

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

TLP Helps Youth Reach Goals

Lauren¹ was 17 when she was kicked out of her home. Her mother was gone and her father constantly had people over drinking and using drugs. Lauren will never forget the night she was asked to leave. It was 11 pm at night when she was told to get out. "I had no where to go. There were no foster care placements for a girl my age." Lauren had anger issues that subsequently landed her at Long Creek juvenile detention center.

New Beginnings has collaborated with Maine's Department of Corrections (DOC) for many years, offering youth safe housing when they don't need to be incarcerated, and would otherwise end up homeless.

Lauren arrived at New Beginnings' Transitional Living Program (TLP) angry, "When I first got there, I didn't want to participate, I hated my case worker and ignored him at every turn." TLP provides supportive housing for up to 18 months, helping homeless young people with a safe place to live where they can learn life skills and complete their education and employment goals. It didn't take long for Lauren to realize the staff were there to help, and if she worked with them, she could accomplish quite a bit! "I finally came around and case management turned out to be the best thing that's ever happened to me. All the workers were very helpful. I had a really good experience at TLP."

A few months into Lauren's involvement at the TLP and she was already seeing growth in herself. Her relationships with her family members, both her siblings and her parents, were rocky but she wanted to try to work on them. She was able to do family mediation and reconnect with her siblings.

"Having space from them all really helped. The relationships I have with my siblings aren't as toxic anymore. I still don't have contact with my parents, but that's actually a good thing." Family mediation does not always work but is always encouraged and explored. Since returning home wasn't an option, she was able to get emancipated and legally be her own guardian.

Lauren got a job she enjoyed and was working 40+ hours a week. During that time, she also completed high school. Lauren came to New Beginnings knowing she needed help with her anger - gradually, she worked on it through conversations with staff, having her basic needs met, and finding success accomplishing her goals. As her stay at the TLP came to an end, Lauren found herself with a good job, an education, and was able to secure housing for herself. Her life was really looking up. "If I didn't try, I don't know where I'd be today. I'm glad I came to New Beginnings. I had the biggest attitude when I got there. But all the rules and structure really helped. I wouldn't change a thing and I wouldn't be who I am without New Beginnings."

"I had a really good experience at TLP!"



TLP has apartments in Lewiston, Farmington, and Augusta and helps homeless youth ages 16-21 develop the skills they need to live on their own. To learn more about TLP or make a referral, contact Program Coordinator Denise Vaillancourt at (207) 795-4074.

THANK YOU, ANNUAL FUND 2022 DONORS!

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the support of donors like you, our annual fund 2022-23 was able to, once again, **exceed** our ambitious \$90,000 goal! We'd especially like to thank Katey Branch, Clean Earth Matters, Lewiston Youth Activity Fund, Northeast Bank, Ronald & Donna Bissonnette, Norway Savings Bank, Owen Larrabee & Melissa Albertson, Ned & Kitsie Claxton, MainStreet Foundation, Christine Flaherty, Shawna Reed & John Nixon, Carolyn Bird & Greg Ritter, Jane Dwinell, Tax Abilities LLC, Franklin Savings Bank, Geiger, Carolyn Bird & Gregg Ritter, ME Community Bank, DIRIGO FCU, Donald G. Marean, Jack and Margo Simmons, Androscoggin Valley Board of Realtors®, Diakoneint Foundation, Karen & Dianne Krzywda-Nelder, Clark Insurance, the Yorke Family, and the more than 300 other individuals and businesses who contributed!

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

¹Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

Planned Gift Continues 'Paula's Promise'

New Beginnings is honored to be the recipient of a generous bequest from Paula Paladino of Lewiston, who passed away at age 59 in August 2022. After a 25+ year career in both nonprofit and government sectors where she worked to improve the lives of Maine runaway and homeless youth, LGBTQ+ people, child welfare, and people in need of mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness support services, Paula found herself facing terminal cancer. When Paula first got sick, she remembered a promise she had made to the youth she worked with early in her career – to help them make a better life for themselves and to never give up. Paula wanted to find a way to keep telling young people “I believe in you!”

Paula took the promise she made to heart when she became sick, and approached New Beginnings about how a planned gift could be used to keep that promise with youth in need after she passed away. In conversations with Paula about her wishes, it was clear that the idea of continuing her legacy with a new generation of young people brought her great joy. Paula was proud to be able to keep helping youth have a bright and healthy future even after she was gone. Paula insisted that this gift be used to help youth directly, for things that the agency did not already have budgeted to provide (such as help with transportation costs, drivers education, or buying items they needed for their first apartment) and that it be flexible without a lengthy approval process. Paula wanted *her* promise to help enable youth to “promise *yourself* that you’ll invest in yourself and your future.”



Today, New Beginnings continues Paula's Promise – starting in 2023 until the funds are fully utilized, modest financial awards will be available to help New Beginnings' youth make a better life and never give up.

For planned giving info, please visit newbeginmaine.org/other-ways-to-give or contact Director of Development Rachel Spencer-Reed at 207-795-4077 to discuss your ideas.

WISH LIST

Phone chargers and wall jacks
ear buds/ headphones
Crib sheets and bedding
Infant changing table
Infant diapers
Size 4 diapers
Shampoo
Conditioner
Body wash
Men's shoes: Size 12 and larger
Underwear:
all sizes and styles

DETAILS ONLINE:
newbeginmaine.org/wish-list

MAKE AN IMPACT:

Is your business, church, or group interested in hosting a wish list fundraiser?

Please contact Nicole Pollock for details:
207-795-4077.

AGENCY NEWS BRIEFS

GRANT GRATITUDE

In December, New Beginnings received a grant from Avangrid Foundation in partnership with Central Maine Power, the local affiliate of AVANGRID in Maine, for general operating of our programs for homeless youth services. “We are grateful for AVANGRID’s continued partnership,” said Executive Director Chris Bicknell, “Corporate and private support is critical to meeting the basic needs of youth experiencing housing instability and hunger in Maine.”

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Make a difference in the lives of youth! We are hiring with openings in outreach, shelter, TLP, and administration and we offer excellent benefits. Visit newbeginmaine.org/jobs to learn more!

BOARD UPDATES

New Beginnings Board wishes to thank outgoing member and Treasurer Bethany Belanger for her service, and to announce member Melissa Farinas has been nominated to Treasurer. The Board recently welcomed new member Melissa Hue. The Board will hold its annual elections on April 19, 2023; the meeting is open to the public via zoom and will be publicized at newbeginmaine.org. **Interested in learning more about Board or Advisor service? Email board@newbeginmaine.org**



Thank you to Brookfield Renewable US for their generous \$30,000 donation to Marian's Place Youth Shelter.

2022 IN-KIND DONORS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Aaron Park	Justin Moriarty
Alexandre Dauge-Roth	Kathy Bidwell
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Irene Bonsaint	Sonja Pieck
Jen Williamson	Susan & Fergus Lea
Josie Conte, D.O.	Tammy Reed
Julie Carpenter	Tiffany Stewart

New Beginnings is grateful to our 2022 In-Kind Donors for their generous support of our youth with much-needed goods and holiday drive gifts.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & GROUPS

American Roots Wear	LHS Key Club
Androscoggin Bank	Lewiston Youth Activity Fund
Back in Motion P.T.	Lisbon United Methodist Church
Bangor Savings Bank	Lowe's 2514
Blais Flowers & Garden Center	Maine Community Bank
Central Maine Pediatrics	Maine Modern Quilters
Chapman Trucking	Marshwood Center
Christina Noonan Design	Modern Woodmen Jr. Club
Cumberland Food Co.	Northeast Paving
District Lodge 4, IAMAW	Nouria Energy Lisbon Street
Fiddlehead School of Arts & Sciences	Opportunity Enterprise Inc
Freeport Middle School	Orchid Restaurant
Girl Scout Troop 5043	Shorey Chapel
Holy Trinity Church	TD Bank Consumer Release Team
Jockey	Wilton Fire Dept.
KEAN Project Engineering	Zumiez

*If your name does not appear in this list but should, please contact Nicole Pollock:
nicole@newbeginmaine.org
or (207) 795-4077 x209*

Welcome our Prevention & Training Team



The Prevention & Training Program coordinates effective, skills-based education to youth across all of New Beginnings' programs and trains educators & providers across Maine to help increase youths' knowledge, reduce harm, and reduce risk for HIV transmission, unintended pregnancy, substance abuse, and other risk behaviors. Kelly and Jessa are both huge proponents of harm reduction, sex education, and making knowledge-based decisions about your body. We are very excited to welcome them to our team.

Kelly Colbath, Prevention & Training Coordinator and Jessa Wyman, HIV Prevention Specialist

If you would like to learn more about our Prevention and Training Program or to sign up for a training, be sure to visit our website at: www.newbeginmaine.org/programs/prevention

Please post and share the poster on reverse page at your school, church, or business.

McKinney-Vento Project Update

Since 2022, our Education and Employment Support Program and the Maine Statewide Youth Action Board (YAB), sponsored by New Beginnings, have partnered with the Maine Department of Education as funded Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide technical assistance and ongoing education and support to Maine McKinney-Vento Liaisons. By law, every school district in the U.S. must have a designated McKinney-Vento Liaison to identify, support, and ensure the educational rights of homeless students, including the right to stay in the school they were attending when they became homeless or enroll in a new school where they are now staying.

Under this partnership, YAB and NB staff representatives attend regional meetings with school staff and community organizations to lead and collaborate on resources and ideas to improve outreach to, identification of, and support for Maine's homeless student population. Education Program staff provide technical assistance to liaisons in Region 2 (Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo Counties). The YAB works on the project statewide; staff and youth leaders have provided trainings on authentic youth partnerships to McKinney-Vento Liaisons and are currently developing several future trainings on youth homelessness and McKinney-Vento rights for students and school staff. YAB has also designed resources - like the students' rights poster on the back of this page- to distribute to schools and communities throughout the state.

To learn more contact:

Signe Lynch: slynch@newbeginmaine.org | **Matthew Wyman:** mwyman@newbeginmaine.org

FREE Agency Print Materials

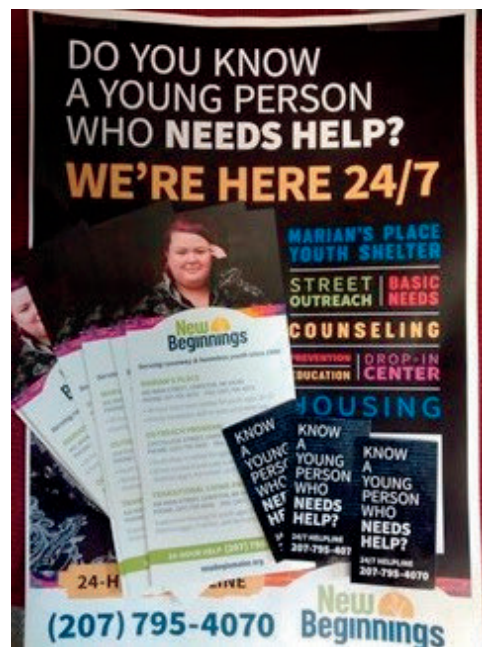
- 11x17 Posters
- 8.5x11 Flyers
- Rack cards
- Business card sized

To request materials please contact

Nicole Pollock at:

nicole@newbeginmaine.org

or 207-795-4077 x210



McKinney-Vento Student Rights

Are you...

- Staying with relatives, friends, or other people because you lost your housing or because of financial hardship?
- Couch surfing?
- In a shelter, motel, or hotel because you have nowhere else to stay?
- Staying somewhere that is not safe or is inadequate?

You may be protected under the McKinney-Vento Act!

Young people in temporary or unstable housing have the right to:

- Stay in the same school even if you move or stay with someone else
- Receive help with transportation to/from school
- Get help with transportation to/from necessary appointments, like doctor visits and meetings to obtain identifying documents
- Enroll in a new school immediately, without the usually required documentation
- Receive free meals at school
- Get help with accessing school supplies
- Receive extra support in applying for support services

DID YOU KNOW?

Every school district in Maine has a McKinney-Vento liaison to help students in temporary housing.



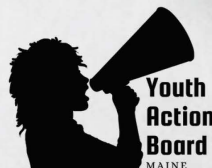
Want to find your local liaison?

Visit this website or scan the QR code:

<https://tinyurl.com/4fu3x3he>



This information is provided by the Maine Department of Education,
in collaboration with the Maine Statewide Youth Action Board.





134 College Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

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 info.

JOIN OUR TEAM!
newbeginmaine.org/jobs



SUPPORT HOMELESS STUDENTS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Learn more from our poster insert and update about our McKinney-Vento project working with schools and the ME Department of Education
www.newbeginmaine.org/mvento

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L/A HOMELESS VIGIL

12/21/2022

Thank you to the staff, youth, and community members who came out to support this year's Homeless Vigil

NEWBEGINMAINE.ORG/VIGIL-2022



SAVE THE DATE

2023 Annual
Celebration

Wednesday,
May 24, 2023

Maine Wedding Barn, Minot

Interested in sponsoring?

Contact

nicole@newbeginmaine.org
or 207-795-4077

newbeginmaine.org/events/ac23