



- Alice Walker

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Next Step
 Domestic Violence Project

P.O. Box 1466, Ellsworth, ME 04605
www.nextstepdvproject.org

Our Mission

The Next Step Domestic Violence Project supports and empowers people affected by domestic violence, while striving to prevent and end the cycle of domestic violence through education and social change.

Our Vision Statement

We believe that every individual has a right to live in safety and without fear of abuse. We offer hope, love, and respect to ourselves, our clients, and our community in order to foster empowerment, personal dignity, equality and freedom. Through these values, we strive to change the world.

Annual Report Credits

Articles: Rebecca Hobbs, Executive Director
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K. Green's story

I can hear my voice coming back

I was about 22 years old when I met "George". I came from a very conservative Middle Eastern nomadic setting. I had a big dream, I inherited that dream from one woman in my tribe to another, and big hopes. I left behind my name, my future that I worked years to establish, my family, and everything I am familiar with to marry George only to find that everything is completely the opposite of what he told me.

I convinced myself that I could make it work. I had first one child, then another, and another (7 pregnancies, 5 beautiful kids) trying to make it work for 12 years. His abuse was emotional, physical, psychological, social, spiritual, financial, religious, racial, and in so many forms that I can't describe. I changed trying to adopt, adjust, measure up to what he wanted, and on this journey I lost myself;

I gave up my dreams, and so many things. I lost my voice, and didn't know what I wanted any more.

I had 5 children, never getting sick or costing him a dime for medical procedures. I delivered my babies at home in the water, got out of the bathtub to cook, clean the house, and fix food for the family. Back home I didn't know one woman had to endure what I had to in my entire life.

In my sixth pregnancy, I had my first anxiety attack. George's answer to my fear and feelings was "don't expect me to be your nurse". When he said that, I demanded a nurse. She talked to me about strength and confidence. But we moved a lot and every time I made a new friend we moved again. It was so hard to get close to people, to tell them what was going on.

George took on a new mission to have more than one wife. I thought what can I do? I had no idea where to start. We went abroad for five years, three in the Middle East and two in Africa. It was pure hardship, day to day hard work, no water, no electricity, and another baby. That never stopped him.

George liked to be the center of attention. He grew more and more selfish, then started to demand that I find him a second

wife. On New Year's day, he brought me a 17-year-old housekeeper to be his second wife. He was 54 years old.

I looked at him and told him that I had to go. He became out of control, physically violent; everyone in the building could hear him screaming, and no one tried to stop him. A building full of educated people (24 male professors) from around the world, not one stopped him to say "what are you doing?"

I made hundreds of phone calls. When I was about to give up, I got the phone number for Next Step. I called and talked with an advocate, and I got to meet these women

on the same day, and explain my situation. I really needed so much help. I had no driver's license, no family connections, no community, no idea how to start. I knew where I needed to be, but how

to get there seemed impossible sometimes.

Since then I am getting the help I need one step at a time to build myself up toward being and independent single mom! What really made this work so perfectly is the ability of these women to treat me as equal to them, with dignity, respect, love, care, and around them I can hear my voice coming back; I can distinguish what I want from what I don't! It is a great treasure that I value in each and every one of those beautiful women in my life.

I have all kind of help that I can't put in this small message. Through these advocates I get legal advice, financial help, rides to my medical appointments around town, countless hours from these advocates listening to me when I need to hear another voice or advice about things I am struggling with, or keeping me up at night, my kids gets all kind of love, caring, encouragements, helps with their school projects, emotions, and friendly family feelings by these advocates. Each and every one of them is unique, and their friendship, and presence in our life is priceless.

I am still a working progress, and I am hoping to make it, and become a survivor sometime soon!

K. Green

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 beautiful women in my life.**



Volunteer Spotlight

Next Step hosts vigil for Hilary Saenz

On Sunday, January 5, Next Step held a candlelight vigil to honor and commemorate Hilary Saenz. Hilary was murdered on Christmas day in 2013 by her husband, Chris Saenz. The community responded with an outpouring of grief and sadness for Hilary and her two young children.

The vigil was attended by approximately 200 people. Rebecca Hobbs, Next Step's

Executive Director spoke, as did others in the crowd. There were songs and poems. People spoke of love and respect for Hilary, concern for her children, and sadness that this tragedy occurred. Many people shared their own stories of abuse and violence.

One courageous woman said that she had left her own abuser after news of

Hilary's murder, finding strength from this horrific act.

On one cold night in January, the greater Ellsworth community came together to remember one treasured young woman who was abused and murdered by someone who claimed to love her, and to stand together against domestic abuse and violence to all people.

Next Step in the Community

"The Hidden Hurt: Domestic Violence in Our Community"

In collaboration with several community partners, Next Step brought "The Hidden Hurt: Domestic Violence in Our Community" to Northeast Harbor this past August.

The focus of the evening was to provide information to participants about the dynamics of abuse and to elicit conversation about the impact of abuse on the Island. The panel was introduced by Reverend Dr. Deborah Jenks and included Ken Mitchell of the MDI police department, Edith DuBois from MDI High School and Kelly Brown, Next Step's Community Educator.

Next Step has formed strong partnerships with the United Church of Christ of Northeast Harbor and Seal Harbor, YWCA MDI, and International Partners in Mission. All of these organizations share a common belief that domestic abuse is unacceptable and that victims and survivors should be supported and offenders held accountable.

Placards of support were developed and displayed by International Partners in Mission, MDI Hospital, Mount Desert Island YWCA, Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor Library, Southwest Harbor Library, UCC of Northeast Harbor and Seal Harbor and YWCA Mount Desert Island.



Next Step, in collaboration with several community partners, presented "The Hidden Hurt: Domestic Violence in Our Community" to the communities surrounding Northeast Harbor.

Awards

Legal Program Coordinator receives "Advocate for Justice Award"

On December 13, 2013, Legal Program Coordinator Missy Fairfield was honored by the Maine Judicial Branch with the 2013 Advocate for Justice Award. Recognition is given each year to a "person, judge, employee, legislator, public official, lawyer, or citizen who has most effectively championed the cause of justice in our society." The award was presented by Chief Justice Leigh Saufley at the Chief's Award Luncheon at the Judicial Center in Augusta. Executive Director Rebecca Hobbs joined Missy at the awards luncheon.

Missy was cited for her work in the Ellsworth District Court, where she is regularly called on to act as an intermediary in civil protection order cases. Staff Attorney Rick Doyle says, "This citation reflects Missy's ability to develop good working relationships, not only with the parties involved, but also with court personnel. She has great people skills."

Missy started at Next Step in 2007, becoming a staff member after she completed an internship with the Legal Team. Rebecca notes that Missy "has proven herself to be a knowledgeable and compassionate advocate, effective in the courtroom, on the hotline, and in the community. We couldn't agree more with the Performance Council's selection of Missy for the Advocate for Justice Award."



Walking, Running and Woofing to End Domestic Violence



Buddy, an unofficial staff member of the Next Step Domestic Violence Project, was so excited to take part in the BARKK to End the Silence 5K Walk, Run and Woof held on Sept. 27 on the Bangor waterfront, that he took a bite out of his race number. Next Step Domestic Violence Project as a sponsor of the event. (Photo: Bell's Furry Friends Photography, bffpetphotos.com)

Grant funds

High Risk Case Review

Since opening its doors in 1993 as a grassroots outreach office, Next Step has been supporting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and educating the community about the dynamics of abuse and violence.

Supporting the victim is critical to her safety, but does not necessarily end the violence. Perpetrators continue to use all the tactics at his disposal to intimidate, threaten, control and harm the victim. Often the perpetrator goes on to abuse and violate other victims and the cycle continues.

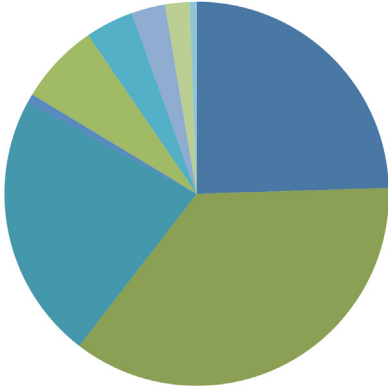
Evidence increasingly supports efforts to focus on the perpetrator, monitoring and containing his movements whenever possible. Victim safety is central, with emphasis on scrutiny of the perpetrator. The theory is that the victim and children should not be compelled to hide in a shelter or flee the area while the perpetrator conducts life as usual, though shelter may still be part of the safety plan in the short-term.

Victims should be able to remain in their own community with the safety net in place focused on the activities of the perpetrators.

Next Step was recently awarded a grant from the Maine Department of Public Safety to coordinate the efforts of victim services and the criminal justice system in order to enhance the safety of victims in high risk situations of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and dating violence. The primary goal of this project is to reduce homicides and serious assaults in Downeast Maine. Next Step is excited to begin the project very soon and to creating more opportunities to work with local law enforcement and court officials to help reduce violence in our community.

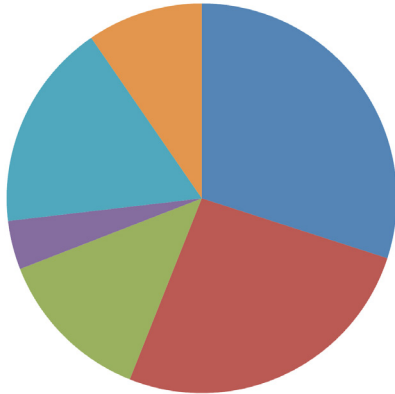
Next Step Domestic Violence Project Financials: Fiscal Year 2014

Fiscal Year 2014 Revenue



Federal Grants - SSBG	\$237,757.00
Federal Grants - Other	\$348,554.00
State Grants	\$217,318.00
County Funds	\$7,548.00
Contributions	\$66,012.00
United Way of Eastern Maine	\$39,240.00
Fundraising Events	\$27,630.00
In-Kind Donations from Volunteers	\$20,000.00
Program Fees	\$5,518.00
Other	\$188.00
Total	\$969,765.00

Fiscal Year 2014 Expenses



Salaries & Wages	\$511,510.00
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$140,318.00
Professional Development	\$3,396.00
In-Kind Wages	\$20,000.00
Contracted Services	\$36,039.00
Office Supplies & Utilities	
Utilities	\$24,912.00
Office Supplies	\$18,992.00
Insurance	\$14,645.00
Mortgage Interest	\$11,795.00
Rent & Property Maintenance	\$34,658.00
Communications	\$23,559.00
Program Supplies & Expense	\$11,464.00
Volunteer & Board Expense	\$884.00
Travel Expense	\$32,801.00
Direct Client Expense	\$6,973.00
Other	\$7,235.00
Depreciation	\$25,071.00
Total	\$924,252.00

Donors

Next Step thanks the organizations and agencies that provided grant funds in fiscal year 2014:

- Acadia Council of Realtors: Housing assistance
- Allstate Foundation: Purple Purse fundraising campaign
- Bar Harbor Rotary: Core services
- Castine Women's Club: Core services
- Dr. Mary Cushman Circle: Core services
- Ellsworth Lioness: Core services
- Ellsworth Rotary Club: Core services
- Emergency Food Shelter Program: Food for families living in shelter
- Hancock County Commissioners: Services to citizens of Hancock County
- Harmon Foundation: Core services
- Gerrish H. Milliken Foundation: Core services
- Insurance Women of Downeast Maine: Core services
- Island Coalition Against Domestic Abuse: Collaborative work to end domestic abuse
- Lifestyle Women: Core services
- Machias Savings Bank: Build a fence at shelter
- Maine Association of Realtors: Housing assistance
- Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, passed through from the Dept. of Justice: Work in the child protective system
- Maine Community Foundation, anonymous donor: General support
- Maine Dept of Health & Human Services: Core services and administration
- Maine Dept of Public Safety: Improving safety of victims in Washington County
- Maine Housing: Shelter operating expenses, "Home to Stay," and shelter change initiative
- Melvin S. Cutter Charitable Foundation: Core services
- Next Generation Foundation: Renovation of Ellsworth resource center
- Ocean Ledges Fund of the Maine Community Foundation: Unrestricted support
- Point Harbor Fund of the Maine Community Foundation: General operating support
- S & G Foundation: Support Next Step's mission
- United Way of Eastern Maine: Youth education & safety and self-sufficiency
- Verizon HopeLine: Help for the holidays for victims of abuse, support of NS's legal program
- Washington County Commissioners: Services to citizens of Washington County

Next Step Domestic Violence Project provides the following services:

24/7 hotline: (800) 315-5579 - for support and advocacy | Emergency shelter

Transitional housing | Legal assistance | Support groups
Community presentations, workshops, and awareness education
Systems advocacy | Youth outreach and education

Business sponsors that made events possible:

- Bangor Savings Bank
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
- Blue Hill Co-op
- Camden National Bank
- Craft Barn
- Darlings
- Downeast Credit Union
- J.M. Paws Bookkeeping, LLC
- Jordan-Fernald Funeral Home
- Machias Savings Bank
- Motifs Hair & Tanning
- Stanley Subaru

Youth Education

Next Step's Exciting New Approach to Youth Education for Teens



Next Step Domestic Violence Project is piloting a new approach to youth education for middle and high school students in our community in the 2014-2015 school year. The new approach begins with convening a cross section of 8–10 students to take part in a 60-minute focus group at their school.

Students are randomly selected to assure they represent the full culture of the school. Focus groups are facilitated by the youth educator and consist of several questions posed to the students regarding gender inequity and relationships. Students respond to the questions verbally and in writing by sharing what they see and hear in their community.

The student responses are recorded and compiled into a data report by Next Step and shared with the school staff. Working together, Next Step and school staff plan a curriculum which addresses the issues brought to light through the student focus group

process. The curriculum is implemented in a one day workshop provided by Next Step in partnership with the school and focuses on empowering students to effect lasting change in their community.

Next Step's youth educator, Pamela Gagnon, began mentoring with Stephen Wessler to pilot this new approach in Hancock County last spring.

Mr. Wessler works with schools, colleges and non-profit organizations and other community programs and institutions to prevent bias, harassment, discrimination and violence. His work is well established and recognized in the United States and in several other countries. Mr. Wessler has received numerous awards for his human rights work, he is the author of "The Respectful School" and he currently teaches on the university level about school bullying and harassment, and hate crimes and bias.

Next Step Domestic Violence, by the numbers (FY 2014)

People who used our services	965
Hours on the phone and face to face	2,405
People sheltered	51
Bednights provided in shelter	2,069
People who lived in transitional housing	17
Hours spent with people in transitional housing	673
People who attended support group	58
People helped with court advocacy services	449
Hours spent on court advocacy services	4,272
People in the general population who received community education and training	5,264
Presentations in the general population	460
Youth who received community education and training	1,887
Presentations to youth	290



Runners at the 2014 Annual Blueberry 1-Mile Fun Run and 5-Mile Road Race held during the Maine Blueberry Festival in Machias, August, 2014.

Ellsworth Resource Center receives a facelift

In August, Next Step was awarded a grant from the Next Generation Foundation. The grant will renovate and expand Next Step's resource center in Ellsworth. The Ellsworth building has served as home to all of Next Step's services in Hancock County since 2006. This project will provide proper security and confidentiality, expand handicap accessibility, expand and reconfigure the interior layout (increasing space for legal services and training), and replace a failed ventilation system.

Next Step is appreciative of Next Generation Foundation for understanding the important nature of this project. We have outgrown our current space in Ellsworth and this expansion and renovation will position us well to provide services and education into the next decade.



Next Step Domestic Violence Project

P.O. Box 1466, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

24-hour hotline: 1-800-315-5579

Business lines: 207-255-4934; 207-667-0176

Springtime brunch raises funds, awareness for Next Step DV

On April 6, 166 people attended a brunch event at Big Cats Catering in Ellsworth raising \$7,500 to support Next Step's mission to end domestic violence.

The buffet brunch also boasted a table of chocolate desserts such as cupcakes, brownies, cookies, pies, mini whoopee pies and chocolate-covered bacon.

An auction, also held at the brunch, featured prizes including a year-long family membership to the Down East Family YMCA and plane tickets to Boston.

