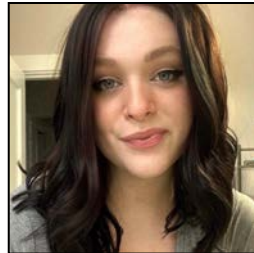


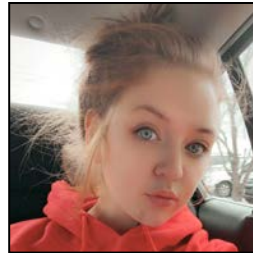
Passages Press - Graduation 2021



**Diamond
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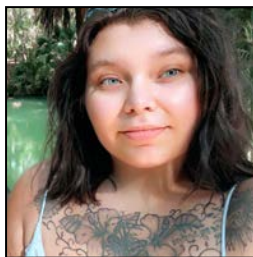
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Faulkner**



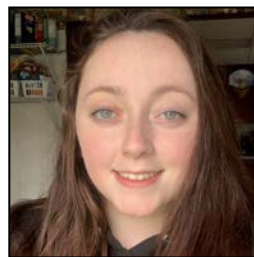
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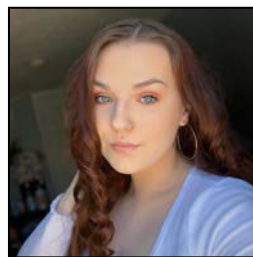
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Leigh**



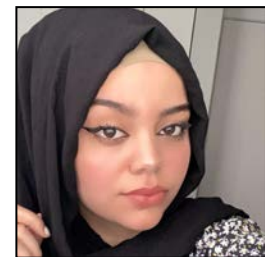
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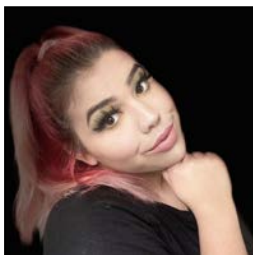
**Julia Danielle
Porter**



**Kayli
Preston**



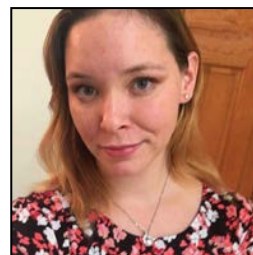
**Aya
Salman**



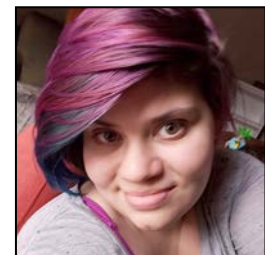
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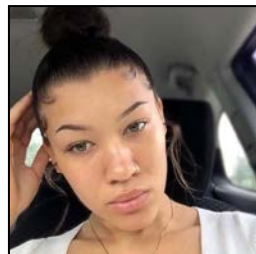
**Meredith
Simpson**



**Opal
Swearingen**



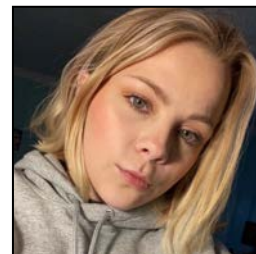
**Gabrielle Devona
Taylor**



**Shanisha
Teague**



**Angelica
Thurlow**



**Marion Nicole
Webster**

Diamond Curtis

Winterport

Thank you Passages



Walking into Passages I was scared. I have always been bullied throughout my years in middle and high school but Passages made me feel comfortable and helped me. They

helped me overcome my anxiety and stage fright of meeting and talking to new people, and they helped me work on finishing school as a young mom. Passages made me feel confident and know that I am capable of anything, even if I'm a mom. They made me understand that I can reach my goals no matter how big they are.

I want to thank Passages and all the amazing teachers for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Passages Program and for helping me grow as a mother, a student, and a person



Chelsea Rae Faulkner

Bath

My Time in Passages

This has been such a challenging, overwhelming and amazing experience for me. I dropped out of high school when I was 16 years old because my best friend died by suicide during my freshman year. The last thing on my mind as a teenager was school.



I worked full time from the time I dropped out, and honestly, I had zero intentions of ever trying to get my diploma. I never thought it was possible. I was always good in school but had so much turmoil going on outside of it that I could never focus or get the help I needed to succeed until I got pregnant at 21 with my first son. Then my friend Amber told me about the Passages Program. I applied immediately. Now I am graduating.

This experience has been amazing, to say the least. I have been blessed with two amazing teachers and many others who've helped along the way. I've met friends, other moms, and proven to myself that I can do whatever I set my mind to. I also got to share my research and passion about suicide awareness through my final Passage Project.

I have also created a bond with my teacher and I feel as though I have someone I can discuss not only school with but life, too. I have learned and grown so much during my time in Passages. It's almost unbelievable that I am finally a graduate.

Suicide Awareness - Our Story

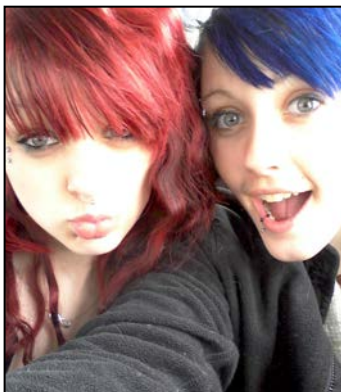
Final Passage Project by Chelsea Rae Faulkner

Suicide. When you see that word or hear that word, what do you think about? For many of you, it may be something you've seen in the movies, something you hear about on the news, you may know a friend of a friend whose uncle died by suicide back in the day. Or you may not know anyone who's been affected by this awful, awful thing. It may be a word that's never really been in your vocabulary, it may be something that you never really thought about. Ever.

But for some of us, it's a word that has flipped our lives upside down. It's something that has taken someone we've loved dearly away from us and left us with so many questions. I am here to talk to whoever is willing to listen and to help spread the awareness of suicide prevention and mental health help.

I want to talk about my best friend for a minute. The short three years I was privileged to know her, and love her, were some of the happiest times of my life. She was the most outgoing, loud, adventurous, and loving girl I had ever met. We spent every day together. I even had my own key to her house so I could let myself in every morning so we could get ready for school together.

On November 19, 2013, I lost my best friend, Jessica Anne Homan, to depression and suicide. She was 14 years old. We had just started our freshman year of high school together. There are things they warn you about going into high school and becoming a young adult. They talk about the stress of school, relationships, puberty, navigating life, and they remind you how much learning you



have to do, but no one prepares you for this. No parent, teacher, counselor, no one ever prepared me for this.

Getting the phone call that night is something I will never be able to forget. I remember letting out some sort of blood-curdling scream and falling to my knees in my kitchen. I hadn't been able to get a hold of Jessica all day. We were supposed to Skype after school and I knew something was wrong. I was right.

I want everyone to try to put themselves in Jessica's shoes for a minute. Someone who was only 14 years old, was so helpless and lost that she took it into her own hands to end her suffering. She left a pool of people confused, heartbroken, and distraught. I had just turned 15, was starting high school, and was now having to process this. We all have that friend, the one you tell everything to. The type of best friend that makes you feel like you're not alone, that there is someone else on this earth who feels and thinks like you do. That person in rock form, the one who always knows how to make you smile on a bad day. Jessica was my everything, through all of the teenage mess.

After Jessica's passing, I was blessed to have met my friend, Nate, through my best friend Amber. They were dating, and had a baby on the way! I didn't know Nate the way many people around me did, but that's not the point. In 2014 Nate lost his battle and ended up leaving Amber, and their daughter on this earth. I remember the toll it took on Amber, and I remember being so confused about how something like that could happen to someone. Especially someone who was a father. My heart tore that day. And sadly, it was just the beginning.

Here I am today, writing this. Don't get me wrong. These last eight years have been the hardest of my life. Learning to live without Jessica, and the others I've lost, seeing the effects it had on all of us, as a town, and

community. But the hurt still didn't stop there. The town of Bath and surrounding areas have seen an unbelievable increase in suicides.

A few years after Jessica passed away, another close friend also made the choice to take his own life. In June of 2016, we lost Evan Millet. I feel it's not my place to go into too much detail about each person mentioned below, but I do feel that making this as personal as possible will help everyone who reads this understand the pain we've gone through.

In our surrounding town of Wiscasset, we lost two sweet boys, Gavin and Alex. And in Phippsburg, we lost Casey, who was a close friend to my fiancé. Christian, Frazier, Jessica, Evan, Nate, Casey, Alex, Gavin. These are all names of children IN MY CIRCLE that I've known personally, went to school with, or had friends of friends who have all passed in our community from suicide.

There are so many other names of people in this community we've lost to suicide, young and old. So many people are suffering and the fact we haven't been able to slow these numbers down is sickening.

On average, in Maine, four of every five youth suicides will be male. While more male youth are likely to attempt suicide, girls are significantly more likely to be hospitalized for self-inflicting wounds that did not end in death. An average of 227 people died in our state between 2014-2016 due to suicide.

As you hear these facts, how do you feel? Does it make you uncomfortable to know as a state we are losing our youth daily to suicide? Did you know about 31,000 Maine adults consider suicide every year? This is a problem that is affecting all of us. All age groups, all genders, all races. These statistics are just looking at us as a state, and if we broaden the scale even wider to the whole country, the facts are even more heartbreaking. On average in the U.S. there are 132 suicides each day.

We all hurt, and we all need help, and we need to start thinking about how we can help others out more.

Taking the step to understand mental illnesses may be a great way for us to understand suicide better, and how we can prevent it. In most cases, but not all, there are signs before someone makes the choice to take their own life. It may be the smallest little thing that no one picks up on, but it's almost always there. Knowing what to look for can literally save a life.

We all have normal patterns for our everyday habits, and when someone is struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts those patterns often shift in an opposite direction. Someone who is struggling might exhibit some of these signs or symptoms: sleep and appetite changes; either eating or sleeping too much or too little, they may show mood changes or start acting mean towards the people they love. They may have a sudden drop in productivity; no longer participating in the things they used to enjoy. They may start to seem nervous or paranoid and may accuse people of things they'd never do otherwise. Impulsiveness goes hand in hand with mental illness as well, and they may not be thinking decisions through like they used to.

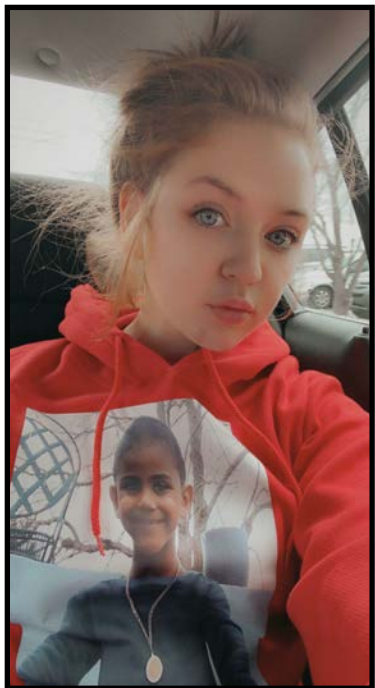
The biggest sign in teenagers is isolating themselves. Jessica did this. Pushing the people you love away so it may hurt less when you decide to leave this earth. It's sad. All of the symptoms are, and we need to keep an eye out for each other. Keep in mind that some people do not show any of these symptoms when they are struggling and the best way to know if someone is doing all right is simply to ask them.

Let your loved ones know you care, and that you are thinking of them. Education and compassion are our best resources to help fight this crisis.



Asia Hall

Lewiston



Before I got into Passages I was thinking of getting my diploma with adult ed. classes. My friend Haley told me about the Passages Program, and I loved the sound of it right when she told me. I was newly pregnant, too, so it worked out great for me. All I wanted to get out of this school was to graduate and get my diploma.

Having a teacher that helped me and checked in on me was very important to get me through. In my other high school, I always got pushed to the side and never could understand what they were asking me to do. Having Julia to help me and guide me through my work when I needed it made me want to work hard and finish everything.

Once I got into the Program and talked to my teacher, I realized that this school was very different. It was more “real” - like it had more

real-life subjects. I learned about things like parenting and how to budget money but always with math reading and science, too. The work was more understandable. I liked how it taught me things I would use later on and the subjects weren't so terrible that I wanted to shut down. They actually got interesting.

To deal with the schoolwork and not get stressed out, I planned everything. I took my core skills month by month and did everything I could on my own. Then I asked for help and suggestions from my teacher. Taking it slowly and getting it all done was the best thing I did. Instead of doing a lot at once and getting stressed out, I just took it slow, did what I could, and did a piece of schoolwork day by day. I always did a little more if I could and when I was stuck I would look at another core skill and see if I could find something I knew how to do.

I got information I never thought I would from a school, and I'm glad I'm accomplishing my goal of graduating. Now I can show my daughter I did it, and so can she. I want to find a career and build my family the way I've dreamed.



Sierra Paige Leigh

Rockland

I'm really glad that I was able to experience the Passages Program. I've learned many skills,



tips, and tricks that have helped me with my life now and will help me later in life too. It means a lot to me that I'm graduating and getting my diploma. I am so happy to be reaching this goal in my life with the help of everyone I've met along the way, especially my teacher

Cindy. She's pushed me to reach my goals and has believed in me every step of the way. She has also been teaching me to be my own best advocate. I'm thankful to have attended this school and to all the great teachers for their help and resources.



Nika Littlefield

Belfast



How I Found My Way

"Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn." – Benjamin Franklin

My struggles with getting through school were my anxiety, interacting with other students, and the inability to stay focused on my tasks. Also, being a mom to two children, boys at that!

My successes going through school and my life are my children, and having the



perseverance to push through and accomplish my goals. My biggest success was that I learned to believe in myself.

When I enrolled in Wayfinder I had no idea about the journey I was about to take. It allowed me to accomplish my biggest fear - graduating! I'm very grateful for the opportunity to get my diploma.

I encourage all who are seeking alternative schooling to find their way with Wayfinder! It has changed my life! I can now find a stable job to provide for my family and expand my education.



Julia Danielle Porter

Rockland

I started Passages in the fall of 2019. I remember anxiously putting in my application and hoping that I would hear some good news back. At that time I was 17 and had almost completed eighth grade, and I was out of school for a few years before continuing my education. I wasn't in a good place and was looking for something to get me up and going in the right direction.

I am thankful that my teacher Erica took me in as her student even when there was no more room. She has helped me throughout my time in Passages and was supportive through all of my decisions. Erica always found a way to push me out of my comfort zone. She knows how much I don't like talking about myself but then she asked me to create an advertisement to make people think I'm the best photographer. I needed someone to push me every step of the way - through all the obstacles - and she exceeded.

Throughout Passages, I have accomplished many things. I took and completed a driver's ed. class with a 98 average. I got my permit and kept a record of my driving times. Although COVID made getting my license difficult, I passed my test with flying colors. Soon after I bought my perfect "mom car." I switched jobs and now I am working at Applebee's. Most



recently I got my CPR and AED certificate and will be taking a first-time homebuyers class to help with buying my own home.

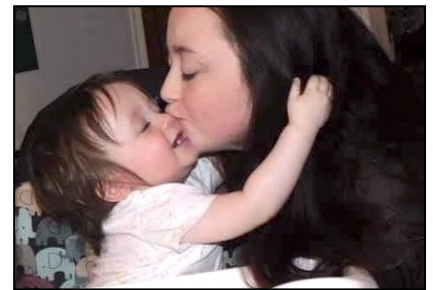
My plans after graduating are to take child development classes so I can start my own daycare. My other plan is to take nursing classes to become a traveling nurse and/or an in-home nurse. I strongly believe that I will continue to succeed and there are many more goals in my near future to accomplish.

I want to say a special thank you to everyone who has supported me and encouraged me to succeed, including my close family, my daughter Rosalee, and my partner Zackery.

Rosie!

It all began a little over three years ago. I fell pregnant at 15 years old. At the time I was terrified for what the future would hold. If only I could go back in time and reassure myself that everything would be more than ok. Fast forward a few years and this precious little girl is two years old. Rosalee, you are the light of my life and I couldn't imagine where I'd be without you. You are my biggest motivator to continue to succeed, not just for myself but for our family.

When you have a child they completely change your outlook on life. Before I had you, I didn't appreciate the little things as much as I do now. I didn't realize how fast time goes by until I watched my baby grow into a toddler in a blink of an eye. I will continue to savor every day I get to make precious memories with you. You'll always be my tiny girl.



Kayli Preston

Westbrook



I started the Passages Program back in 2019. Before I joined Wayfinder Schools I attended Westbrook High School. I wasn't in a great place mentally or emotionally and I was so immature. I found out I was pregnant when I was 15 and was in complete shock for months. That's when I knew it was time for me to change and get better for both of us.

I joined Wayfinder Schools when I was three months pregnant because Westbrook was much too toxic for me. Next, I quit smoking weed, stopped Juuling, and stopped drinking alcohol. I found better friends, saved money, got a full-time job, and left an abusive relationship. I took care of my happy, healthy boy. I got a car and my license. I am such a mature, happy, confident person now. My son is what I needed the most. He saved me and made me the best me I could ever be, and I couldn't be happier.

I couldn't have asked for a better experience. My teacher Dana is such an incredible, intelligent, understanding, and fantastic teacher and person. She is hands-down the best teacher I have ever had in my 13 years of being in school. Wayfinder teaches you way more than

any public school does. I learned so much more than I have in public schools and I couldn't be any more grateful than I am right now for this program.

If someone were to ask me about the Passages Program I would say that it's nothing but the best. I always recommend it to my friends who get pregnant and want to switch schools! Passages has to be the best schooling I have ever received. All the teachers are so nice - everyone, in general, is so nice. Passages is perfect.



Wayfinder Schools played a big role in my life because without it I don't believe I would have graduated. Getting pregnant and going to Wayfinder was my big push to a great, happy life.



"People who succeed have momentum. The more they succeed, the more they want to succeed, and the more they find a way to succeed."

- Tony Robbins

Aya Salman

Portland

My Journey at Wayfinder

My name is Aya Salman. I'm 19 years old and I have been at Wayfinder Schools in the Passages Program since February, 2019. I have had a long journey but everything changed when someone introduced me to Wayfinder Schools. I never thought that I would be able to finish school; but, let me take you back to high school before Wayfinder.



Back then, I wasn't independent and I didn't learn well, plus I had a hard time communicating with my teachers. I never did my best and I didn't have hope. I was falling apart because I knew it wasn't the right fit for me. I told myself I couldn't finish school and that I should just give up, but then, out of nowhere, someone told me about Wayfinder and I got interested! I decided to attend.

During my first week at this new school, I showed very little interest again. I didn't give my teacher a chance or myself a chance. I told them I was going to drop out, but my amazing teacher Dana stuck around with me and made my life so easy. She gave me so much hope and she believed in me. Slowly, I started to love it. To be honest, this is the most amazing school I

have ever attended, because when you attend this school, you will get confidence, independence, knowledge, and bravery from it, especially if you are shy and have never faced your fears before.

For example, I was never brave enough to do things on my own and never brave enough to go out and talk to new people, but this school gave me everything I needed. They gave me hope. They also prepared me to do things on my own and to see the world.

I want to thank Wayfinder Schools so much because I have amazing teachers and an amazing family and I wish I could stay longer.

I want to thank everyone and mostly my teacher Dana because I have never had a teacher like her before. She's funny and kind and without her, I wouldn't do the things I want to do because I was scared and shy. With her help, I started to do things without thinking, "I can't do it" and I just went for it. She amazed me because sometimes when I was doing schoolwork and I got stuck on something, she helped me without me having to tell her that I needed help.

This school and the teachers get to know you very well and help you do everything. I suggest teens attend this school because it will change your life.



Savannah Senay

Tenants Harbor

Thankful and Grateful

When asked what Passages means to me many things come to mind. I will paint my picture from the beginning.

When I was 16 I found out I was pregnant with my daughter, and like most teen parents I was scared. School wasn't my main focus anymore because I wasn't sure how I was going to do it, and then my mom discovered Passages. I learned that I could still finish high school and be a mom.



The first teacher I ever met was Erica. She came to my house and sat down with us and talked about the school and how it is different from public school. I started not long after that with my teacher Cathy who was always super supportive and patient. When my daughter was almost a year old I left the program. I went back to public school because I wanted to try that again. I had no idea how much I would miss my daughter being away from her all day. It made me realize that Passages was the place for me because even though it was taking me a little bit longer, it's a program completely designed around parents.

When I came back that's when Cindy became my teacher. Though I'm not always the easiest to work with, she always knew how to push me just the right amount to keep me focused and going in the right direction. Many

times I felt stuck, and like it wasn't worth it, or that I was never going to be able to do it and Cindy always had confidence in me. Even after having my second child and everything became even harder to do, she's been by my side reminding me how close I am. And here I am. I can't believe I'm really graduating.

Wayfinder has helped me create a whole new outlook on life. It has helped me develop a voice, to push myself, and step out of my comfort zone. I have honestly learned way more than I ever realized I would, but what's most important to me is how it's shaped me as a mom. My kids mean everything to me and this school has not only helped me finish my education for myself, but also for them. I could never give up knowing that I want the best future for my children.

It's been a bumpy road but Wayfinder, its teachers, and its students have been a blessing. It's a safe space, providing the motivation and support I needed to get me where I am. I am beyond thankful that my mom found Wayfinder. It is a one-of-a-kind school, with one-of-a-kind learning, and a one-of-a-kind experience. Thank you to all who keep Wayfinder going because without Passages I'm not sure I would be graduating, but I AM, and for that, I will be forever grateful.



Meredith Simpson

Dresden

During my time in Passages, I have learned so much. I have gained so many new skills and new friends along the way. I was always encouraged by my teacher to challenge myself and grow. I was supported and heard any time that I had a concern or was facing a challenge. If it wasn't for Passages, I wouldn't have graduated high school.



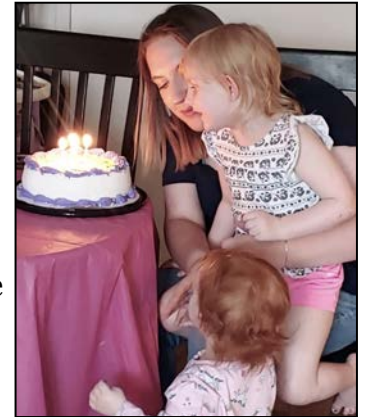
To my daughter Brynn on the day of your high school graduation:

I remember the day you emerged into this world like it was yesterday. The tension in the room could've been cut with a knife just waiting for you to finally cry. With a few rubs and pats on your tiny back, you finally made your first impression on all of us. I can't seem to wrap my mind around the fact that my beautiful butterfly is finally emerging.

Watching your metamorphosis has been the greatest gift I have ever received, even if it has been the hardest one to understand. I was 17 years old and trying to grasp this new reality of becoming a mom, your mom. I didn't know how to pick you up or even change your diaper. I did know that I loved you more than anything in this world and that I'd do anything to keep you in your own sweet and innocent adolescent

world. I never wanted you to have to mature beyond your years.

I always tried to make sure you never knew about our struggles. I did everything in my power to keep that beautiful smile on your face even if it meant spending my bottom dollar. You and your sister both come first and always will, no matter how old you are. I know I've instilled in you every life skill you're going to need but, I also want you to know that you've taught me equally as much.



The love I feel for you has me at a loss for words. I didn't know this feeling was possible. Your carefree nature on my hardest days always reminds me to loosen my jaw a little, unclench my fists, and let go of the minor problems that are affecting me too much that day. My motivation, work ethic, pride, and so much more were born the day you were. I thank God every single day for you.

You are so intelligent, insightful, selfless, and beautiful both inside and out. I could write unlimited pages expressing how proud I am of you. You achieved everything I dreamed you would and so much more. I know it's time to let go of your hand but, I will always be right beside you every step of the way. You know that I am only one phone call away, day or night. Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way and always keep your mind and heart open wherever you go. You're going to achieve amazing things. I love you.

Love, Mom



Opal Swearingen *Lewiston*



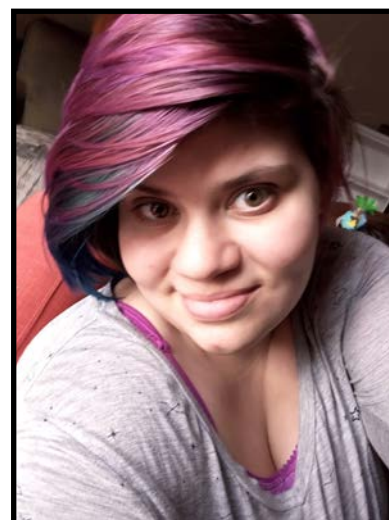
I spent a long time in the Passages Program due to a few unfortunate events in my life. I paused my schooling through the years, but with lots of help from my wonderful teacher Julia, as well as Erica and Fern, I managed to graduate!

Passages worked well for me because I always had a lot going on. Meeting one day a week was easier for me than other programs. Passages helped me see that I CAN do things, and make something with my life. I learned that no matter how bad my anxiety feels I need to push through, and I need to rise to the task and complete it.

Now that I'm no longer in the Program I miss it, but I'm glad to still feel a part of it all by helping others with their final Passage Projects.



Gabrielle Devona Taylor *Auburn*



My Journey Through the Passages Program

I'll start by saying that if it wasn't for the Passages Program I never would have had the opportunity to graduate high school. I applied to the Passages Program in 2017 while I was pregnant with my son Kayden. Shortly after he was born, I got my acceptance letter, and I officially became a Passages student.

Through this four-year journey I welcomed a second child, my daughter Luna. I learned so much about the world around me and about myself. I have learned about other cultures, about postpartum depression, and I got to take a CPR class. I have grown and watched my children grow through this journey. I have struggled, progressed, and also tried to give up. One thing my teacher Julia said to me when I tried to give up is, "Years from now do you want to look back and be able to say yes it was hard, but I did it, or do you want to look back and think well it was hard so I just gave up?" This really resonated with me and still does.

Through all of this I can say I have grown not only as a student but as a person. I'm more



confident in my work because I know I'm capable of anything I set my mind to. This school has also helped me come out of my shell and helped me improve my communication skills.

In my honest opinion, we need more programs such as Passages because they let every student work in their own way and some students just need that. The teachers are also compassionate and caring about not only the students but the families of the students too. The world truly needs more schools as unique and amazing as the Wayfinder Schools.

Even though it makes me sad to close this chapter of my life, I couldn't be happier to say I finally did it. I will carry the memories I have made with my children and my friends close to my heart. I'm so glad that I got through all my struggles as a student, as a mother, and as an employee. No matter how many times I wanted to give up or said I was giving up I never truly did. If you are a student and struggling, reach out to your teacher but don't give up. Just finish. You will be so glad that you did.



Shanisha Teague *Lewiston*



Being in the Passages Program has shown me forgiveness and love, compassion, care, and concern. A lot of these teachers understand what it means to be a parent and how it's not easy trying to figure out what's next for me and for my son as well.

These teachers are like my family and anytime I need help I know who to contact. Thank you for being such a good support team and thank you for your patience.



Angelica Thurlow

Steep Falls

I have been a part of the Wayfinder Schools, Passages Program since September of 2017. Even though I may have complained the whole time, I wouldn't trade that time for anything.



When I was 16 and just had my son, I thought that was it. I thought I was going to be a high school dropout -teen mom, and then I was told about Wayfinder Schools and it changed my entire life.

I knew I wanted to be a CNA but, without a high school diploma, that couldn't happen. Because I attended Wayfinder I can finally have the career I have wanted. The day I met my teacher Dana Fadel I would never have expected that she would be so much more than just my teacher. She's my friend when I need someone to talk to, and my family when I need someone to confide in. She made sure that I never gave up. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have pushed myself as hard as I did. She stuck by me through my worst days and never gave up on me no matter how hard I pushed her away. I wasn't always a big fan of school but working with Dana made me excited. She worked with me helping me along the way and taught me in a way I could understand. She was always right there if I had a question. I could just reach out

and she would be right on top of it, even on the weekends. Her work never stopped. Because of how much Dana helped me I often forget she has other students because I talk to her just about every day. She always checked up on me and reminded me of meetings coming up, workshops, and other things to keep me motivated for graduation. Working with her has been an honor. She has taught me so much more than I learned in high school; she taught me about life.

Wayfinder Schools is not only a school, it's a community. I have met so many amazing people and made some great friends in the process. Your peers show you that you're not going through teen parenthood alone, and a lot of the students are going through some of the same things you are.

My favorite part of my time in Passages was the workshops. A workshop is an event you attend online or in person, where all of the students from all over Maine meet on a Thursday for credit. My top four favorites included my first year of apple picking. That's when I met my friend Gaby. We were the only ones there with screaming little boys and it made me feel so much more comfortable knowing that there was someone else there that knew what I was going through.

I also met Julia, another teacher who also impacted my life. Every time we were on the same call or workshop, she always made me feel welcome even though she wasn't my teacher. Her positivity is vibrant, she always knows just what to say, and is definitely one to keep in mind when needing advice, (although she may not have the answer for everything, she's pretty good at helping you find it out).

My second favorite workshop was the last Christmas party that Wayfinder had. It was

exhilarating to be able to go do arts and crafts with other moms and children of all ages. It can be hard when you're a young mom because you lose a lot of friends in the process. Being able to socialize with other moms is important because you can relate and learn a lot. We colored and sang and chased kids around and picked out books for our little ones.



My third favorite workshop was volunteering at Preble Street. We worked in the kitchen and fed the less fortunate. Doing something for the community, and knowing that you were feeding someone or children who might not have eaten all day was such a good feeling. I met many different people from a lot of different places and it reminds me to stay humble and appreciate the life I have.

Last but not least, was when we went to the Children's Museum. A lot of people showed up, and everyone knew each other, and all the kids played together and got along well. The parents all talked and laughed. We had conversations about graduation and potty training and it felt like just one big play date. It was nice to get out of the house. After the workshop, another student and I went to Jokers together with the kids. We had such a good time.

Wayfinder has changed my life because it not only teaches you academics, but about real things that you are going to need in life, such as how to do taxes, read a map, budget your money, child care, and safety, and so much more. I have learned things that I wouldn't have

learned without this program. I even got CPR certified! Another thing that I liked about this program is that it was all self-paced. There were no deadlines or pop quizzes.

When I finally started my final Passage Project, I didn't understand what it was, which made it kind of difficult. Once I made it about the career path I wanted to take, everything fell into place. I enjoyed the work I was doing. I liked my Passage Project because it taught me what steps I had to take to become a nurse. When I started my slideshow, I thought it was hard because it's such a big deal and I was thinking about it too much.

I really enjoyed my time at Wayfinder and I'm proud to have been a student.



Marion Webster *Westbrook*



Before I started this program I wasn't sure if I would ever get my diploma or even a GED. I had dropped out of high school and I was a new

mom. To be quite honest I wasn't in the best spot, so when I heard about the Passages Program I was immediately interested. Most of my friends and family have always encouraged me to go back to school, especially the ones that never got their diplomas.

Upon starting I was nervous, but I knew I wanted to be able to tell Saige about how I graduated even after everything I had been through. Then, if and when it comes time, I can encourage her to push through too.



This program is amazing. You learn real things you'll need to know in real, everyday life like budgeting, first aid, home safety, and many other things. There are so many things I would have never learned in public high school

that has been extremely helpful to me.

Since being in this program I have not only learned a lot, but I've also grown as an individual. It's not all because of the program, but I would say my decision to go back to school and start the Passages Program has definitely played a huge role. I wouldn't be where I am today without help from my teacher. Attending this school has opened many doors for me as well as taught me more about myself and the things I love.

For anyone wanting or needing their diploma, I would 110% recommend this school. Especially to anyone who has struggled in a regular public high school. The whole program is based on you and your needs. You get to complete things on your own terms and at your

own pace, and you can always ask your teacher to tweak something to make it more interesting to you. There are times where you'll be pushed out of your comfort zone a little bit, but I believe we all need that sometimes, and not to mention the teachers and staff are extremely understanding so if something isn't working for you, you can just talk to them and see what some other options may be. It's truly an amazing program.

I'm so thankful for this program and my teacher because without them I wouldn't be where I am today. I've been pushed to do my very best, learn things that I'll take with me wherever I go and accomplish things I never thought I would like getting my diploma and even my driver's permit. So, thank you Wayfinder Schools, for pushing me to be my very best or for getting me to where I am today. I couldn't have done it without you.



"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

- Harriet Beecher Stowe

