

homeless



TEDFORD HOUSING
THIRTY YEARS



Our neighbors who are living in poverty are more likely to have no more than a high school degree, to have a disability, little work experience, no health insurance, and to spend over half of their income on rent alone. A single crisis – the car breaks down, a health crisis flares, a job is eliminated – and these families are on the move. When there’s nowhere to go, they end up homeless.

On any given day there are over 100 people in the southern Midcoast region who are homeless—living in precarious conditions like cars or tents. There are scores more families who are on the verge of losing their homes. With timely interventions, pitfalls can be avoided so people can stay in their homes, and those who’ve already become homeless can build a path back to stability.

From homeless...



Homelessness is not a problem that can be solved by adding shelter beds alone. Homeless people need skills, support networks, income and a permanent place to stay in order to thrive.

Case managers at Tedford Housing identify obstacles and barriers that keep people from finding and maintaining a home and locate resources that help to overcome those barriers. Since 2016, we've added an additional 20 hours / week of homeless prevention and supportive housing services to address the burgeoning demand, particularly in the area of stability.

Through all its services, Tedford Housing provides pathways from homelessness to home in Midcoast Maine.

To home.

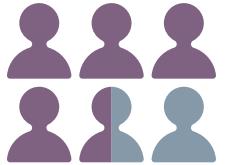


Emergency Shelters

Tedford serves 165 individuals and families a year, but another 600 call asking for emergency housing.

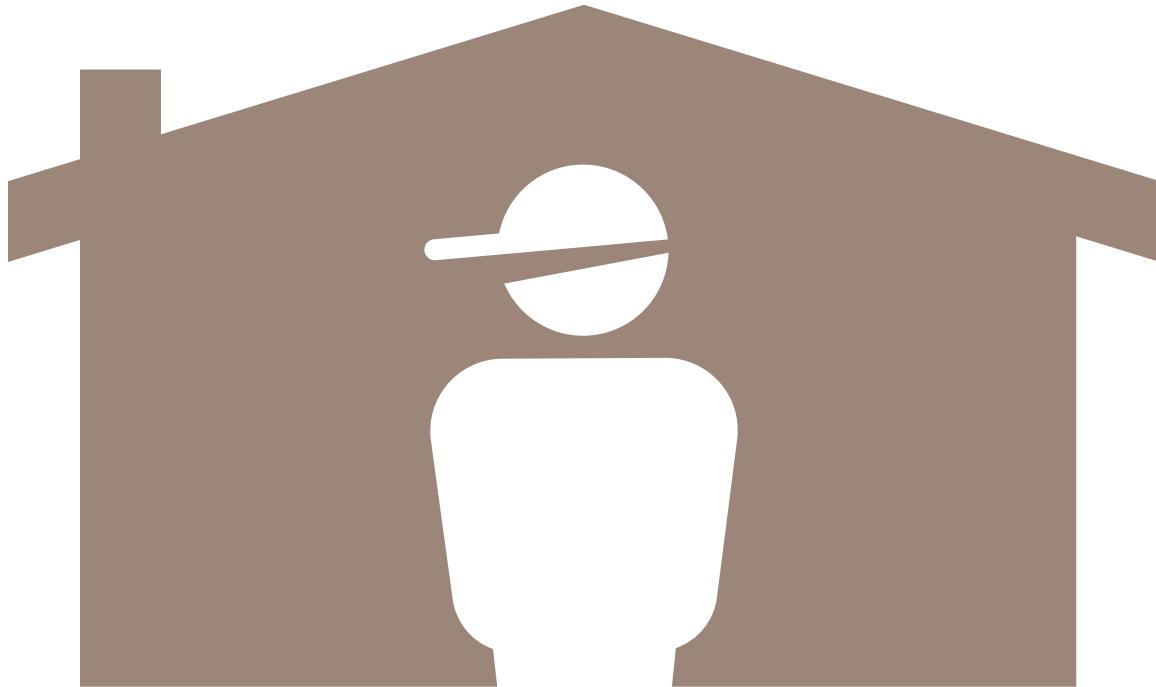


75% of those we sheltered exited into permanent housing.



Safe, temporary shelter for those looking for hope.

Tedford Housing's emergency shelters provide a safe place for people to rebuild their hope. Shelter guests facing the crisis of homelessness work one-on-one with case managers to find and secure housing. Case managers follow shelter guests long after they move into housing to ensure that they are able to maintain their housing and avoid a return to homelessness.



Homeless Youth

On average, local schools identify 130 students annually who are homeless either because their family is homeless or the family and the student have separated from each other.

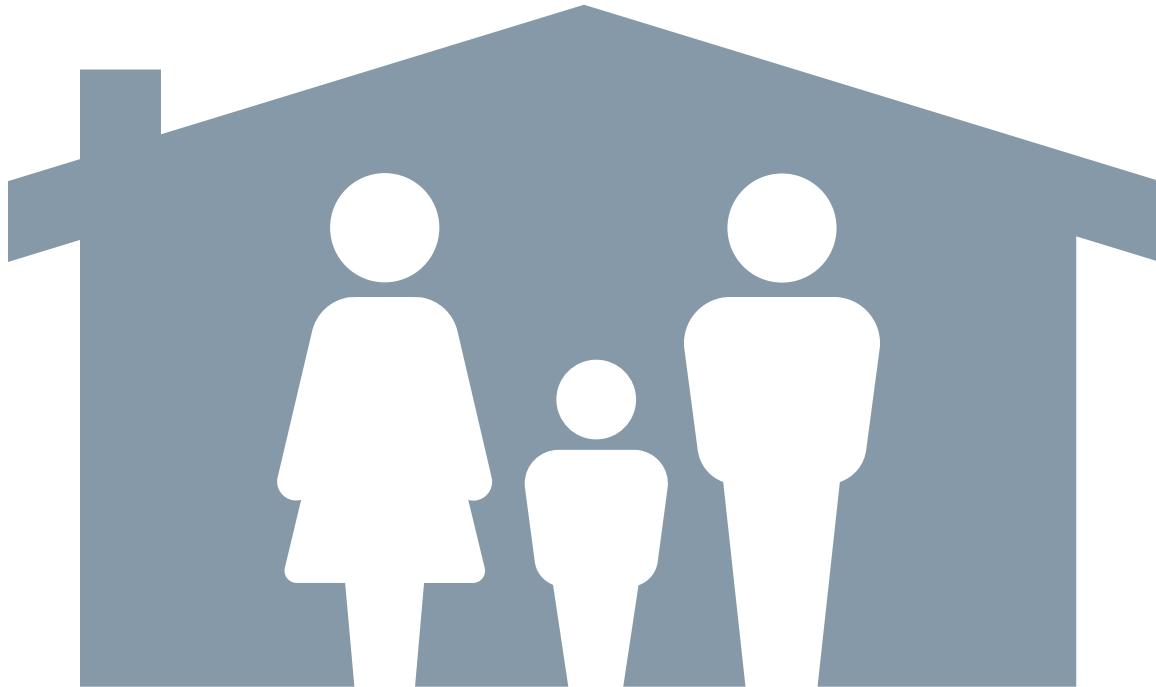


Tedford works with 35-40 different students during the year, both when school is and is not in session.



Putting the home in homework.

Homeless teens often face unsafe living situations just to survive and keep a roof over their heads. The Merrymeeting Project for homeless youth moves students from the chaos of homelessness to a calmer, more secure environment in which they can learn and build a brighter future. Tedford Housing's school liaison for the Merrymeeting Project works with homeless teens in the school districts of Brunswick, RSU 1 and SAD 75 to help them find a safe place to live, reunify with family, access resources and complete schooling.



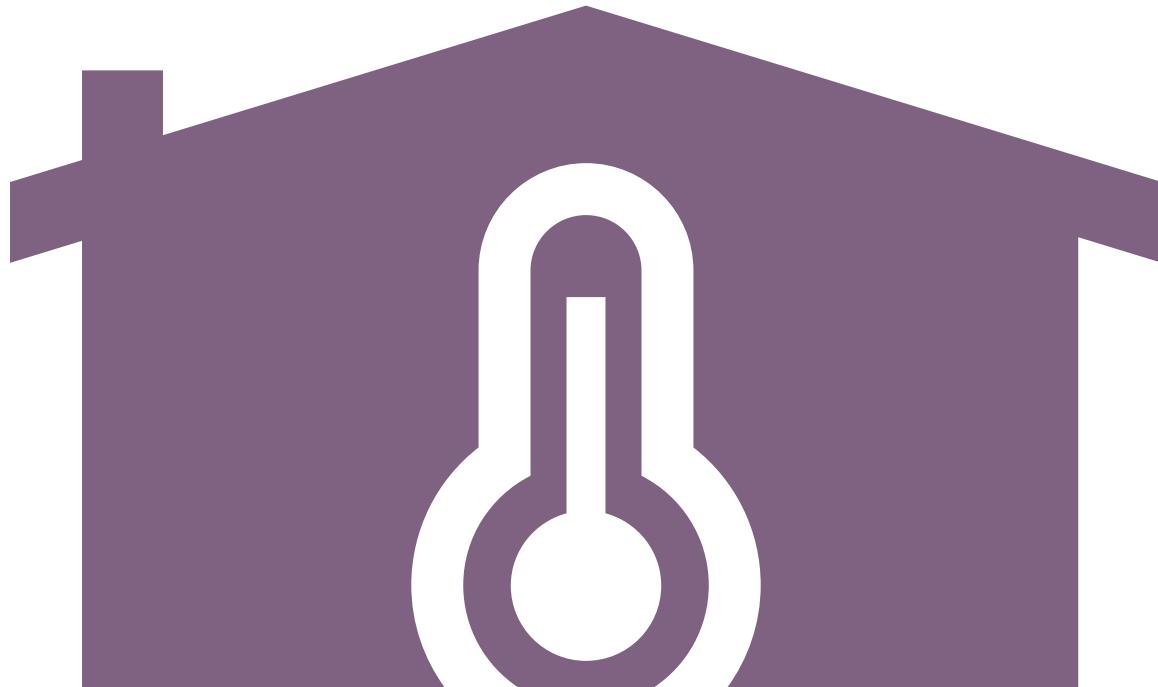
Homeless Prevention

About one in nine people live below the poverty level in the housing market area (Lincoln County, Sagadahoc County, and Brunswick, Freeport and Topsham).



Few things are more disruptive for a family than an eviction from their home.

An essential strategy for reducing homelessness is preventing it from occurring. A costly car repair, divorce or medical bill can push a relatively stable household to the brink of homelessness. Tedford Housing's homeless prevention case manager works to provide housing counseling and case management to families experiencing a housing crisis. We partner with community agencies to provide security deposits and rental assistance to prevent evictions and/or secure alternative housing.



Warm Thy Neighbor

Tedford helped 255 neighbors stay warm last winter.



Heading off the snowball effect of heat costs.

Our cold winters present another risk factor for homelessness, as fuel costs can break a family's budget. An emergency fuel payment can help relieve financial pressure so a family can make critical payments, like rent, while a home can stay warm. Through our Warm Thy Neighbor program, Tedford Housing raises funds each winter to provide one-time, emergency heating assistance to extremely low-income families and individuals in the community.



Supportive Housing

In 2016, 92% of adults in our supportive housing maintained their housing for over one year.



Shelter from the storm: permanent, supported housing for the previously homeless.

Supportive housing provides a vital platform for people to move forward in other areas of their lives like employment, education and improved health. Using a Housing First approach, Tedford Housing's 37 supportive units provide safe, clean and affordable apartments with on-site case management for previously homeless individuals and families. Many are occupied by adults and families who have experienced disabling conditions like mental illness and/or substance abuse and/or catastrophic events like domestic violence that have resulted in homelessness. Many have had multiple shelter stays.

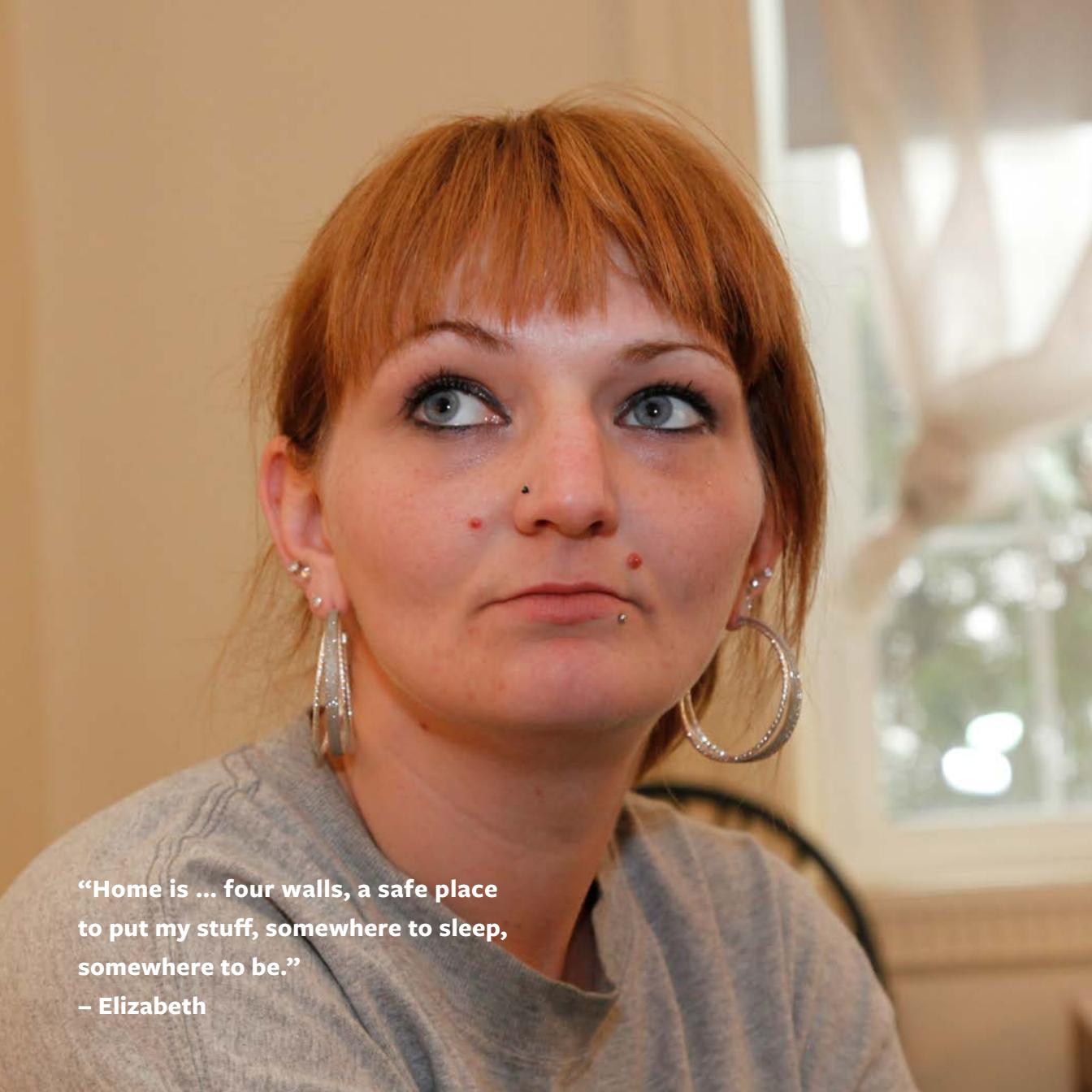


The future of Tedford Housing. An integrated and expanded approach.

To meet the growing needs in our community, we are moving forward with plans to build a homeless center that combines adequate shelter beds with key onsite community resources. A comprehensive, seamless approach will result in the reduced risk of homelessness in the community, a quick return to housing stability for youth, adults and families, healthier households and increased self-sufficiency.



“Home is where you hang your hat.”
– Pat



“Home is ... four walls, a safe place
to put my stuff, somewhere to sleep,
somewhere to be.”

– Elizabeth



“Tedford is home.”

– Fletch



Tedford Housing

Tedford Housing works together with people in their communities to
find lasting solutions to the challenges of homelessness.

tedfordhousing.org

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