



Along the Way

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends

The stories in this newsletter—from Amanda and Ben who found stability after aging out of foster care, to the family who rose again after everything fell apart—illustrate the complex challenges and needs in our communities. Through strategic partnerships and wraparound services, we create sustainable pathways to stability and independence. At Waypoint, our vision remains clear: that every individual in NH has the support and resources needed to build a stable and fulfilling life. Our dedicated staff are at the heart of this work, walking alongside people every step of the way.

And it's your commitment that makes their work possible. Your support of Waypoint programs and staff helps us turn devastating statistics into stories of resilience and hope, ensuring brighter futures for New Hampshire's children, youth, and families. Thank you for being an integral part of this work.

—Borja, President/CEO



How Waypoint Helped One Family Rise Again

When a mother and her two children came to Waypoint, they were drowning in a perfect storm of challenges. Through our Community-Based Voluntary Services program (CBVS), we rolled up our sleeves and got to work, tackling each obstacle one by one to help this family reclaim their hope and rebuild their future.

Health & Healing: We connected the mother with medical care for a comprehensive evaluation, and she finally received the treatment she needed to regain her strength. Both mom and her 16-year-old were also struggling emotionally, so we ensured they had access to mental health services—giving them the tools and support to process challenges and build resilience.

Removing Barriers: Something as simple as an expired vehicle registration and overdue EZPass balance had become major hurdles. Using our flex funds, we cleared these obstacles, restoring the family's mobility and independence—essential for jobs, appointments, and everyday life.

Protecting the Future: Navigating the legal system to secure guardianship for her 18-year-old child with disabilities felt overwhelming for this mother, but we guided her through every step until guardianship was successfully granted. We are now walking alongside the family as they apply for disability benefits, working toward long-term financial stability. At the same time, we connected them with housing, fuel, and utility assistance to strengthen their overall safety net.

Today, this family stands on solid ground for the first time in years. What once seemed like an impossible mountain of problems has become the groundwork for growth. While they still face challenges, they now have a resilient foundation with the tools, resources, and confidence to build a bright future together.

Rewriting The Statistics Through Strategic Partnerships



Graduation caps fly. College acceptance letters arrive. First apartments await. For most 18-year-olds, these moments mark exciting new beginnings. But for youth aging out of foster care, legal adulthood often signals the start of a frightening life ahead.

The numbers tell a harrowing story: 11-36% of youth who age out of foster care experience homelessness, compared to just 4% of the general young adult population. This crisis demanded action. That's why Waypoint has developed a plan, including forming strategic partnerships with organizations like the Dover Children's Home and The Chase Home.

Dover Children's Home and The Chase Home have long served as shelters for youth under 18 without caregivers. But at 18, these young people begin to age out of youth programming and need to figure out their next steps. Many of these young adults scatter across communities, beginning cycles of instability that can last a lifetime.

By working with other organizations and bringing our unique knowledge sets to the table, we are better able to help at-risk youth build successful futures. Our partnership centers on prevention and early intervention. Rather than waiting for a crisis to unfold, we work together to ensure that youth leaving foster care have the tools they need as they approach adulthood.

"We know there's an unfortunate pipeline from child welfare into youth homelessness," Joss Birnie, Site Supervisor at our Rochester Youth Drop-in Center, says. "Through this work, we are disrupting the system."

Aftercare Night at Waypoint's Rochester Youth Drop-in Center exemplifies this approach. Each month, partners and former foster youth gather for life skills workshops, job search support, and something equally precious: connection. Here, shared experiences become sources of strength and pathways to resources that ensure successful transitions.

The impact of our strategic partnerships can be seen already. Amanda* connected with Waypoint's services just before aging out of care, leading to a reunion with her sister and stable housing. Today she thrives—working, attending college, and living independently. Ben*, in foster care since toddlerhood and facing a housing crisis, found immediate shelter and case management through Waypoint. Now in his own apartment through the Foster Youth to Independence Voucher program, he remains engaged with aftercare services and has built peer connections. These success stories are just a glimpse of what these partnerships have achieved. By intervening early, providing wraparound services, and connecting youth with critical resources, Waypoint and its partners are disrupting the cycle that leads foster youth to homelessness.

"Outcomes are better for young people when we can prevent any homelessness," says Joss. "It's not easy, and together with Dover Children's and Chase Home, we are co-committing. We know it's the right thing to do for young people, and we really appreciate this partnership and willingness to try things on."

None of this happens without you. Your support makes partnerships like this possible, giving vulnerable youth the foundation for successful, stable, and happy adulthoods.

*** Names have been changed**



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Impact

- 12,483** children, youth, families, and individuals served in 2024
- 73%** increase in the number of clients who completed our CBVS program since 2021 program launch
- 65%** of youth who exited our homeless youth services secured a safe & stable situation

“My waypoint worker was very honest and helpful. This program allowed me to reach out for help, which I couldn’t seem to do in the past. I am more capable and confident than where I was last year. Waypoint gave me the opportunity to keep going and help me, help my teen.”

~ a participant in Waypoint’s services