and sponsors evidence-based HIV prevention trainings for educators and youth providers statewide with ME Department of Education support.

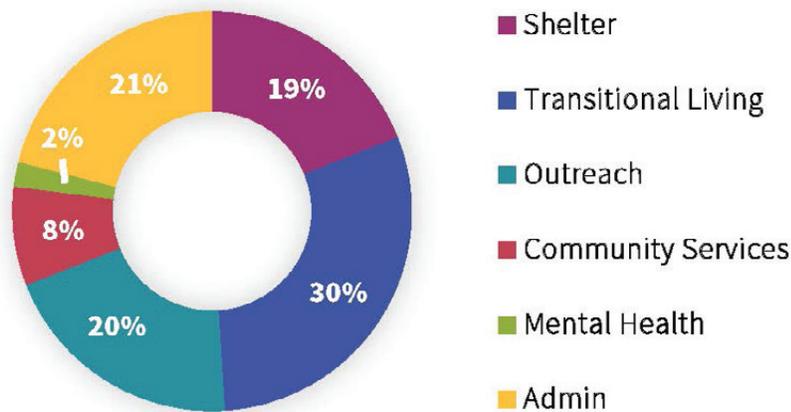
In 2021, we facilitated 148 sessions of prevention education with youth, and provided in-person and virtual/online trainings for more than 150 educators and youth providers across the state, including training 50 in welcoming and creating safety for LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) youth.



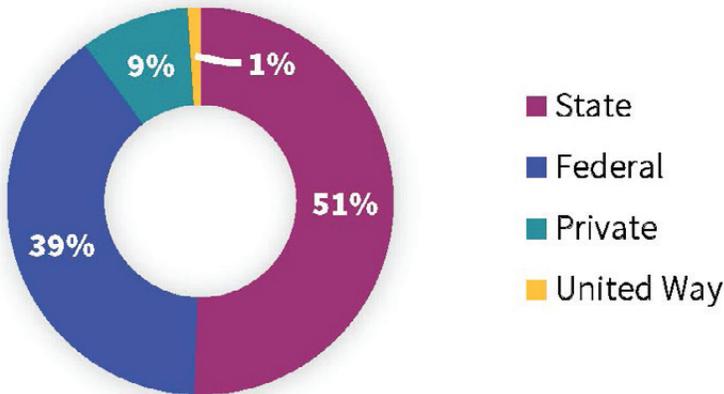
2021 Financial Overview

2021 Annual Budget – \$3,206,199

INVESTMENT BY PROGRAM



REVENUE BY FUNDING SOURCE



State: MaineHousing, ME Depts. of Education, CDC, Corrections, and Health & Human Services.
Federal: Housing & Urban Development (HUD), FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP), MaineCare, and Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (HHS/ACYF/FYSB).
Private & Local: Foundation grants, fundraising, municipal/City of Lewiston CDBG, and donations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021 Officers & Members

Nancy Grenier, President
Kelley Nelson, Vice President*
Ashley M. Gagnon, Treasurer*
Molly Watson Shukie, Secretary
Mike Giasson
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Peggy McRae
Steven McDermott
Bethany Belanger

ADVISORS

Danylle Carson*
Kathy Low
Melissa McLeod
Joe Phillipon
Darby Ray

**Ended service in 2021*

DEAR FRIENDS from front page ▶

both in-person and video/online support to youth in 2021 to help them reconnect to or stay in school and find jobs. Summer 2021 brought an agency-wide focus on outdoor activities - youth went on outings to learn about food systems and established gardens to grow food at each Lewiston location. Drop-In Center utilization increased steadily, from 34 engagements in January to 372 in October 2021.

In the first 5 years of my tenure, I'm proud that New Beginnings has become a leader in the field and increased our state and national advocacy efforts. The 2020 murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests for racial justice led to our recommitting to a 2020-21 racial equity training and assessment process and establishing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee in May 2021. We completed the next phase of our agency restructuring and strategic plan in 2021 and implemented an electronic client record for the first time.

And most importantly, New Beginnings remains here for youth 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, thanks to our generous community of supporters. Thank you for sustaining our mission and programs and making a difference for youth.

With immense gratitude,

Chris Bicknell
Executive Director