

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

## NB Team Supports Youth's Independence

Brian\* was 16 when he first learned about New Beginnings. He was living on the streets and couch surfing due to family conflict (largely due to family rejection of his gender identity) and had dropped out of school after leaving home. He first engaged with New Beginnings by utilizing our Lewiston Drop-In Center to access food, clothing, and other basic needs. While in Drop-In he expressed interest in completing high school and was connected to our Education & Employment Support program. Although Brian tried on his own to reconnect with his education, his lack of stable housing and support meant he struggled to get his education back on track before working with New

Beginnings. Education program staff worked with Brian to create short and long-term educational and employment goals, connected him to educational and career resources, and provided CASAS placement testing in New Beginnings' Ed Program classrooms at 134 College Street to begin the referral process to alternative education programs. While Brian was working with Ed Program staff on his educational goals, he also received support from his New Beginnings Outreach Case Manager in applying for local housing opportunities. Brian continued to move between couch surfing, living outside, and four different short stays at our Marian's Place 24/7 emergency youth shelter



over the past year as he worked towards his goal of moving into his own apartment.

While staying at Marian's Place, Brian engaged in Ed Support daily and worked towards his goal of completing his High school equivalency (HiSET) via enrollment with a local adult education provider. NB's Ed Program and the local Adult Ed Program collaborated to ensure Brian had transportation to needed educational appointments and could take his final HiSET tests from the comfort and familiarity of New Beginnings' classrooms.

With support from a team of NB staff from multiple programs, Brian was able to complete his HiSET, find and secure stable housing, become legally emancipated, and recently move from the shelter into his own apartment for the first time.

**INDEPENDENCE**  
*Continued on Page 3 ►*

*\*Youth name changed to protect privacy*

### OUTREACH PROGRAM & DROP-IN EXPANDING

New Beginnings is excited to announce that our new Maine DHHS Homeless Youth Continuum of Care grant is funding an increase in days and hours for our Youth Outreach Drop-In Center in Lewiston, and more rural community outreach in the nine counties of Region 2. The Drop-In Center, which has been open weekday afternoons since 1990, will be moving to a seven-day-a-week 10 am to 5 pm schedule. Currently Drop-In is open 12-5 pm, and will be adding more morning and weekend hours this fall as soon as enough staff can be hired and trained. Please check our website [newbeginmaine.org](http://newbeginmaine.org) for updates or call Drop-In at 207-795-6831.

# AGENCY NEWS B R I E F S

## YOUTH ACTION BOARD

The Maine Statewide Youth Action Board (YAB) continues to offer young people paid opportunities to consult and advocate to ensure youth/young adult expertise and voice is valued and 'at the table' where decisions are made that impact Maine youth - including through a partnership with ME Dept. of Education providing technical assistance to McKinney-Vento Liaisons statewide. YAB is recruiting young adults with lived experience of being unhoused or utilizing systems of care (child welfare, corrections, etc.), in particular from Maine counties other than Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, and Penobscot. Contact YAB Specialist Matthew Wyman at [mwyman@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:mwyman@newbeginmaine.org) or call/text 207-402-9106 for more info or to apply.

## STAFF UPDATES

New Beginnings recently welcomed Karen Caldwell Murphy as our Director of Finance and Human Resources. Please direct any correspondence that would previously gone to Lisa Dumont or Alex Aponte to [kcaldwell@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:kcaldwell@newbeginmaine.org) or contact Karen at 207-795-4077. We also welcomed Megan Dvilinsky as Outreach Assistant Coordinator, and promoted Donna Bilodeau to Rural Outreach Coordinator; for more updates visit [newbeginmaine.org/staff-2022](http://newbeginmaine.org/staff-2022)

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

New Beginnings' 2021 Annual Report is available now! You can find it online at [www.newbeginmaine.org/2021-annual-report/](http://www.newbeginmaine.org/2021-annual-report/)

# New Memorial Garden Dedicated

On Friday, August 26, New Beginnings was host to youth and employees as they dedicated their new memorial garden to the memory of those youth who have passed. It was an intimate and uplifting ceremony honoring both our most recent loss and those who preceded. All were invited to speak and have their voices heard, some with poetry, others with music, but all with fond memories of their street family members.

The garden is located in the grassy area between our 134 College Street location and the adjacent parking area and features several garden beds, a cast iron bench, and a granite stone with a brass plate which reads:

"Dedicated to the memory of our street family members who were lost too soon. Our dearest of friends, our light in the darkness. Until we meet again."

New Beginnings invites all in need to use this garden as a space for grieving, healing, and reflection.

***Would you like to donate labor, plants, or supplies to improve the memorial garden or landscaping at New Beginnings? Please contact Nicole Pollock at [nicole@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:nicole@newbeginmaine.org).***



*Thank you to the United Way of Androscoggin County for hosting their annual Day of Caring event. The folks at Auburn Savings Bank were great and joined us for a day of painting, building, and gardening at our 134 College St. location. Thank you to all of those who helped make it a wonderful day.*





## Supporter Spotlight: In Memory of Steve Roop

*NOTE: NB reached out to Steve Roop in early September to feature a quote from him in this issue, which he provided. We were subsequently shocked and saddened to find out about his passing soon after, as we went to press. We hope that his legacy of giving back in Lewiston-Auburn can be a comfort to his family in their time of grief.*

Since 2019, Steve Roop of Rooper's Beverage has been a New Beginnings Leadership Circle supporter. Like many local non-profits, we loved greeting Steve when he would show up unannounced to our offices to thank us and drop off a check. Steve's generosity was so deeply appreciated. When we reached out to Steve to ask why he supported New Beginnings so generously, his response was prompt and direct: **"Simply put. Everyone deserves a chance. This is why I give. I have been very down and out at one time in my life and I remember thinking, I just need a chance."** Like Steve, we at New Beginnings also believe everyone needs a chance. Rest in peace Steve, you will be missed.

## Independence

*Continued from Page 1*

Now age 18, Brian continues to utilize our Education & Employment program to work towards employment goals including exploring local on-the-job-training and working with staff to gain confidence in the competitive job market through resume support, help reviewing applications, and interview practice.

"New Beginnings has helped me pursue my dreams by helping complete my HiSET thanks to the New Beginnings Education Program!" Brian has expressed pride in himself and amazement in his ability to achieve the goals he set, despite having been homeless.

**For more information about New Beginnings' Educational & Employment Support, contact Program Coordinator Signe Lynch at [slynch@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:slynch@newbeginmaine.org) or call (207) 795-4077 to make a referral.**



Education and Employment program participants were able to visit Wolfs Neck Agricultural Center in July.



Drop-In Center Youth enjoying a Portland Sea Dogs playoff game.



134 College Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240

**GIVING TUESDAY**

**NOVEMBER 29, 2022**

Make a difference! Kick off your annual giving at:

**NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG**



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

## HELP US

## REDUCE COSTS!

If the person receiving this newsletter should no longer receive our mailings, please email [nicole@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:nicole@newbeginmaine.org) with a request to remove/update contact info.



## 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 and winter necessities.

### SIGN UP TO DONATE!

(207) 795-4077 or [nicole@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:nicole@newbeginmaine.org)

Learn more online at:

**NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG/HOLIDAY**

## SAVE THE DATE!

### NOVEMBER

*Runaway & Homeless Youth Awareness Month*

Open House & Youth Fair ..... **11/1**

Wear Green Day ..... **11/10**

Giving Tuesday ..... **11/29**

### DECEMBER

Lewiston-Auburn Candlelight Vigil ..... **12/21**

DECEMBER 21, 2022 | 4:30PM - 5:30PM

NATIONAL  
HOMELESS PERSONS'  
MEMORIAL DAY

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