

## Testimonials – 2020 Competitive Grant Recipients

### CHIP

Stephen Busch

*The fallout from COVID 19 has affected every aspect of CHIP, Inc., from volunteer availability to the increased cost of repair materials such as lumber, shingles, and fasteners, etc. However, the needs of the underserved in our towns continue to grow. This generous Maine Association of Realtors Foundation grant will help us to meet these needs. In the words of one trailer owner whose leaking roof was repaired by CHIP, "Thank you so much...Oh, God, you don't even know...I'm just so grateful!"*

### Maine Seacoast Mission

Scott Shaw

*The Maine Seacoast Mission is so appreciative of the funds awarded to the Housing Rehab Program for the 2020 season. This year is unlike any other in the program's history, and these funds allow us to assist with our neighbors' essential housing needs amidst the COVID epidemic. Funds cover the costs of building materials to help keep the families in a safe home throughout this crisis and into the future.*

### New Beginnings

Chris Bicknell

*New Beginnings works with teens and young adults who are facing family crisis, housing instability, hunger, or homelessness. Our partnership with the Maine Association of REALTORS Foundation housing grants have made it possible for New Beginnings to better eliminate barriers to housing for homeless youth who otherwise would not be able to get over the initial financial hurdles of moving into housing.*

*We are using this grant for staffing and direct youth assistance - all toward getting homeless youth into stable housing. It is allowing young people to make down payments or put up security deposits when they have not been able to save enough to move into their first apartment, and also address other financial barriers that are keeping them from housing stability. Because of this award, young people who are working paycheck to paycheck can enter into safe stable housing sooner while still maintaining the ability to meet their monthly rent.*

### Rural Community Action Ministry

Janice E. Daku

*Being a recipient of the Maine Association of Realtors 2020 Competitive grant means that Rural Community Action Ministry increases capacity to help an ever-growing number of low-income rural families seeking assistance in our 14-town service area. MAR funds make it possible for RCAM to make safety-related minor home repairs, provide budget counseling and homebuyer education and a variety of homeless prevention services. Without MAR funding, RCAM's ability to address these critical needs would be greatly diminished, leaving this vulnerable population at even greater risk.*

### Waldo Community Action Partners

Dorothy Havey

*Waldo Community Action Partners wishes to thank the Maine Association of Realtors Foundation for their generosity in awarding us a grant for the upcoming year. This grant will help us provide safe, decent and affordable housing opportunities to people in Waldo County. Being able to afford a security deposit prevents many people from being able to move into a rental home. Our new program to create a revolving loan fund will help many families overcome that barrier. Additionally, eighty-five homes will be safer in the coming year with the installation of smoke alarms. The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms. Thank you for caring about the communities you serve with this generous grant. We are delighted to be your partner.*