



Mid-Maine
Homeless Shelter
& Services

From homelessness to home...a journey of hope

In 2017, Mindy was a guest at MMHSS. Today she is a leader for the shelter attendant team with seven direct reports. She brings a wealth of kindness, grace, wisdom, and dedication to her work and we are inspired by her daily. We hope you are, too. This is her journey of hope:

I never imagined I would ever experience being homeless. In my mind, homeless people were not hardworking and responsible people. In 2014, that's what I was: a single mom with a job I enjoyed, working 40-60 hours a week, and renting my own dream house in Northern Maine.

I had what I considered to be my perfect life surrounded by healthy kids, pets, family, and a home that I could go to after work and enjoy the benefits of being a responsible member of society. I thought all my hard work in life was finally paying off and I had what I always dreamed of with a home for me and my children.

What I did not expect was that the factory where I worked making government uniforms would be sold and completely shut down. In a matter of two weeks, I went from having everything I wanted to having absolutely nothing. I became one of 184,411 people in a household with children experiencing homelessness in the United States.

In 2022, 28% of people experiencing homelessness were living in families with children

I've learned that if you don't have those social safety nets in today's economy, something totally out of your control is the difference between having a place to call home and being homeless. That's something that I very firmly teach my children now and it's still always a big fear.

I love working here. It's helped me be more aware of the downfalls out there and where we as a society need to pick up the slack. Now that I'm a staff, I am more understanding what people experiencing homelessness go through, and I use my experience to bond with the current guests.

Everybody's experiences are different.

I'm growing as a person working at MMHSS. I've learned to appreciate the people behind the struggles they're facing. I've learned to look beyond what we see on the outside or to look down on someone because of what they struggle with.

I'm more encouraging as a person and celebrate very small successes because every small step is a step in the right direction. Focus on smaller goals to see the rewards.

I'm passionate about what I do and there is a lot to learn. I know I'm going to be here for a long time.

Melinda McBeau



It takes you to make hope possible

November 2023

Dear Friends,

Hope is a rare and precious gift.

Many people who are unhoused at this time of year have all but given up on it. Every phone call leads to rejection and each “no, sorry, I can’t help” deepens the dread and fear that this might be the winter it is impossible to survive.

There are few experiences as painful as being without a home at this time of year. It is never easy to be unhoused, but to be without a home as the nights draw in and the temperatures drop breeds a dread like no other. You can feel the ticking of the clock with each passing day and with each leaf that falls from the trees.

Winter is coming and there is nowhere to go.

We often say at MMHSS that Hope Starts Here.

We strive to be a light in the dark when all other lights have gone out.

Because that is the nature of hope: it is light in the darkness. It is welcoming inside all those who have been turned out and offering a place of safety, warmth, and rest.

It is seeing your humanity acknowledged by strangers when no one else seems to care.

We are blessed to do this work. We do it on behalf of you and every other community member who cares about our friends and relations who face innumerable struggles just to stay warm, let alone feel safe enough to close their eyes for a few minutes of precious sleep.

We can do this because of your support.

Your gift at this time of year helps lay the foundation for all our activities in the coming year. There are no easy solutions to the crisis of homelessness. More than ever, it requires time, dedication, and significant resources. Whether it is paying a past due CMP bill so that a single mother can keep the lights on, providing a security deposit so that a senior can get into an apartment, or investing in de-escalation and Narcan training so that our staff have the necessary skills to keep people in crisis alive and into recovery, we do what it takes to help people get home safe.



Please consider making a generous gift of hope this season. It will enable us to continue the critical and lifesaving work that we do every day and make plans for the future like opening up a second shelter location next to the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen and supporting their vital work, partnering with local healthcare providers to ensure access to healthcare, and continuing our vital prevention programs that have kept hundreds of local families in their homes and out of the shelter all together.

Here's the hard part: our annual funding has not increased since 2017. And while pandemic funding helped carry us through the last three years, those resources are gone, and they are not coming back.

Our goal is to raise \$500,000 for 2024 – one quarter of the annual funding necessary to operate a 55 bed low-barrier shelter that welcomes everyone regardless of sobriety, treatment for mental illness, or criminal convictions.

We need your help to reach that goal – there is just no way we can do this without you.

Robert Frost once wrote that home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.

Hope starts at home.

This year, please give the gift of hope and home to all those who need it.

Yours in partnership,

Dr. Katie Spencer White

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