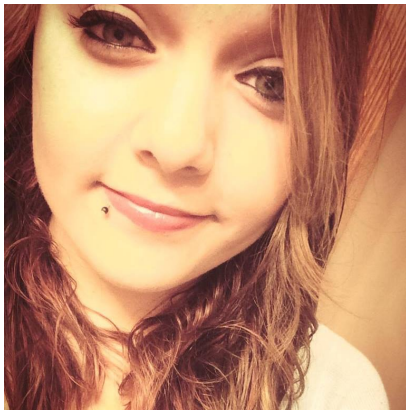




Passages Press

Graduation 2016 Edition



Heather Barry
Brunswick

My name is Heather Barry, I'm 17 and have been with Passages since November 2014. My son Chandler was born March 20th, 2015. I originally went to Brunswick High School, but with some help from Willo Wright from Seeds of Independence, I got in touch with Martha and decided Passages was a better fit for me.

Passages is a wonderful program that doesn't only help you with academics, but your outside life as well. When I first started Passages I was unable to make phone calls by myself, order food, or even go in public by myself. My teacher, Joy, worked with me and would be by my side every phone call I made until I was comfortable enough to do it on my own. Now I will talk to people I don't know without even hesitating.

One of my favorite things about Passages is that I can be with my son while I'm doing my school work. That makes it so that I don't have to find a babysitter and I don't have to miss more time with him.

I would like to thank Passages for all the help and support they gave to guide me to graduation. It would have been an extremely hard battle for me to graduate if it weren't for Passages. Thank you to the whole of Wayfinder Schools for helping me through this.



Passage Project: Becoming a Maternity Nurse

Heather's Passage was an exploration of becoming a maternity nurse. She interviewed nurses, did research on the educational path she would need to undertake, and learned a whole lot about reaching out and networking with others.

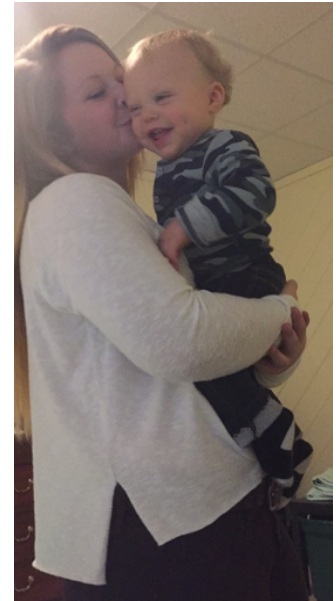


Carolynne Barter
Portland

I really enjoyed my experience in Passages. I loved the one-on-one learning, and being able to work at my own pace while setting my own goals within the requirements. I liked that I was able to reach my teacher very easily with any questions I had, and received a quick response. That was nice because in my public school experience I wasn't always helped as quickly as I would've liked. Another thing that I loved was that my teacher always had different techniques or ways to explain something to me if I had trouble. For example, when writing essays or responses I usually need help starting by being given questions, and she always helped me with that.

When I first started the Passages Program I didn't expect to learn as much as I did. When I first looked at all the Core Skills, I didn't think I would end up doing half as much work as I really did. Throughout my entire school years, I learned not only the Core Skill subjects but so much more. For example, when I did Early Childhood Development my teacher was super helpful relating to her own style of parenting whenever I had questions.

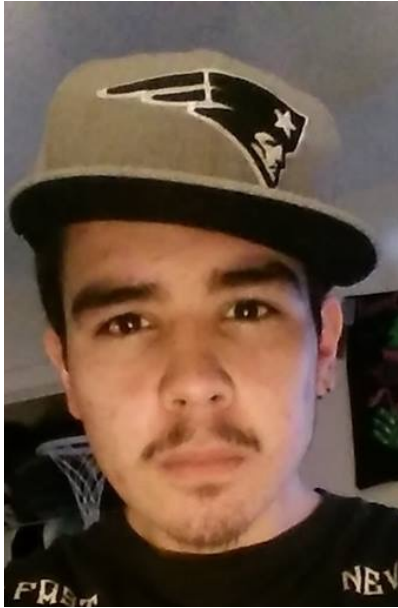
I want the world to know how important education is, especially when you have children. A high school diploma looks great in any situation; having that under your belt opens doors to any opportunities, like jobs. I'm so grateful I'll be able to share my high school experience with my son, and encourage him to complete his high school education as well. A lot of people think it's nearly impossible to continue their education when they have a child, but it's not. It's hard, yes, but not impossible, and when it's over you feel like you've accomplished the world. It's not worth throwing away just because you had a baby.



**Passage Project:
Creating a Marketing Campaign**

For my Passage Project I created a presentation to show what I learned about creating a marketing campaign. I created my own marketing strategy while using sexual assault as an example and throwing in some creative things as well. My biggest focus of this project is explaining the psychology of color and graphic design within marketing.

Roger Herbert Brown Jr.
Eastport



Passages has really made me realize that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to. This program really set me up so I could finish school and make something of myself. This school also has brought some good people into my life. It also reunited me with old ones I haven't talked to in years. It has brought me great opportunities and I took full advantage of it.

I'll always have a high school diploma thanks to Wayfinder Schools. The teachers make you decide on when you will meet but it's all up to you to make everything happen. They make you realize that you can make real life choices and that you can do whatever you set your mind to. Applying to his school is by far one of the best choices I've ever made. If it wasn't for this school I don't think I would ever have gotten my diploma and moved on to bigger and better things. You have to take it

and run with it and get the work done and move forward in life.

Passage Project: Building a Teepee

For my Passage I built a teepee from scratch. I got my supplies from my fiancé Emily's father's house and also out back of my apartment. I also needed alder trees to build a teepee.

I took pictures of my son Damian in and around it as well. As I built this teepee I talked to my son about it. I showed him how to create shelter using only what Mother Earth gave us. This was a great project for me and my son to be a part of: it's a part of our Passamaquoddy culture. I would like him to learn about his race so he can be proud of who he is as a person as he gets older.



Emily, Damian, Ann (my teacher) and I took a trip to the Hudson Museum in Orono to learn more about my culture's past and to get some insight on how to build a teepee with more precision. I also had Emily and Tasha as my committee members for my Passage. I am grateful that they were a part of this all so I can move on to bigger and better things in life, so I will be able to provide for my son and family.

Teepees were built from long poles and deer hide. The poles were tied together to make an upside down cone shape and the outside was wrapped with the deer hide. When tribes arrived at a new spot, the women set up the teepees; it took about 30 minutes. In the summer the covering would be raised up for a large gap at the bottom of the teepee. This would allow cool air to flow through the teepee and keep it cool inside. In the winter additional insulation would be added such as grass would be use to keep the teepee warm. A fire would be built in the center of the teepee to create heat. There was a hole at the top to let out the smoke. Native Americans also used warm bear hides for their beds and

blankets to keep themselves and houses warm in the winter.

Teepees were also used for gathering space and for meetings with the men and women both. They would talk about what they were going to do for food and warmth and drinking water. Also talk about their children and what there plan was for teaching them and share their thoughts on that.

Also they would talk about the land and the Creator also.

They loved their land and used it to survive and live off without polluting and ruining the land. They always planted a tree if they took one. They tried to use trees and sticks that were already dead or fallen over.

It was fishing hunting and trapping for the men and for the women it was cooking cleaning and watching the children. While they were out trying to prepare the day and the next to come.

They always made sure they had what they were going to need for that day and sometimes more. They always said a prayer before every meal thanked the Creator for the food he provided and the shelter he gave them.



Victoria Cain
Rockland



I think that the Passages program is great because it works around the student's schedule as best it can and a teacher comes to you. I also like that it is one-on-one teaching so that you can have more focus on you instead of it being broken up throughout a whole class. I also like the workshops because it gives you a chance to meet other parents and the babies get to play with each other and you do a fun activity with your child like play music or paint. There are some amazing teachers (Cindy) that have a lot of patience to deal with difficult students like me.

One of my favorite Core Skills was Early Childhood Development because I got to make a fun toy for Chloe - we made a mini marshmallow shooter to shoot marshmallows to the dog. I also liked the budgeting class because it taught me how to save my money better and different methods I could use to

save more and make sure that I have money for bills.

It's going to be a huge relief to get a diploma and it will decrease my stress level. I hope to be able to eventually further my education with music and also go to veteranian school. I hope that Chloe will be able to graduate one day just like me and her father.

Passage Project: Learning the Violin

The reason that I chose learning the violin as my Passage is because I have always enjoyed hearing the violin and thought that it was a really neat instrument to learn. I think that it is good for everyone to learn at least one instrument in their life. I would love for Chloe to learn an instrument because I think it is beneficial for kids to learn new skills and to always have something they can possibly turn to as an outlet. I also hope that learning the violin could create an outlet for me as well for when I am stressed or I am dealing with anxiety.

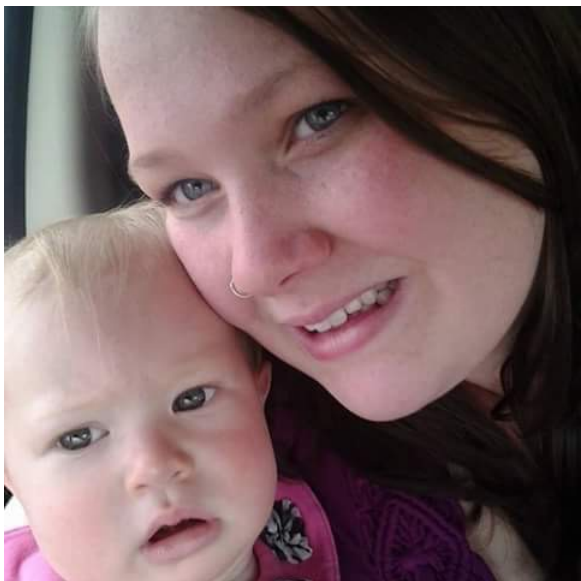
I was able to observe a class with one of my experts students and she showed me how to hold the violin and how to store the bow. I learned that to hold a violin you need muscle in your neck and jaw. When holding the violin you don't use your hands you have to use your chin so that your fingers can move more easily on the strings. My first homework was to practice holding the violin and to practice holding the bow and pretend to write with it. I got a chance to hear my violin played by Sarah Glenn (my expert) and it was really neat to see that it could make a nice sound.

At the Hearst Studio in Camden I got to listen to some other people playing the violin. The playing level was different for everyone: some had not been playing for very long while others had been playing their whole life.

I took Chloe to the Play-a-Thon so she could see some violin and piano presentations and she seemed to enjoy it. I think she likes the piano the best. My next step is going to be looking into the Midcoast Music Academy in Rockland and see if I can apply and get a scholarship .

I am glad that I chose the violin for my Passage because it gives me a chance to start the learning process and it shows me how much time and effort I have to put into learning a new skill. I knew that when I first started this assignment I wouldn't be able to learn how to play in such a short time, but that it would be the beginning.

Personally, I think that the whole Passage project isn't a good idea. It's hard to find "experts" to help with your project. Hard to find people who can volunteer their time who are not busy working at their own business and they have to make a living. That's just my opinion.



McKayla Corbett *Edgecomb*



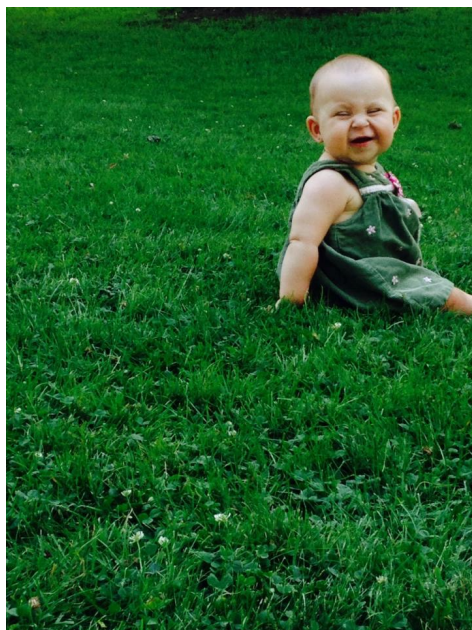
When I first found out that I was pregnant, the first thing I knew I wanted, was to continue my high school education. I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I was determined. A friend reached out to me and told me about Passages, and I called immediately. The process was easy and I was extremely confident I would do well.

When I first met my teacher Cindy, I knew that we would get along wonderfully, which made me even more excited about the program. Throughout the three years that I've been in the program, she has been my biggest motivator. She's taught me that school can be fun, and there's actually so much more to it than just work. She's helped me make friends in the program, and also helped me learn so much about myself as well. I can honestly say I wouldn't have my diploma if it wasn't for her.

My favorite part about the Passages program is that a lot of it is hands-on work, and you also get one-on-one meetings with your teacher every week. I've never felt afraid to ask questions, and I always know that I can be confident in my work. I feel that it's

extremely important to be able to get one-on-one time with your teacher, so that you feel comfortable with the work you're doing, and understand everything the teacher may be asking from you. I overall absolutely loved being confident with myself in my work, and being confident that I could ask any questions I needed to without feeling shy.

The Passage program in my opinion is an amazing program. It actually surprises me that many people do not know that Passages exists. It helps so many young parents continue their education, learn more about being a parent, and also learn more about themselves in general. I would recommend the Passages program to anyone who is a young mom or dad looking to continue school, and I am so thankful that I was able to be part of it. The program is honestly a blessing.



Passage Project: Cosmetology

My family is full of cosmetologists. When my mom went to cosmetology school, I was about 10 years old, so I used to go with her and watch a lot of the things she was taught. I got to see the nail techs do nails and people styling, cutting, and coloring hair. I've always been interested in the field of cosmetology, but

I wasn't sure what exact part of it I wanted to do.

The day before my wedding I had a facial done at Rheal Day Spa, it was the most relaxing and calming thing I've ever experienced in my entire life. The aroma was beautiful, the music was peaceful, the whole process overall was amazing. I knew then, that's what I wanted to do. I want to make people feel beautiful, by making their SKIN beautiful! I talked with the esthetician that did my facial, and she explained to me that she absolutely loved her job. She loved helping people love themselves, she loved being in such a relaxing, peaceful environment every day, and she loved showing people how simple it is to make their skin happy!

I got to meet the owner of Rheal Day Spa (Rhonda) and she showed me her skin care line. Rhonda explained why she entered the field and was very honest about what goes on behind the scenes (a lot of laundry!). She is a wonderful and wise person to speak with. You could tell just by listening to her how much passion she has for her business. May 16th my teacher Cindy is scheduled to have a facial, and Rhonda gave me permission to sit in, and watch how it's done and experience it from a different point of view. May 17th I will be touring the Capilo Institute in Augusta to see what it's actually like in cosmetology school, and learn a little more about the program. The more I learn about being an esthetician, the more I cannot wait to jump in and start school!

**Victoria
Demmons
Rockland**

Have you ever heard someone refer to your age? Like you are incapable, or don't know what you are doing just because you might be young? Well, I have. And it's not a good experience. My age, just as yours, does not make us any less of a parent than someone in their 30's, 40's, or even 50's.



This is always something I will struggle with, and something that will always bother me. EVERYONE regardless of age, race, or religion deserves respect. And if you can't have the common courtesy to respect me, then I am by no means obligated to respect you.

I got pregnant at 14 years old by a 19 year old. I chose to step up, I chose to set aside my life to take care of another...and that should stand for something.

I gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy when I was 15, and the hardest part was I had to do it alone. I lost friends, I got dirty looks, I was made fun of, I was judged, and worst of all I was torn apart in every way possible by people who claimed they would always stay by me and support me.

Almost two years down the road, on August 3rd of this year, I will be 17. On October 15th, my son will be two. I have

provided for him, I have been a nurse, a teacher, a friend, a shoulder, a chauffeur, a cook, a maid, and best of all, I've been the best mother I could be for my son.

I know that there are a lot of people out there who feel the way I feel. Who struggle every day to put a smile on your face and pretend that you are strong. And it's always for your babies.

I will continue for the rest of my life to do right by my son, protect him, and love him, no matter what anyone has to say...he is my baby, my life, the one thing that keeps me going when I'm feeling my weakest. He is my reason.

Age should not be frowned upon when having a child unless you are doing something wrong that could harm your child. I personally give credit to EVERY mother out there, any age, who does right by their child and will stop at nothing to prove you are the best mother you can be. And thank you to those of you who understand exactly where I am coming from, and know exactly how hard it is.

I heard about this program from school when I first found out that I was pregnant. I was meeting with the counselor who mentioned it to me, I looked into it and ended up going through the interviews and the Challenges. It was a struggle at first. But with the help of my teacher, other students, as well as other staff, I pushed through the first few months and I had an amazing experience in the program. I learned people skills, I learned how to better myself, how to become a better mother for my son.

There were a few bumps here and there, but nothing that didn't work itself out. I am so thankful for my teacher Erica, who has seen

me at my worst and still managed to help me pick myself up, thankful for the teachers who put up with my sarcastic remarks and jokes trying to lighten the mood, thankful for all the other young mothers and fathers I have met along the way through my journey, who let me know that I'm not alone! It's more like a family than a school because we all work together, we all try our best.

Passage Project: Cosmetology

For my Passage I chose to learn more about cosmetology because it has always interested me such as the difference in toners, what the different shampoos and conditioners were used for, and all that cosmetology consists of.

Throughout this whole Passage, I came into it with the wrong point of view. I thought I would fail, and definitely mess something up, or not have anything done on time. After meeting with everyone, and developing a better understanding of what the Passage actually was, I eased into it. I became comfortable with reaching out for help, I became confident that I **COULD** do anything I set my mind and heart on.



Rebecca Doyle
Rockland



Joy was amazing for figuring out the way that I learned best, and applying herself in whatever way she could to help me. I know that Martha couldn't have found me a better teacher.

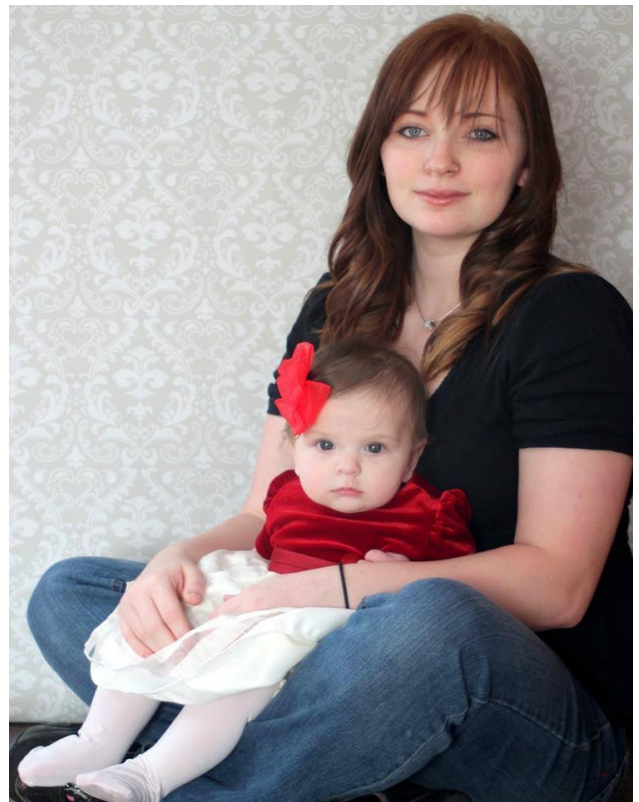
Passage Project: My Inner Artist

Rebecca's Passage was all about re-connecting with her spontaneous and artistic self. She has always loved art and self expression, but felt cut off from that part of her life. This exploration helped to put her back on an artist's path.

When I first entered into Passages, I expected to graduate before my pregnancy was over. I expected to rush through every Core Skill, do all of my community service, get my permit, go to workshops, and finish my Passage all within six small months. I expected a lot of myself.

For me, Passages has been a journey of learning to let go- to not hold onto control so much that I absolutely panic. My Passage itself ultimately taught me that I need to take a step back, and take a breather once in a while. Passages taught me to sort through what was really important, and what didn't matter so much.

There came a point that I was so stuck on figuring out what I could possibly do for a Passage that I almost quit entirely. Joy, my teacher, and Martha came to my side and stuck by me. I needed a push and they were right there to help me along. I owe my diploma entirely to Joy and Martha. I couldn't ask for a better mentor and friend as Joy.



Courtney Dudley-Mosher
Calais



Passage Project: Raising a Child

It can be very difficult to raise a child, even with two parents. I got pregnant at 16 and had my son at 17 years old. Even though his father and I were in it together at the beginning, it was still hard on us both. It sometimes still is hard. My son may be 2 years old now, but even a toddler requires a lot of attention. I love my son more than anything in the world, but I do sometimes think about him coming into this world later on in life. He is here and I do not regret having him, but it is not fun to raise a baby. It is A LOT of hard work! I want young people to know how hard it can be. I aimed this project at 11-14 year olds. This project really hit home with me from a personal experience and I also wanted to be able to help teenagers learn there are options.

I was interested in this topic because I met a 14 year old mentally retarded girl. She was sweet and nice and by the end of my time in a psych unit, she and I were friends. She said when she got out she and her 14 year old boyfriend were going to have a baby and live happily ever after. I really wanted to get the word out to everyone I possibly could about the difficulties of being a teen parent.

I presented this project by doing a series of short video clips and uploading them to Youtube, because everything is on the Internet now. In each video I discussed a topic about the realities of raising a child. I also started a blog so people could ask me questions or even just write to me. People can leave me comments on Youtube too.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWAb64LWjDoJVMF4v1t5_kw

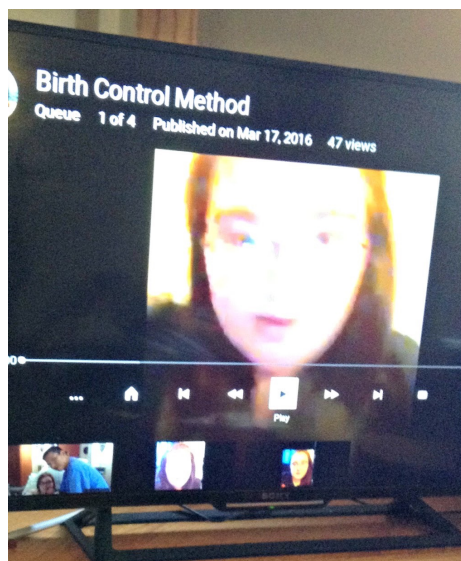
<http://gangstergurl12.wix.com/teenmomblog>

I have been in Passages since 2014 and I have had Fern Hilyard as my teacher. I couldn't be more happy. She has made the experience easy for me with helping me arrange things and help me along with some of my Core Skills by laying it out simple for me. She helped me with what to do and how to get it done.

During my years in Passages, I got more in touch with myself and it brought out the best in me by doing my work and putting more passion into my projects. I made a cardboard guitar and it actually looked real in the end, which I was really happy about. My teacher gave me a lot of the tools to get it done which I was and still am very thankful for.

I know if I see someone in the situation I was in as a teenage mom, with no chance of getting back into high school and doesn't have the time to go out and do their GED, I will definitely recommend Passages. It is an amazing experience and you can definitely learn your strengths. I definitely did and I thank Passages for giving me the chance.

In my videos and blog I tried to lay it out flat about how hard it truly is as a single teen mom with minimal support and no help from your child's father. I also tried to help lay it out how many different types of birth controls are out there. A lot of kids do not think about the repercussions of having unprotected sex. A condom can break at any time, so even if you have birth control, still use a condom to make sure you are fully protected. I am going to continue with my videos on Youtube on this topic.



I am really happy about getting the word out there about this type of stuff, especially coming from a teen mom, maybe it might sink in a little more. After facing this Passage topic, I think that I have a new perspective about the many birth control methods and also that I was right about choosing the 11-14 age range for this project.

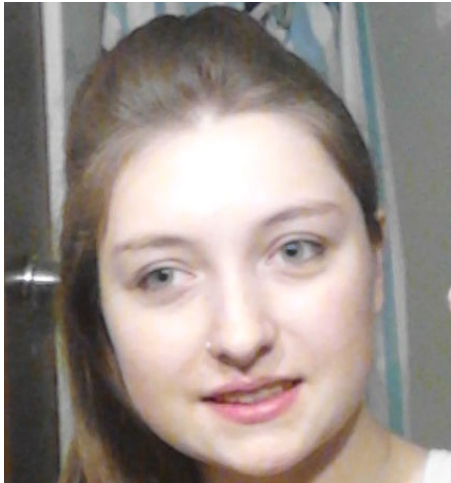
I put a LOT of energy into this project, I have been thinking about this project a lot ever since I first started in the Passages program. Since I started Passages I have been

doing a little research on some things here and there. I think I met my personal expectations that I wanted to come out of these videos. I honestly think I blew past my own requirements for this project because I didn't really think I would be able to do this, but I did. So for that I am very proud of myself. From my original proposal to now, I have stuck right on topic. I haven't really changed anything about what I wanted this to be about. For that to happen for me, I am pretty satisfied.

I worked with a woman named Victoria Preston from Maine Family Planning who gave me the information I needed for the age to aim my project at. She was so happy to help me out with anything I needed and for that I told her I was very thankful for her giving me her time to meet with me. Victoria gave me a lot of ideas - like doing a blog (which I did) and a reflection question at the end of each video clip (which I sort of did) and lastly getting me to view some other video clips to be able to see what other people do in their videos and how I could make mine differ from theirs. All in all I enjoyed working with Victoria and if someone ever needs information like I did in the future I highly recommend her to that student.

It's sad but exciting at the same time to be graduating! It's just an amazing feeling to know that I have worked harder than anything to get where I am, and I made it.

Lindsey Hinkley
Brunswick



My time with Passages has been life-changing. I never expected to go back to school after I had my daughter Addysen. She was my focus and I couldn't stand not being with her every waking second. I tried to go back to high school, but it just wasn't for me! I met a woman named Willo Wright who came to the high school I was attending and she invited me to her parenting group at Seeds of Independence. It was a meeting place for teens and young moms like me. After joining her group she was the one who told me about Passages.

I started this program and loved it, and my teacher as well. The workshops we have attended have taught me to open up and to reach out to others and make new friends. It has been nice to meet others that are in the same place in life as I am.

Being a teenager with a child is not easy but becomes easier as your child grows! Passages has made my math levels increase along with my reading. I am not a reader but you have to read in order to go anywhere in the program and in your life. This program

has made me look at life differently; I see myself as an adult now.

Passages has been a blessing to me because I have learned more than I ever thought I would about parenting and about everyday life skills. This school has given me the chance to prove myself and to others that I could get an education and gave me another shot at getting my diploma.

Thank you Passages for being a support to teen parents. Personally, being a high school dropout I felt that it was over, that there were no options for me. I felt like there was no going back. Passages opened doors and allowed me to continue on a path I always hoped to be on, and it was to graduate. Thank you Cindy for your commitment to being my teacher and letting me know that with time things change and get better. Thank you for all your love, support, and care you have shown to me and Addysen.

Passage Project: Cake Artistry

From the beginning of planning and brainstorming about my Passage, I have always wanted to learn the artistry of creating a beautiful cake. I already love to bake, but I wanted to push myself and



try to go beyond the skills I have. My goal is to someday make a little (or a lot) of extra income by making my own professional cakes.

In January I met with my expert Patricia Moroz who does VERY professional cakes for celebrations like for the Portland Pirates, “Million Dollar Wedding,” which was held at the Samoset Resort, for architecture firms, and other high-end weddings (fancy)! Our first meeting was learning the basics: making the cake, cutting it level and frosting it as smooth as possible. Trisha taught me how to prepare gum paste, making the perfect buttercream frosting, and working with fondant.

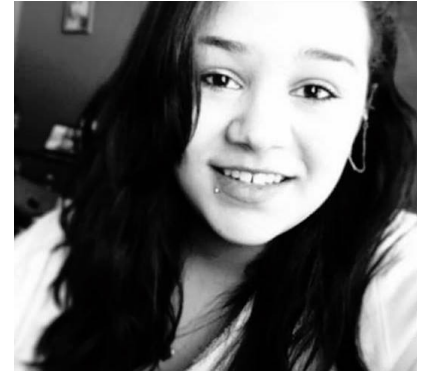
I had the good fortune to have multiple classes with Trisha teaching me how to make flowers, and how to go about making a sculpted cake. I was so afraid to work with fondant!! The key? The buttercream has to have no bubbles in it, and spread smoothly with the proper tools. I did it! This is something I will share at my final presentation. I cannot wait, my cake will showcase all that I have learned and it is going to be beautiful.

My timeframe was longer than I expected. Had my original schedule held, I would have completed my Passage in March. Life has a way of throwing curveballs and I had to take care of my life, not my Passage. I can truly say that what I went through only made me stronger and a better person. During this process I overcame the uncomfortable feelings of reaching out and asking for help and support. It has been a good thing because Patricia has offered me many opportunities and shared her knowledge so freely.

I have always loved watching Cake Boss. I have learned that with the proper tools and teaching and love of baking, maybe I will be The Boss!!

Autumn Larrondo *St. George*

I’ve been in the this program for a few years now and I’m so glad I have had this experience. I would never have been able to be where I am today if it wasn’t for this program, the teacher I had, and if I hadn’t had my son at the age I did. Everything I’m doing today seemed impossible before. I wouldn’t have the amazing job I have now without the loving pushes from a caring teacher who did not give up on me, even when I gave her lots of reasons to. I wouldn’t have my license or a car if my teacher didn’t keep pushing me to never give up. I’ve learned a lot from this program and I’m so grateful to be able to have been able to go through it. I would do it again and again!



Passage Project: Hometown Glory

Autumn is a student that is passionate about the Midcoast community and town that she lives in.

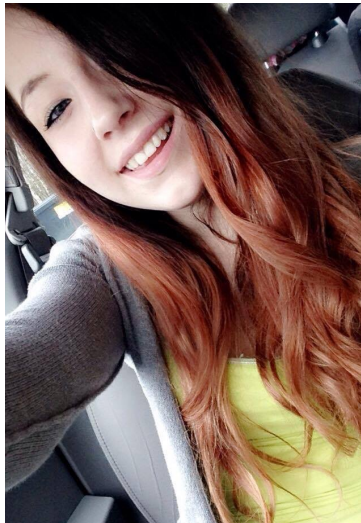


She used this passion to learn more about a few historical sites in her area. Autumn worked with an expert from the her local historical society to gather information necessary to create

brochures about two sites: Fort St. George and the sardine plant that burned down many years ago. The historical society will provide them to local visitors looking to learn more about the fascinating history surrounding these two sites.

Hailey Littlefield *Swanville*

When I found out I was pregnant, I was so excited to break the news with my family and friends. I continued going to Belfast Area High School until I was 8 1/2 months pregnant. I was enrolled into the Passages program in November of 2014, and gave birth to my beautiful pride and joy on December 14th, 2014.



I knew that I had to continue with my education for my daughter and myself, and Passages was the way that was going to happen. I have been in the program for a little under 2 years, and it was the best choice that I have made. My teacher Erica was always AMAZING with Sophia and me. She was supportive and helpful with anything I needed. If I did not hear about the Passage program, I would not have been able to finish school. I am very thankful that Passages accepted me into their program, and I'm so happy to be able to graduate school, knowing I took the best route for my daughter and me.

“Poem for my daughter”

In my ocean, you are a sunset casting over
because you are beautiful the way you are.

In my grassy field, you are a wildflower
because you are perfect to this world.

In my galaxy, you are the twinkling
stars above

because you are so bright and beautiful.

In my heart you are the beat
because you make me complete.

You are my world.



Passage Project: **How to Cook**

I chose to learn how to cook for my Passage. Cooking is a necessity for living, and with one child, and one on the way, I will definitely need to know how to cook. I cooked three meals with Cathy, who was my expert, and baked cookies with my best friend's mom, who is an AMAZING baker. I really enjoyed learning how to cook, and reading recipes.

Samantha Leighton
Baileyville



I began Passages September 11th, 2013, just two days before my youngest son was born, and I'm not going to lie, I was a little hesitant. I was going through a very hard time in my life just getting out of an abusive relationship while being a pregnant teen mother. Making the decision to move forward with this program has turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. Without this program, a supportive family, and the help and understanding of my teacher, I would still be stuck in the same spot I was almost two years ago. I've been able to prove to my children and to myself that no matter what life throws at you, you can work through it. Passages honestly, has saved not only my future, but my children's future also.

Passage Project: Hell to High Water

For my Passage, I decided to make a handwritten book with drawings detailing the events of my abusive relationship with my ex-fiancé, who is also the father of my two oldest children. To begin the project I typed out my

whole story on my laptop and then I went through and took out the parts I didn't feel comfortable sharing with my Passages team.

After getting everything typed out to where it made me feel okay to share I ran into a little dilemma getting the words to fit right into my sketchbook. At first I had planned on writing in the words with no lines on the pages, but after seven or eight times of trying to do this I decided I would try and print the pages out and proceed to cut and paste the words in. That didn't work either, but I thought of something else. I had decided to glue lined paper onto the sketchbook pages. At first I was a little iffy about it, but it actually gave it more of an artsy feel that I was looking for to begin with. After I wrote the words onto the lines I drew pictures around everything. The pictures tell the same story as the words do so you don't necessarily have to read it.

Doing this project was hard for me, not only because I'm such a perfectionist when it comes to my artwork, but because talking about the hardest moments of my life made my depression really difficult and on some days it was impossible for me to even look at my sketch book. I pushed through it by talking to my Aunt

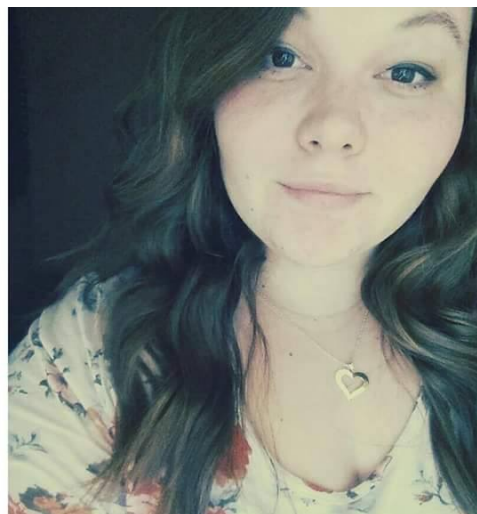


Amy who was also my "expert" on my Passages team, and when I got it all out on paper I felt 100% better knowing that my battle is all in the past. My mother was on my team but my father was also curious about what I wrote. He's always been super supportive about my work but I was a little uncomfortable sharing my WHOLE story with him. After sharing it with both of them I felt a little uneasy about it but if I didn't share it with them, they probably would never know exactly what happened and I think for them, not knowing was a bit harder.

Overall, I feel very good about my project and how well it turned out. The drawings aren't as good as I would like them to be but, even though it isn't exactly how I envisioned it, I managed to push through the emotional aspect of it. My sketchbook is more than halfway finished, and I plan on finishing it before my oldest son goes to school next year, because someday I would like to show both of my sons the reason why their father isn't in their life and show them that I did the best I could and suffered through a lot to make sure they were happy.

I was very happy about how the presentation with my team went. I thought I was going to be faced with a lot of questions that I would feel uncomfortable answering, but surprisingly I didn't get one that was difficult. I am extremely happy with the people I chose for my team and everything I did for this project I would do over again exactly the same. Except for maybe managing my time a little differently, but we all know three kids under the age of three, school, and life are hard to manage in general!

Breanna Moody *Waldoboro*



What if one moment in your life dictated the rest of your life? What if the decision you made could haunt you or bring joy to you for the rest of your life? What if regardless of that decision, your life suddenly became harder? I am a teen mother. I am 19 years old and the mother of a happy and healthy one year old. I am not getting into a debate on abortion, because I made a personal decision. This story is what happened when I made that decision.

Yes, I just said I am a happy mother. Let's go behind the scenes on what it takes to be happy. It just doesn't appear one day, it has to be earned. It takes blood, sweat, and tears, and an enormous amount of work, energy and sleepless nights to get this way. I made the right decision, but everyone needs to know that being a teen parent is harder than you think.

When I found out I was pregnant, I was a junior in high school. All my priorities consisted of getting through the next year and worrying about who I was going to be after high school. But suddenly, all of those worries seemed so small. When I told my mother I was

pregnant, she wouldn't talk to me for days. She didn't look at me, she wouldn't acknowledge that I was in the room anymore or answer me when I was talking. Eventually, I came to realize that my mom's biggest fear was me failing to succeed. Would I be able to do that with a baby?

I had some work to do. I had to prove my mom wrong. I had to prove myself right. More importantly, I had to ensure this precious little human had all of her needs met. I wasn't going to fail my baby. I'm not going to fail my baby. Being a teen parent takes you on a roller coaster ride of emotions. The toll it takes on relationships, family and friends is harder than you can ever believe.

When my daughter was two months old, I found out her father was cheating on me. I remember being so scared and hurt because I thought he wanted to try to be a family as much as I did. I remember him telling me that he didn't choose this and being a dad wasn't what he wanted. He wasn't ready to be a dad so young. I remember crying many nights because I wasn't ready to be a mother at 17 either, but no matter what I had to take responsibility. He made the choice not to stay, and I couldn't make him. I wouldn't have left, but I'm not sure I had a choice.

Something they never admit to you in high school is that nothing stays the same forever. Sometimes change is for the better, and sometimes it will tear you apart, but you can't change it. Being a teen parent is a series of changes, and learning to deal with them is part of growing as a person and a parent.

One of those changes includes responsibility. If you're anything like me as a teen, your mom took you to your doctor's appointments until you were 16 and bought

you feminine products because you were too embarrassed. But when my daughter was just two weeks old, she became really sick. Of course, being a new parent I didn't know what to do. I had never had this kind of responsibility before, and all of the sudden it was up me to take care of a little baby that I created. I was beyond scared.

Where were my answers? Where was my support? Where is the easy part of all of this? 1 night in the hospital can change your whole outlook. I needed help. I worked hard to gain the trust and respect back from my family and friends. But being a teen parent is harder than you think, and you don't always have the support you will desire.

I had some work to do. I worked hard at educating myself on how to take care of a child. I had to become responsible to balance work, life and school. I joined Wayfinder Schools in Passages Program, which became a new support system and a path to success. I constantly balance my schedule around being there for my child, providing for my child, and making myself a productive member of society.

Today's discussion isn't a *debate* on teen pregnancy. It's not even a talk about decision making. I'm past that. Today is about thinking. Today is about the emotional toll teen pregnancy has on not just the mother, but the father, family and friends. My child and I will grow to be successful, but it is not going to be easy. If I could give any advice to teens who are sexually active, I would say to think. Think about how your actions not only affect you, but everyone around you. Think about what you are giving up and what you are gaining when you are having unprotected sex. Think about your education and goals, and

what they mean to you. Having a baby is not a burden, nor is it a mistake, but it can be prevented when you are not ready. Because being a teen parent is harder than you think.

Being in the Passages program has been a wonderful experience for me and Hadley. The support is amazing and all of the staff help you to succeed in anyway they can. Before I started this program, I wasn't sure that I could get the education I needed to be successful, but having people behind you to push you and that believe in you really is an amazing thing. This program has helped me become a productive member of society, become a better mother and a better person overall. I have been involved in the Lullaby Project, have attended many workshops and volunteered thought this program, and I am so thankful to be apart of such an amazing experience.



I want to say thank you to my teacher, Erica Gates, and all of the other wonderful staff who have helped me not only reach my goals, but to go above and beyond what I could ever have dreamed. I also want to thank Erica for the help with transportation and being there when I needed someone most.

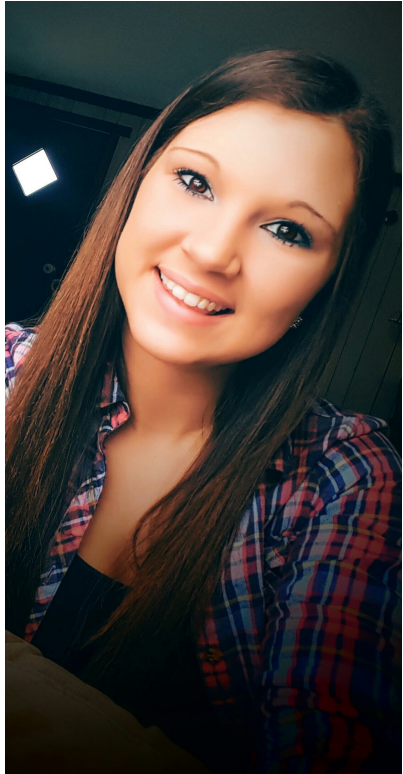
Passage Project: Public Speaking

Breanna worked with a professional public speaker, Tom Dowd, to learn more about what makes effective and memorable speech. She learned about eye contact, gestures, and pacing. Breanna wrote a speech about her experience as a teen parent, emphasizing for teens to think about the consequences before they have unprotected sex. She gave a final presentation, with time for questions and answers, to the class at Zenith Alternative School, in Camden Hills.

**Congratulations Class of 2016
WE DID IT!**

Kayla Morris
Waldoboro

I became pregnant in March of 2014 and became very sick and uncomfortable around April and that is when I dropped out. Many thought I was foolish for leaving school because I was two months away from graduating, but I was too ill. I had heard about



Passages from a past graduate. I knew at this point in time, it was the only choice I really had to get a diploma and reaching my goals. Let me tell you, It was the BEST decision of my life. It hasn't been the easiest time, but just knowing that I will be receiving my diploma is more than worth it.

After the birth of my son on December 16, 2014, I made the choice to stay home with my son and learn to be a mother. As Wesley started to get older, I believed it was time to go back and work on myself. I didn't start Passages until November of 2015. Fortunately, a lot of my high school credits were transferable and allowed me to be on a faster track for completing Passages. And, let's just say I wouldn't have been able to come this far without the most caring, and supportive teacher. Cindy and I have formed an amazing relationship, without that I wouldn't be able to make it for reasons such as; not having to find

childcare, working around schedules, and if I need to take a day off, I'm able to. Cindy comes to my home once a week, sometimes twice to "hammer down on some work" while still being able to watch my son.

When first starting this Program, I thought it was going to be a breeze . It's not all hard work, yes some of it is, a lot is researching and using your own experiences to answer questions. A difficult part for me was being able to manage my time and get my work finished along with everything else at home that needs to be done. Looking back over my studies, I can say two of my favorite Core Skills were Understanding Abuse and Home Safety. They really made me think. It made me look at my childhood and the experiences I went through and how I can apply that knowledge to my son and be a better mom.

I know standing up in front of my family, I will feel so accomplished and proud that I was able to finally receive my diploma. It may be two years later, but I did it and that's what matters.

Passage Project: Mortuary Cosmetology

When starting my Passage, I really didn't even know where to begin. Until brainstorming with my teacher, I came to a conclusion on what I really wanted to do. I had a hard time verbalizing it due to the fact I thought she might think I was crazy! But I finally told her, "I want to become a mortuary cosmetologist." Weird? I know, but my teacher didn't seem to think so. After knowing my topic, it was time to find an expert. Cindy, my teacher found me an expert to talk to about my Passage. His name is Mike Hall. He is the owner and

director of Hall Funeral Homes. I have had two meetings with him to talk about the career.

Key points Mike has suggested I look into are: attending cosmetology school first, go to a local college, like University of Rockland, to get my general studies out of the way and make sure the credits are transferable to whatever college I may choose. After I have accomplished that, he thought it may be a good idea to find someone who is looking for an apprentice so I can find out if mortuary cosmetology is really for me or not. If it is, I might choose a New York or Massachusetts school to finish the mortuary part of schooling.

Something I have learned while meeting with Mike is that mortuary cosmetology is not so much needed anymore, especially in Maine. Mike said that more people are getting cremated and that southern states or states in the Bible Belt still have large funerals and more of a ceremony, therefore more need for mortuary cosmetologists. He also mentioned that it's harder to find a mortuary cosmetology job due to most funeral homes are family owned and run. After learning this information I still have the interest in cosmetology, so therefore, I would like to go cosmetology school and then down the road maybe go for the mortuary cosmetology education.



I made a trip to the Aveda Institute, a cosmetology school, and met with the owner Anthony. It was a very good meeting. It looks like I may be able to start in June as long as I am able to get all of my paperwork in before the class is full. Also, I had such a good meeting with him he told me that he would give me a one thousand dollar scholarship. He also believes I am eligible for financial aid, because I have a child he believes I qualify for grants which I will not have to pay back. Whatever is remaining on the bill a loan may be needed. It will cover most of the cost which

is a little under twenty-thousand dollars. I will learn hair, nails, and makeup. There are four phases that you go through during your schooling.

The first phase is the basics. This is when the students have a class schedule Tuesday through Saturday, nine to four for the first eight weeks. Students will learn hair cutting, styling, perming/

relaxing, and color application including foiling. Students will also cover the areas of the state exam and will get to participate in their first school event.

In phase two students will have class on customer service, learn client consultation, selling retail, skin care including makeup and spa services, waxing, artificial nails. Also they will learn the methods of hair cutting.

In phase three students will get to work and learn from the Paul Mitchell Color

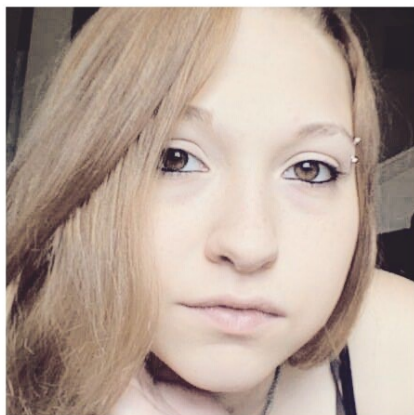
Educator. Everyone loves hair color and this one of the biggest areas of the industry. This phase also includes more classes with other chemical services.

Phase four is all about getting you ready to enter the field and reach your next goal.

Students will have a series of business classes, will learn more about career opportunities and being a salon owner, Maine State laws and rules and a lot of extra advanced classes including hair extensions.

Throughout this Passage, by meeting with my expert, meeting with Anthony from Aveda, and researching through the web about cosmetology the more I really want to become a cosmetologist and go to the Institute for my schooling. I am more than excited to start this journey and move on in my life and do something I love and enjoy doing!

Emily May Perry
Eastport



At the beginning I was skeptical that I'd have enough time for school, having a baby, finding an apartment and all the other stuff in life - to succeed in this program, but once I met

with Cora and she explained to me and my fiancé Roger that this program is based around our busy lives and the school work was actually skills you really use in life, we were all for it! We turned in our applications, I met my teacher Fern, and I was a student!

I have been in Passages for about a year and a half. At the beginning I took my time on handing things in and getting Core Skills done, but a few months before the graduation day I saw my fiancé crossing off a couple core skills within a couple days, and saw how easy and fun it actually was. I just wanted to get everything done along with him! (Not to mention I wanted to graduate!) The most important thing to me when it came to completing the Passages Program was being able to graduate with my future husband, but more importantly is being able to say I'm a high school graduate, soon to be college student, a full-time employee and most importantly, Mommy to my son.

Passage Project: MS Awareness Workshop

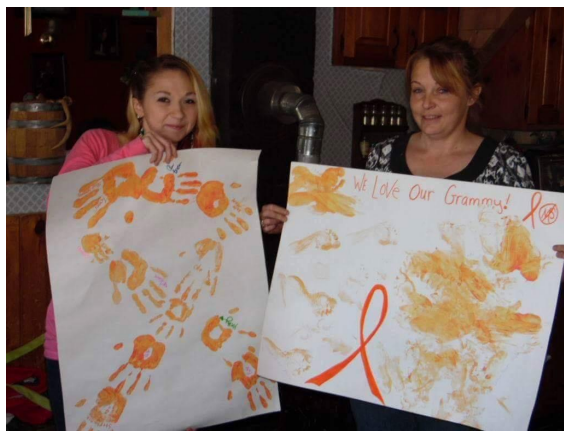
I had absolutely NO CLUE what I wanted to do for my senior project at first. I am terrible at figuring out one specific topic that I feel strongly about because there's just so many! But one day, fiancé and I sat down and he helped me brainstorm ideas. He said, "Why don't you do something for your mom, to support her suffering from Multiple Sclerosis?" I knew that was what I needed to do.

My mom is my rock, my everything and we're best friends. She really does mean the world to me and any chance I have to show her my appreciation, I will. My team consisted

of Fern Hilyard, Ann Brown, Roger Brown, Tasha Jarrett, Diane Hunnewell, and myself. We got together for my proposal meeting and tried to figure out a date, but unfortunately with my busy schedule and others it was complicated.

I had to call Roy Kilby, from the Edmunds church where I had my workshop, and we set a date, but considering my busy schedule of two jobs and a one year old son, getting my final project planned wasn't easy. I ended up having to switch the date within a day and only had a couple hours to figure out who was coming and needed rides. Luckily Fern helped with that part, because I had no idea how to set up a "legal" event!

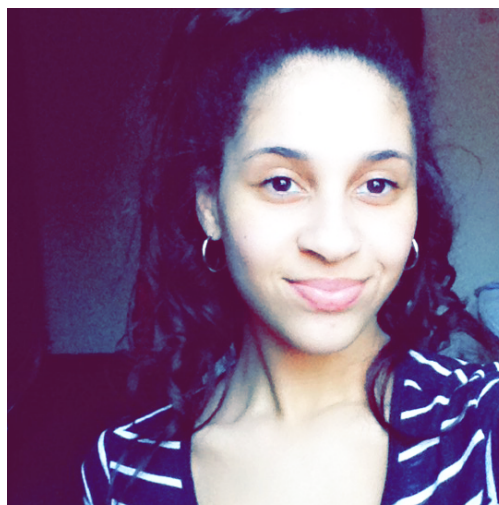
When it came to the day of my final project, my alarm didn't go off and I got there 15 minutes late! I was so embarrassed, but probably not nearly as embarrassed as I should have been! If I could go back I wouldn't be late, but despite that, and not really having much help from a couple of the teammates I chose to work with, it turned out amazing! Together we made cards and posters to show our support for MS awareness and my mom. I was so comfortable with the group of people who showed up and so was my mom!



When I presented the things we made to my

mom, she loved it. It made her so happy to see that someone finally took the time to recognize her and the pain she's going through. All she wants is for people to understand what she's going through. MS is hard to see, but just because you don't see it, doesn't mean it isn't there. That's a huge part of getting to know her, as well as MS.

Tamara Pinkham
Lewiston



I just wanted to start off by saying Passages is a wonderful program and I loved it. Everyone in the program is so caring and always looking out for you. I thought it was really cool to be in a program where people had a similar situation as me and I wasn't judged. The teachers are amazing, supportive and they always make sure you push yourself and give everything your all. When I first started out in the program I was nervous on how I would do. There would be times when I had wanted to give up and didn't really push myself but then my teacher would remind me that I could do it, and she would make me feel so confident which led to me working as hard as I could.

This was one of the best experiences I've had in my life. I don't know where I would be if I hadn't been in this program. It is truly the best.

I want to say thank you Martha for accepting me into Passages and letting me have an opportunity to meet wonderful new people and to have a second chance for an education. Thank you Katy for always being honest and helping me realize how hard I could actually work than I thought I could before. You are always so caring and always looking out for me. I'm so happy to have met you. I've only known you for a little over a year, but I have really grown a bond with you and really admire how amazing you are as a teacher and supporter. I'm thankful to have such a caring and generous teacher like you.

Passages is a marvelous program that gives teen moms another chance for education. They get to meet incredible people and form bonds with teachers and students. I am so happy to say that I have an education thanks to Passages!

Passage Project: Poetry

My Passage project was about poetry...I decided I would like to learn the proper ways and techniques that you should use when writing poetry. I chose to work on poetry

because I really enjoy writing poetry in my free time and it helps me get out a lot emotions that I hold inside. Doing this project was so amazing and fun. For my Passage I wrote ten different types of poems and worked and edited them with my expert Nick to make them as good as they could be. I took two months with this process because I really had to explore new things that I had no idea about but it was really interesting and I really enjoyed every step of the way. I learned many new writing forms of poetry that I have never even heard of and new vocabulary that I have never even known before this project so that was really cool to have learned.

I learned a lot about myself too during this project, I had to do things that I would have never seen myself doing a year ago. This project really has helped me grow and realize that if I want things to happen for myself I have to step up and do what I have to do. I am a very closed person

and do not like to talk about how I feel so for me to read aloud my poems to people is a big thing for me but I am glad I did. This was the best project for me to do because it helped me improve my skills on writing poetry but it also had me grow in the process. I had an amazing team also they were all so supportive and helpful through the whole thing. Thank you so much Katy, Martha, Nick, Kit, and Megan for being a part of this experience and being there for me along the way!



Edna Sabattis

Princeton



I would like to give a special thanks to Cora Townsend for helping me through this experience and education and the fact that she still continued to teach me when she was retired. Her time spent on me will not be forgotten or wasted. And I am so happy to be standing here today knowing I finally accomplished this task which is only a mere stepping stone for what lays ahead. And my daughter Kyrie also plays a big role in this because without her I would have never pictured going this far in my life let alone having the ambition to do so. This program in so many ways and the faculty are very understanding and friendly which is why I would recommend this program to any one that needed the guidance I did. Thank you.

Passage Project: Native American Ceremony

A Passage is supposed to be something big before you graduate and this vision that I had for my Passage meant a lot to me. I came up

with this idea when I was on my way to a workshop and a couple of the girls were talking about their Passage. I was jamming to Native tunes in my head and my idea of having a ceremony popped in my head.

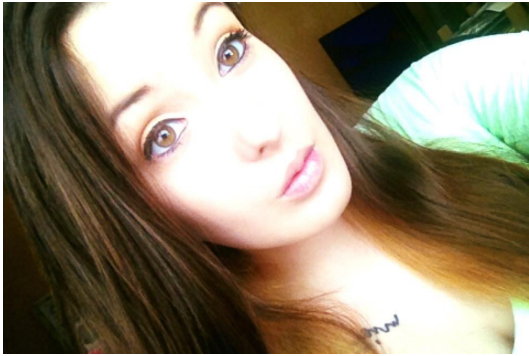
The risks of this idea could have been anything: people not showing up to watch, not being able to get all of the stuff that I needed, and a participant maybe not showing up, and it could've been anything really. I would've loved to have my sister there as well, on Skype or something, because she is and always will be my biggest supporter and closest person to me other than Kyrie, my daughter.



My idea for my Passage was to have a Native American ceremony at the Recreation Center. I would had a drumming group made up of my brother and his friends. While the group was drumming I had my two friends, Diora and Nancy Sockabasin, shawl dance with me.

I did have more ideas but the drummers and the two dancers were really nice. Also my friends brought a shawl for me. It had been awhile since I danced but I remembered. We answered questions from my team. It was amazing and I thank all who helped to make this a time for me to remember.

Jasmine Storey
Mattawamkeag



Dear Passages,

I have had the most amazing experience! When I first joined the program, I was scared and worried. I was welcomed in by two loving women Cora Townsend and Fern Hilyard. They are the best teachers that I have had. They love what they do and they show it with being so caring toward their students and students' children. I made the right decision by joining Passages. I am able to spend all my time with my daughter plus get my school work done. I may have not made all the right choices in my life, but being in Passages was the best choice for my daughter and me.

Love,

A forever grateful student

**Passage Project:
Stories of Teen Mothers**

For my Passage, I collected interviews and pictures from teen mothers I met on Instagram and put them in a book that I made using Shutterfly. It was very fun. I enjoyed hearing other mother's stories. It was easy and fun to put the book together. I didn't think it would be that easy to do online. I'm happy the

mothers trusted me enough to let me know their story.

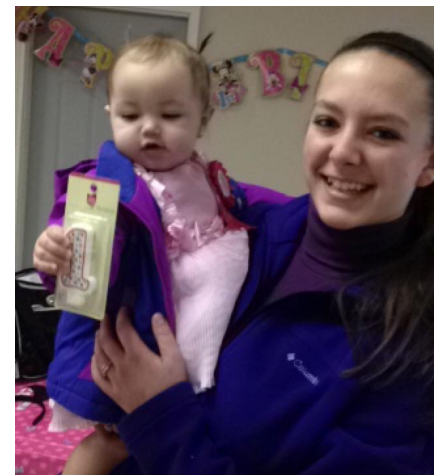
What I didn't like about this project was when I was almost done I was just waiting on two mothers to answer one more question. I had messaged them to remind them that I still had a question to ask, but as time was ticking and I needed to finish the project I had to take their stories out to add others in because they didn't message back in time.

I was inspired that no matter what the hard times are that it's our children that help us through those tough situations in life. I learned that no matter the age of the mother, having her child still turned her life around for the better.

If I could do this project again I would add more questions. They had great answers and were very honest with me. I would do this project again and I just would go deeper into the questions than I did with this project.

When my book finally came in the mail I was filled with excitement. When I opened the package as quickly as I could manage, my first thoughts were that the book I had made looks even better than I had thought it would. It was exciting to finally see my book after so much hard work was

put into it. I have no complaints about the book. I love everything about the book. Seeing the book in person made all the stress go away.



Shauna Tinker
East Machias



When I think of my experience in the Passages program I feel a million different emotions at once. When I first started Passages, I was at a very rough spot in my life, in an abusive relationship and trying to care for a newborn. I knew that I needed to graduate to better the life of my child, I just could never get that motivation I really needed to finish. I quit Passages multiple times while trying to hurdle the obstacles of my life, but the passionate teachers that I had never gave up on me for one second. They pushed and pushed me to succeed and even welcomed me back to the program when I really did not deserve another chance. To look at me now, almost ready to graduate, I am so happy and so proud, but most of all thankful for having such an amazing supportive group of people to help make getting my education possible.

I had a wonderful time in the Passages Program and met some awesome people. I wouldn't take back one minute of this experience, because even the struggles made me stronger. The thing I loved the most about this program was that it taught me real life

skills and things that helped me in my life and with my child. I enjoyed how the children are always welcome to be involved in everything we do, and how manageable and convenient they make it for you to finish high school as a parent. My experience in Passages was life changing, challenging, fun, and absolutely amazing. I know that I would not be where I am in my life today if it wasn't for this program. I hope that Passages continues to grow and help young parents graduate for a long time to come.

Passages Project: What Washes Ashore

My final Passage was a lot of fun to do. I truly challenged myself to make something creative and was successful in doing so. During our beach clean up we picked up one bag of trash off the beach, and other interesting things such as rope, shells, and sea glass. While walking along the path to the beach we found an old window frame behind a run down grocery store that we picked up. Once we got down on the beach we cleaned up a lot of trash filling a full grocery bag. Then we picked up any interesting things we could find such as sea glass, driftwood, pieces of rope, and shells. The beach clean up gave me an opportunity to do something fun with my daughter Allianna while also giving me the chance to explain the importance of keeping our beaches and other environments clean and our wildlife safe. Then walked home with all of our treasures and set everything up outside for me to look at and brainstorm an idea. I didn't have a concrete plan of what I was going to create quite yet. I decided on creating a piece of decor for our home by lightly painting and decorating the old window frame with some of

the things that we found on the beach. I then strung the rope we found across and hung pictures on it using clothes pins. I used a wood burner to burn writing into the frame as well. I absolutely love the way it came out and plan on hanging it somewhere in my new home.

While making this project I felt a little bit nervous wanting it to be just right, until I realized that the whole point of this project was to let that go. So I stopped worrying about everything being straight and perfect and let my personality shine through and that made me feel very happy. It was challenging for me to put my own thoughts aside about what I was creating and to just create it. This is the first time I have actually made something that I absolutely love and am proud of. I feel like that shows how much I have grown in my creativity and helped me to realize that what I make is beautiful because I created it.

While doing this project I learned how to use a wood burner and how to sand. I also got to teach Allianna a little bit about pollution and the importance of picking up after ourselves outdoors. This helped me

realize that I do have the will to create beauty and not be so critical of myself. I learned that although I struggle with over analyzing everything I

do, even I can be an ARTIST.



Cheyenne Ward

Union

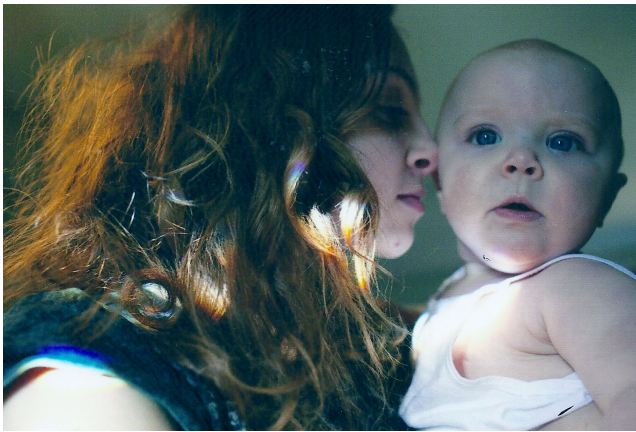


The Passages Program has been super helpful for me which means a lot. It has allowed me to care for my daughter, my home and myself. It has given me the time to work on school and finish on my own time.

When I joined Passages I had to do a few assignments while applying for the program. I got into the program right before summer. My child's due date was in June. Sapheira was born June 14th, 2013. During the summer I did not work on any school subjects which was probably a bit of a mistake. I missed the chance to do some work without being distracted by her needs, wants for attention and overall it made my workload and my course closings less over time and made me graduate later than I had planned.

If I were to give advice to incoming students, it would be to read as many books while you are pregnant and while your child is still a little infant. When they start crawling around it becomes harder to complete schoolwork, so I suggest do as much as you can while they are immobile.

The one-on-one work relationship with your teacher helps a lot. It helps to make school work plans together and helps with keeping you focused. Sometimes when you have been working very hard to research a topic and you can't find what you need or you just can't do it, your teacher is there to offer help and support. Your teacher will want to know that you have at least tried to do it on your own before giving you too much help.



There are workshops throughout the year, usually 6-7 offered. They are always good because you get out and get in touch with other Passages students and their children. Which is great because your child can interact with the other kids. There were many workshops that I found helpful, fun, or worth doing. I wrote Valentine cards to the elderly each year, last year we also did cards to veterans. This year I attended the First-Aid and New Hope for Women workshops and I found them to be helpful. I went to two infant/baby massage classes that taught the importance of touch for relaxation especially before nap or bedtime. I like to be creative and some workshops that I found fun were the Lullaby Project and pottery classes. Going to the Coastal Children's Museum was enjoyable too, especially to Sapheira.

Passage Project: Art School

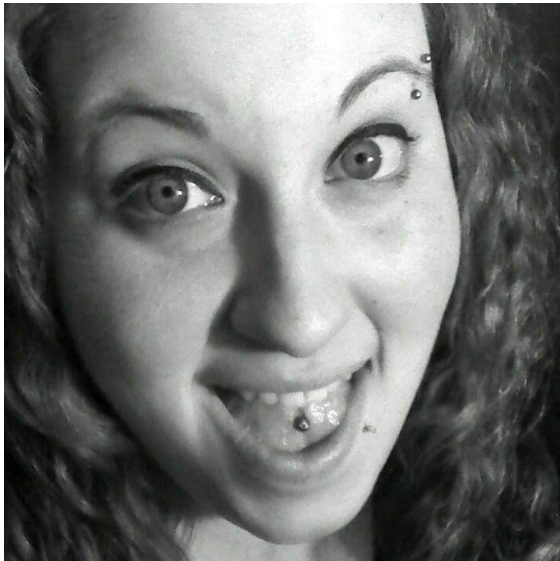
I wanted to perform my music at a concert and to overcome my stage fright. Unfortunately, with the time span we had, and not being able to find an expert I had to change my plan.

I decided to research colleges and their application requirements, and to also look into what would be needed for an art portfolio. I want to do what I love for a career, and that is creating art, music, and to be a writer. So far, I have chosen four colleges to learn more about in depth. I have called Full Sail University in Florida and spent 45 minutes with the admissions counselor on the phone. I found that they do not require a portfolio but they certainly appreciate any information sent to them. What is great about Full Sail is that a lot of their program can be done online. I am in the process of also learning about financial aid and what the other three schools have to offer.

I have been able to go to an art gallery and look at different art forms with my expert Martha Kempe. She has also been working with me on practicing my art skills so I can see what will go into a portfolio.

I really wish my first idea for a Passage would have worked out, but I am realizing you have to be able to adapt to change (and that's not easy!).

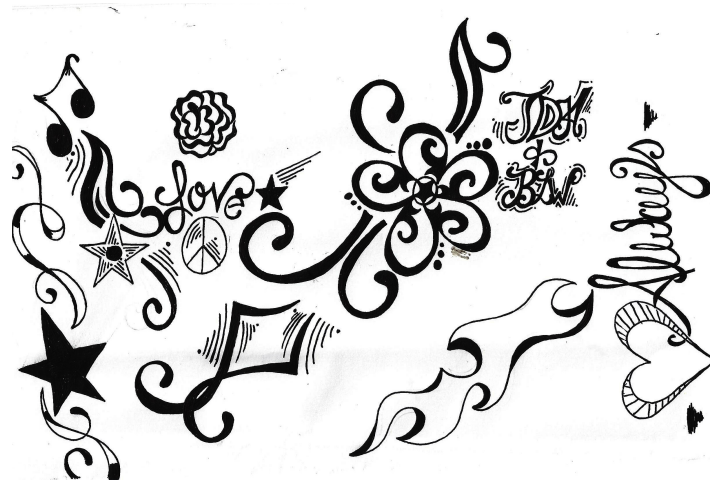
Brittany Wescott
Baileyville



Passage Project:
The Past, Present and Future

My final Passage was about myself. It was about from where I was a few years ago, to where I stand today. I've been through a lot of rough patches, but always seem to get through them. I think we all do, don't we? I made a slideshow with pictures with my son, friends and of me that I presented to my team. I'm happy that I chose to do this project because it gave me reassurance and closure on some things. I also went to a psychic named Vicki Robey and it was amazing. She told me many things that people didn't know about, and things that were not sad, but overwhelming

The Passages Program helped me out a lot. It gave me a second chance and pushed me to do the right thing. The teachers gave me guidance, and if I needed anything they were there. I want to thank the teachers and Martha Kempe for making this all possible for me and for giving me that extra chance. Some people sometimes need a kick in the butt.



and joyful at the same time.

She was part of my final project, and let's just say that all my questions were answered. I think her reading along with all the writing I did has helped me move forward.

