

Tedford Housing works in conjunction with others to end homelessness in Maine by providing shelter, housing and services to people in need. We work to help people become more self-sufficient and advocate for change so that no one faces the prospect of being without a home.



A Family's Hope for the Future

Wayne moved from Texas to Maine with his wife Julie and their three children in early August 2010. A life-long resident of Texas, Wayne worked in construction since he was a teenager. But when the housing market crashed in 2008, construction work disappeared. "I followed the work, wherever it was for as long as possible, but eventually there was no work at all."

Julie is from Maine. Her family encouraged Julie to bring her family to Maine and offered to help them find work and housing. Wayne, Julie, and their two sons and daughter boarded a Greyhound bus for Maine, each with only one tote of clothes. Unfortunately, the situation with Julie's family did not work out and soon Wayne, Julie and the children were living on a porch, with no heat or access to running water. The situation went from bad to worse, and Maine's Department of Health and Human Services intervened. When Wayne and Julie realized the state could take their children away because of the family's unsafe living conditions they knew they had to do something.

Fortunately, Tedford's Blake Street apartments in Lewiston just opened and the family qualified for a three bedroom apartment. Wayne credits Tedford's case managers for getting the family settled in their new home and helping the family on the difficult road to independence.

In his unmistakable Texas accent, Wayne says "Miss Michelle" (Thiboutot) and "Miss Lisa" (Morissette) help me with all kinds of things." Whether the case manager is assisting with paperwork and making calls to ensure the family is in compliance for state services, editing Wayne's resume, getting him to a job interview or just chatting after a long day, all of the focus is on moving the family on a path to self-sufficiency. (cont. on pg 2.)



Keeping Her Neighbors Warm

"I don't want anyone to be cold" said 7-year-old Tianna Andrade when asked why she gave her birthday money to Tedford's Warm Thy Neighbor Heating Assistance Program. Clearly Tianna listens when mom Danielle (who works here at Tedford) talks about helping people in need. Tianna explained, "my house is warm. Kids don't really need their own money so I thought it would be nice to help."

Thank you Tianna and over 200 individuals, families, churches, foundations and businesses whose financial gifts provided Tedford with funds to provide emergency heating assistance to 165 homes this winter.



SAVE THE DATE — Warm Thy Neighbor 2013-2014 Fundraiser

at the Gelato Fiasco, 74 Maine Street, Brunswick

Wednesday, September 18th 2013, 11 am to 11 pm

Show the red spoon and 100% of your purchase will be donated to Tedford's Heating Assistance Fund

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Tedford Housing is grateful to :



**United Way
of Mid Coast Maine and
United Way of Androscoggin County**

City of Lewiston

City of Auburn

Maine Housing

**and the many individuals, civic groups,
churches, and foundations that help
Tedford Housing achieve our mission by
providing financial support, volunteer-
ing and donating goods and services.**

Thank you!

A Family's Hope for the Future

(continued from page 1)

The hard work is paying off. Wayne and Julie started volunteering at a local animal shelter, and now Julie has a part-time job there. Wayne is pursuing another job opportunity—and he is willing to volunteer first to prove himself to the potential employer in hopes that it will turn into full-time employment. He is also very involved with his children's education and is concerned for their well-being. As one of the longer-term residents of Blake Street, Wayne has made a point of creating a positive, friendly environment for all who live there. Recently, he organized an Easter egg hunt for the building's children.



Lisa Morissette, Tedford Case Manager at Blake Street in Lewiston, works with Wayne, Julie and other previously homeless families

Lisa pointed out how difficult it can be for a family trying to transition to independence. If he secures a full-time, \$8 per hour job, Wayne could lose many of his state-provided benefits. "That's ok" he says. If you want to gain something, sometimes you have to lose something. I have kids. I will not give up. If it's in the long-term best interest of my family, I will do anything. We like living in Maine. The kids like the four seasons. I want to be able to buy a house with a yard for them."

Wayne is grateful for the assistance he has received and he advises others who are struggling not to give up. "Tedford [and others] can provide lots of help, but you have to work hard to help yourself." Lisa adds, "Wayne is very motivated. He will go to the ends of the earth for his family."

Tedford Housing believes that homeless individuals and families must have stable housing so they can begin to address other needs and move to self-sufficiency. Wayne and Julie's names have been changed to protect their privacy, but their situation is real. They agreed to share their story publicly to thank Tedford's staff and financial supporters for giving their family an opportunity for a better life.

Warm Thy Neighbor

2012-2013 Report

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 200 individuals, churches/ministries, civic groups and foundations, Tedford Housing was able to fulfill over 160 requests for heating assistance this winter. It is always difficult for low-income families and individuals to manage household expenses, and can be especially challenging to pay to heat a home during Maine's long winters. Founded by Freeport resident Sallie Smith in 2005, Warm Thy Neighbor fundraising and program administration was transferred to Tedford Housing in 2010.



Tedford's Homeless Prevention Coordinator Tina Sanders once again fielded hundreds of calls for help as fuel tanks ran low. Tina does much more than complete paperwork and arrange for fuel delivery. She offers hope and relief to anxious parents worried about their children and to single seniors living on fixed income.

Often, an empty fuel tank is only one of many problems facing a family. In mid-winter Tina was contacted by a family living in motor home that only had a portable propane tank. Tina worked with a local fuel company that agreed to let the family fill their portable propane tank as needed. Thanks to generous neighbors like you who support the Warm Thy Neighbor Fund, Tedford paid for this family's propane. A few weeks later, we are happy to report that the head of the household secured employment and a safe, affordable apartment for the family. Tina arranged with the fuel company to transfer the remaining heating assistance funds to the new home. This is just one of the many stories shared with us over the long Maine winter.

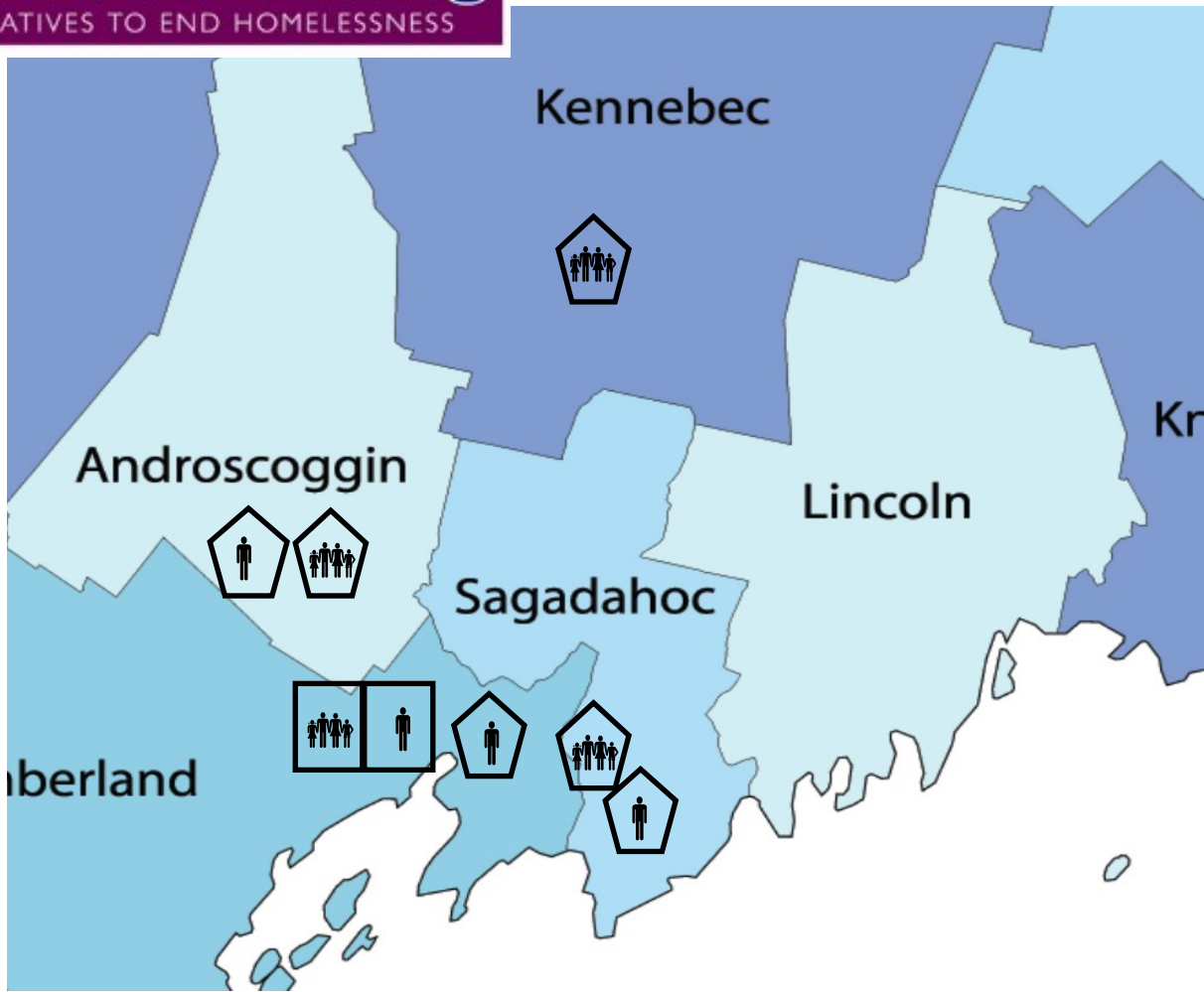
We raised and dispersed nearly \$55,000 in heating assistance this winter to neighbors in the following communities: Brunswick (83), Topsham (29), Lisbon Falls (19), Bowdoin (8), Bowdoinham (7), Harpswell (7), Lisbon (6), and Durham (3).





Tedford will begin fundraising for the 2013-2014 heating season in September, but donations made to this special fund are accepted any time. Simply write your check out to Warm Thy Neighbor and mail to Tedford Housing, Box 958, Brunswick, ME 04011.

THANK YOU to over 200 individuals, churches/ministries, non-profit organizations and businesses for helping our neighbors in need.



Tedford Housing’s Facilities and Services At a Glance



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|  | Brunswick, Emergency family shelter |  | Auburn, Brunswick and Bath, Single Adult Supportive Housing |
|  | Brunswick, Emergency adult shelter |  | Brunswick, Bath, Lewiston, and Augusta, Family Supportive Housing |

Homeless Prevention Services—Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties as well as Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Lisbon (including Lisbon Center and Lisbon Falls) and Durham.

Warm Thy Neighbor (Heating Assistance)— Brunswick, Topsham, Lisbon, Lisbon Falls, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Durham

Merrymeeting Project (School Outreach for Homeless Students)—MSAD 75 (Topsham, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham and Harpswell), RSU 1 (Bath, West Bath, Arrowsic, Phippsburg and Woolwich) and Brunswick

For more information on Tedford Housing’s services please contact our administrative office at 207-729-1161 or email us at info@tedfordhousing.org. Our administrative office at 14 Middle Street, Brunswick is open Monday through Friday, 9 am—5 pm. You can also find us at tedfordhousing.org. or facebook.com/tedfordhousing.

A Journey From Tedford Shelter to Honor Student

“Things were bad. I felt trapped in an abusive relationship with my son’s father—his violent behavior got us kicked out of several places and caused family and friends to sever their relationships with us. I was at rock bottom. My son and I ended up sleeping on a friend’s sofa but we couldn’t stay there for long. I knew I had to do something. I got up at 6 am every morning to call Tedford and see if there was an opening in the shelter. Finally we got in.”



Alicia’s tale of domestic violence and despair changed when she and her three year old son were given a temporary home at Tedford’s Family Shelter in Brunswick. Tedford staff members worked with Alicia to connect her with services and counseling. With help of her Tedford case manager and others, Alicia realized that she needed to permanently sever the relationship with her son’s father. She also needed to find a means of financially supporting herself and her son. Alicia waited tables at local restaurants, but it was hard, unsatisfying work. Often, her entire day’s pay would go directly to her son’s babysitter.

Alicia worked hard and followed the rules at Tedford. After eight months at the shelter, Alicia was able to obtain a housing voucher and move to an apartment with her son. She continued to wait tables and explore career options. Finally, she met Dennis Unger, Director of the University of Maine’s University College in Bath. Unger told her the school offered a degree in Mental Health and Human Services. “Something in me clicked. I received help at the worst time in my life. Tedford saved me, and now I would have a chance to help other people in similar situations. I feel like I was called to go into this field.”

An Honors student, Alicia has completed her first two years of college and she has Substance Abuse and Mental Health Rehabilitation Technical certifications. She exudes both mental and physical strength. When not working to maintain her high grades, or caring for her son, Alicia is likely to be found at the gym, running and weight-lifting.

Alicia knows she has a way to go before she will be financially self-sufficient. With her positive attitude and strong work ethic, Alicia is on the road to a brighter future. “It was hard to get here and it is still hard, but my son and I are doing great. He is doing well in kindergarten and he is happy.” Alicia recalls that she came back to Tedford to interview a staff member for a school project. “I got an A” she says with a smile. “Who else could have written a paper about what it’s like to live in a homeless shelter?”

Doug Morrell, Tedford Board Member and Development Committee Chair



I am very pleased to be on the Tedford Housing Board and to Chair the Development Committee.

I support Tedford because of the great work that the organization does, not only to help people with emergency housing, but also to help people become self-sufficient and to find permanent housing.

On any given day, Tedford’s hard working staff and volunteers efficiently work at our adult and family shelters in Brunswick and at our six supportive housing apartment buildings in Brunswick, Bath, Lewiston, Auburn, and Augusta. Tedford staff also helps people by counseling those who are at risk of losing their housing, and by providing heating or rent assistance to qualifying individuals.

To learn more about Tedford Housing please visit our website at tedfordhousing.org and our Facebook page [facebook.com/tedfordhousing](https://www.facebook.com/tedfordhousing). ***Tedford depends on the generosity of caring people like you who believe, as I do, that no one in our community should be homeless.*** If you haven’t already, please consider a financial gift to Tedford Housing. Use the enclosed envelope or donate securely via our website. Your financial gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Thank you!

Homeless in High School No Longer

It is hard to imagine life as a teen who does not have a safe place to call home. Thanks to a team of adults working together, students in MSAD 75 (Topsham, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham and Harpswell) facing homelessness have a chance to succeed. MSAD 75's School Health Coordinator Mary Booth, District guidance counselors and social workers, school nurses, and Tedford Housing's Donna Verhoven work with these at-risk individuals so each student has an opportunity to live in a safe and healthy environment, and graduate from high school.

Mary shared the story of "Jane", a student who was missing a lot of school. Jane confided in Donna that her parents were substance abusers who used their limited funds to support their addictions. Working with the school's guidance counselor, Donna helped Jane apply for emancipation from her parents. Jane, legally emancipated at 17, moved in with a generous couple from her church, and with her life on track, graduated with honors from Mt. Ararat High School. Thanks to her good grades and hard work, Jane received several scholarships and is attending college.

Mary says, "I don't know what we would do without Donna. The students know her and trust her. But Donna is also tough—she tells the kids how hard they will have to work and be accountable for their own lives." The respect and admiration is mutual. Donna says one of Mary's special qualities is that "she doesn't wait for a crisis. She looks for the early signs of trouble and proactively intervenes."

Thanks to Donna, Mary and all of those working to address the growing problem of homeless students in Maine schools.




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