



# Next Step

Domestic Violence Project  
Hancock & Washington Counties, Maine



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 2015-SEPTEMBER 2016**

<b>Next Step Domestic Violence Project Staff</b>
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Dorathy Martel, Executive Director

Martha Talbot, Finance and Human Resources Manager

Rick Doyle, Staff Attorney

Susan Saunders Barrett, Staff Attorney

Pam Gagnon DaSilva, Professional Counselor/Educator

Kelly Brown, Community Education and Outreach Coordinator

Angie Welch, Direct Service Coordinator

Lindsay Moon, Legal Services Coordinator

Tammy Denning, Residential Services Coordinator

Leslie Linder, Child Protective Liaison/Educator

Missy Fairfield, High-Risk Case Coordinator

Marcie Dean, Rural Transitional Services Advocate

Crystal Cushing, Washington County Court Advocate

Tara Grey, Shelter Advocate

Shannon Flood, Transitional Services Advocate

Melissa Wells, Youth Educator

Cheyenne Robinson, Washington County Advocate

<b>Board of Directors</b>
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Bonnie Tai, Chair

Jessica Boyd, Co-Chair

Cynthia Shoppe, Treasurer

Arlyn Whitelaw, Secretary

Jason Appleby

Robert Hemenway

Susan Webster

Laura Neal

Molly Owen

## Fiscal Year 2016 Financial Report

### Revenue

Government Grants and Contracts	\$981,798
United Way of Eastern Maine	23,094
Private Grants and Contributions	124,949
Program Revenue	5,263
Fundraising Events	2,830
Other Revenue	33
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,137,967</b>

### Expenses

Payroll Expense	\$661,591
Benefits	152,422
Contracted Services	60,356
Rent and Property Maintenance	37,838
Insurance	17,590
Communications	27,697
Office and Program Supplies	16,896
Mortgage Interest	10,083
Travel	46,245
Outreach Activities	5,983
Direct Client	17,030
Depreciation	32,601
Other Expenses	36,931
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,123,263</b>

**FY2016 Service Data**

Hotline calls and e-contacts	5,199
Face-to-face contacts	10,407
Individuals served	916
Adults attending support group	26
Individuals sheltered	45
Transitional housing residents	9
People receiving court advocacy	423
Volunteers	33
Volunteer hours	3,098

## Community Education & Volunteerism

### **No Longer a Team of Few**

by Kelly Brown

When I first began my work at Next Step, I was assigned the work of Community Educator. I worked with Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Colleges, Employers, Faith Based Communities, other non-profit organizations and the general public. On my team was a colleague who had the same assignment as me, but who focused on Washington County while I worked primarily in Hancock County. Also joining me was a colleague who focused on work within all school systems K-12 in both counties.

Our little team had the task of gaining community support and allies in all venues of our community. Since all this work was (and still is) equally important, it felt like we did a little work in all areas. We worked hard and did what we could. It was a great start, but I never felt we were able to make a deep impact with any one population or community group.

This was over ten years ago. We are no longer a team of few.

Next Step currently has 23 volunteers in our Community Education Program. They join staff in working on awareness, fundraising campaigns and general presentations. Thanks to our volunteers, the staff has been able to specialize and do work with very specific populations.

For example, we now have a counselor on staff. She offers sessions on a limited basis to referred survivors who have reached out to Next Step. She also offers technical support to other counselors in our two county area.

We now have a High Risk Team Coordinator. She is able to provide direct service to people in the most dangerous domestic violence situations that our team identifies. She works to create and maintain a team of community members for this work, including law enforcement, child welfare, and the district attorney's office. With this high risk work, she is also educating and offering support to all law enforcement departments. Topics include how to document signs of strangulation, how to assess risk for victims, and how to identify the aggressor in a relationship when both make allegations. As you can imagine, these are extremely complex issues which require ongoing technical support by our advocate, for all the many law enforcement officers throughout our service area.

I am still the Community Educator at Next Step. But my role has changed quite a lot. I now offer support and training for volunteers who are part of the community education team. I schedule presentations between volunteers and community members. I coordinate Educators Meetings. I still do education programs, myself.

By having such an expanded team, I am enabled to work more deeply with specific populations, such as Health Care Providers. For instance, I ensure that our materials are in every hospital and clinic in both Hancock and Washington County. I learn about current programming offered in health care facilities, and explore how Next Step might collaborate in their endeavors.

I am reaching rural areas such as Danforth, Eastport and Blue Hill in order to learn how their health care facilities currently work with victims of domestic violence. I engage with them to explore how we can refer to one another's services, and each have more knowledge of what the other provides.

This summer I met with the Blue Hill Hospital staff, and their CEO. I offered Next Step materials and technical support as they created a new domestic violence HR policy for all staff. They were concerned about one of their employees and wanted to be certain they were thinking of all aspects of a safety plan, as well as what part they played in that plan.

A week after working with the CEO on their policy, Next Step received a hotline call from their emergency room. A woman came to the emergency room because she felt she had no other place to go. When the hospital staff called Next Step we were able to get her to a safe place.

We connected this woman with our legal team, with a number of advocates, and our residential service advocates. Our High Risk Team Coordinator helped us connect with the Sheriff's Department as we worked on a plan that would help this woman to return to her community safely.

Because of the preparation and connection we had made just days before, we were able to effectively meet this need. Between the survivor, Next Step, Blue Hill Hospital, and the Sheriff's Department, it was a real team effort.

Speaking of teams, I am sure you can see why I am so grateful that Next Step is no longer a team of just a few. Thank you for your support, which enables us to expand our effectiveness in this important work.