

# Rumford Group Homes, Inc.



## Reporter

Volume 1, Issue 16  
(207) 364-3551

160 Lincoln Ave.  
Rumford, ME 04276

Winter 2013  
www.rumfordgrouphomes.org

### Homeless Youth Receives Support to Become Successful Parent

*Below is Karleigh's story of moving from homelessness to stability in the Maternity Group Home Program*

Karleigh is not your typical 20 year old. She is not concerned with spending time with friends or activities that your average youth would be concerned about. She spends her time thinking about raising her one year old daughter, Seanna, and being the best mom she can possibly be.

Karleigh is a participant in RGH's Maternity Group Home Program, a transitional program that helps young homeless pregnant and parenting females ages 16-21 with an array of supports and services. These services are designed to help them become self sufficient, better parents and develop and practice the skills to be independent.

When Karleigh entered the MGH program, she was bouncing from place to place and didn't have her own stable housing. She was trying to complete school without a regular place to live. "I felt like I was lost and realized that I couldn't always

rely on other people for the rest of my life," Karleigh said. "I knew what I needed to do, but

needed some help to point me in the right direction and to teach me what I needed to learn."

Karleigh began working with the MGH staff and developed goals

*"I want to be the best mother I can be and give my daughter everything in life that she deserves. I am so excited about what I am learning and accomplishing."*

that will help her learn independent living skills such as budgeting, household management, successful parenting and job readiness. She attends Independent Living Skills groups three times a week and meets frequently with staff to work on her goals.

She also received her first apartment through the program and has a safe place for her and her daughter to grow and flourish. The furnishings and household items were provided by the MGH program so Karleigh can continue to save her money for when she is living independently.

She is currently enrolled in school again and is working hard

every day, studying and exploring options for employment or continuing her education. "I don't know

yet what I want to do with my life, but I know that I want to be successful and have a job that I love. I think I want to go into a field where I can help people like people helped me."

In addition to school and group meetings, Karleigh has begun to volunteer to give back to her community and to help others who are not as fortunate as her. She has volunteered at local food pantries as well as at the Rumford Family Center, a 12-bed emergency shelter located in Rumford. Karleigh planned and put on a craft night for the guests. She has also attended community meetings to talk about the program and to share her story. "Telling others about what I have gone through and how successful I am now is really important to me," says Karleigh. "Now I am really excited about my future and I want other girls my age to know that they aren't alone and that there is help out there if they are willing to pick up the phone."



*To make a referral to the Maternity Group Home Program, please call 369-9439.*



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#### **RUMFORD GROUP HOMES, INC. MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of Rumford Group Homes, Inc. to develop and administer programs to enhance the safety and quality of life for children, youth, and families through a quality, comprehensive continuum of care in the fields of social services, education, corrections, mental health and housing.

## **Executive Director's Corner**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter. At Rumford Group Homes, Inc., we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support throughout the years! We like to keep you updated on the exciting things we are working on and thank you for your support throughout the year. Your support is needed now more than ever to allow us to keep providing life-changing services to homeless youth and families.



Our agency's staff members are busy year round helping homeless families to access permanent and affordable housing, educational and employment resources and essential services to allow them to lead stable and meaningful lives. Our three homeless shelters strive to stabilize families as soon as possible and to prevent the tragic long-term effects that homelessness can have. Our community case management programs also aim to keep individuals safe and stable, restore a sense of hope and help people feel a sense of dignity and self-worth.

Our two newest programs, a federally funded Maternity Group Home Program and the Home to Stay program are up and running. These are two new avenues for our agency to support homeless youth and to assist homeless families to quickly become re-housed and on the road to stability with long-term targeted assistance with a Housing Navigator and rental assistance. We are excited and proud to offer these programs and believe that these allow us to offer new assistance that families need in rural Maine.

We are grateful for the support from our community partners, including Bangor Savings Bank, Barclays, Care & Comfort, and the United Way, but we invite you to become part of the solution to the problem of homelessness. Together, we can work to end homelessness by helping homeless families enter into affordable housing and teach skills necessary for permanent stability. It is our goal to provide the families we serve with a sense of hope and belief that things can change for the better. With your help, we can empower families to build better lives.

During this time of year, please remember those who are living in our homeless shelters who are not as fortunate. We work every day to help people change their lives and hope you will join us. Together we can all make a permanent difference in people's lives.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season,

Alan J. Monier, Executive Director

# Rumford Group Homes Receives Community Support from Care & Comfort

*Care & Comfort Staff raise funds to support Homeless Families through the Jean Fund*

Rumford Group Homes, Inc. (RGH) recently received a donation in the amount of \$950.00 from Care & Comfort and their Wilton staff's Jean Fund to support its Homeless Services programs. An ongoing collaborative fundraising effort between Care & Comfort and its employees, Jean Day lets staff leave their normal work attire at home and wear jeans on Fridays for a \$2.00 donation. The company matches every dollar raised and the employees of each branch select the local beneficiary semi annually. This period they selected RGH as the recipient of the funds.

RGH operates three emergency shelters in

the continued operation of the shelters where homeless families from Franklin and Oxford counties are provided with a safe haven and crucial services targeted at long term stability.

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*"I am truly impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment RGH has to providing our neighbors in need of housing a safe transitional environment in which they are provided access to resources which will forever impact their lives."*

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Care & Comfort provides services to over 2000 individuals and families in 13 Maine counties through their Home Health, Mental Health and Home Modification programs. The agency, which has provided services for 22 years, has five offices across the state and is Maine-owned and operated. C & C's employees are committed to making their communities

better places to live and partner with other organizations to raise awareness, provide support and volunteer their time.

"We are so grateful for the generous support of Care & Comfort's staff and are proud to partner with them," states Alan J. Monier, Executive Director of RGH. "The level of commitment to supporting their partners in the community is inspiring and we appreciate their support to assist homeless families in accessing stable and affordable housing."

"Our employees always give careful consideration when selecting Jean Fund recipients and I am so pleased with their decision to assist the Rumford Group Homes," remarks Susan D. Giguere, Care & Comfort's Founder and CEO. "A safe place and strong support system is crucial for families who are facing so many challenges and changes in their lives. I am truly impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment RGH has to providing our neighbors in need of housing and a safe transitional

environment in which they are provided access to resources which will forever impact their lives."



Pictured left to right: Melissa McEntee, Director of Homeless Services from RGH, Joe Tinkham, Branch Manager, Sue Giguere, C.E.O., Lee Jellison, C.O.O., Francine Castonguay, Mental Health Staffing Supervisor, Misty Smith, Clinician, Jacob Turner, Children's Case Manager

Oxford County in addition to case management services and Permanent Housing for formerly homeless families. This donation will go to support



# Rumford Group Homes Photo Gallery

## Halloween Party Fun!





# At RGH, we can only do it with you!

At Rumford Group Homes, Inc., we are busy year-round making a difference in our community. Thank you for making it possible for us to provide vital services for children, youth, and families in crisis through our continuum of homeless services including emergency shelter and case management. Highlights of our last fiscal year include:

- 43 people were provided with safe and affordable housing in our permanent housing units
- 148 people or 71 families were provided with emergency shelter beds
- Awarded a 5 year federal grant for a program for homeless pregnant and parenting youth
- Over 100 youth received crisis stabilization services
- We provided 6,430 shelter bed nights
- We provided 9,875 bed nights in our housing programs



Please check out our newly updated website at [www.rumfordgrouphomes.org](http://www.rumfordgrouphomes.org). On the site you can complete a volunteer application, make a donation, contact us, sign up for our newsletter and read about our programs.

# Barclays Supports Agency through Fundraising Campaign

This summer, RGH was the recipient for funds raised to support the agency's homeless services programs by colleagues of Barclaycard US in Wilton, Maine and in Delaware. Colleagues in Wilton have been huge supporters of the agency's homeless programs, especially of the Rumford Family Center, a twelve bed emergency shelter for homeless families.

Each summer, money raised during the Wilton Blueberry Festival is matched and donated to RGH. This year, colleagues in Maine reached out to their peers at BarclayCard



Pictured from left to right: Louise Nash, Jim Ippolito, Board President, Alan Monier, Executive Director, Nick Waugh, Scott Moore, and Jen McEntee, Director of Maine Operations for Barclaycard US

US in Delaware and raised additional money to support one of their favorite causes at home. Colleagues in Delaware hosted a golf tournament, auction and a pie in the face tournament to benefit Rumford Group Homes, Inc. Thank you so much to all who helped make these events successful and to all of our wonderful supporters, both in Maine and "from away" in Delaware.

Your support and belief in our mission is appreciated and your

hard work to help others in our local communities is inspiring.

## How You Can Help

*Through your support, you could be the person that brings hope to others. Please consider helping in one of the following ways:*

**Donate Now:** Make a donation to RGH at 160 Lincoln Ave. Rumford, ME 04276. Visit our website to learn more about our mission and the essential services that you are helping to bring to your neighbors.

**In-Kind Needs:** RGH could not continue to provide the emergency support and meet the basic needs of homeless families and individuals without your support. In-kind donations are a great way to support RGH.

**Planned Giving:** There are many ways you can help RGH secure its future by planning your gift now. If you find yourself with limited cash on hand but would like to make a significant investment in improving the lives of others, you might consider one of the following planned gift options:

- Gift annuity or gift of stock

- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Remembering RGH in your estate plan

**Volunteer:** RGH has a variety of volunteer opportunities. Some of the ways individuals, businesses, and groups have helped are:

- Host a drive to collect donation items
- Sponsor a pot luck lunch at work with proceeds benefitting RGH
- Offer to be a guest speaker at life skills group
- Teach a cooking class and provide supplies and recipes

**Visit us in person:** We'd love to see you and give you a personal inside look at what your donation has made possible. To arrange a tour, call Melissa at 364-3551 ext. 212.

**Thank you again for your support in helping to provide havens of safety and hope!**



# You can help homeless families get back on their feet!

## What can you give?



The mission of our shelters is to provide a safe haven for homeless individuals and families while allowing dignity, restoring hope and giving assurance that someone cares. At our shelters, we can do that because of people like you. We rely on the generous support of businesses, civic organizations, churches and private citizens to help us provide the best level of services we can. In a time when we are all trying to do more with less, we appreciate your kind support. The following is our shelter "Wish List" of new or gently used items.

- Comforters, blankets, sheet sets (twin, full and queen)
- New pillows
- Crib sheets
- Assorted baby items (including high chairs, swings, pack & play, etc.)
- Towels, washcloths, dishcloths
- Dishes, glasses, silverware, storage containers
- New mop and broom
- Household cleaning supplies
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Baby hygiene supplies (diapers, wipes, powder, shampoo, wash, lotion)
- Hygiene supplies for families (toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo & conditioner, brushes, razors, shaving cream, etc.)
- Children's toys and books



## Long-Time Volunteer Receives Honor

**C**ongratulations to one of our agency's volunteers, Christina Bourassa! Christina was recently chosen as one of WCSH 6

Who Care honorees for her outstanding volunteer work and creation of the Buttons for Babes bracelet program that raises funds for nonprofit agencies who serve children in need. Check out Buttons for Babes on Facebook for more information or to purchase a bracelet.

More information is also available at

<http://www.uwtva.org/give>. Christina also supports Rumford Group Homes, Inc. by raising funds for Christmas presents for children in the shelter, creating Books and Buddies to promote reading to children in our shelters and by standing in for Mrs. Claus at the shelter's annual Christmas party. Thank you Christina for all you do. You are an inspiration!



Christina Bourassa  
at the WCSH 6  
Who Care Award  
Ceremony.



Thank you to all of our supporters!

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Rumford Group Homes, Inc.  
160 Lincoln Ave.  
Rumford, ME 04276

