

Investing in Mainspring; INVESTING IN COMMUNITY



M A I N S P R I N G

The Seacoast Social Services Collective

CASE FOR SUPPORT

“Together, we can build a center in our community that provides long-lasting solutions and offers hope to the most vulnerable.”

**- JONATHAN KING,
FOUNDER, STONEWALL KITCHEN**



DEAR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS,

Surrounded by the beauty and charm of our beloved Seacoast communities are individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. In Southern Maine and Seacoast New Hampshire, more than 4,500 people live close to or below the poverty line. This number is growing as more households are unable to meet their basic needs with the ever-increasing costs of living. This threatens the health and well-being of our neighbors and the future of our communities.

To truly move the needle on poverty, we need a bold, new approach. Today, most people seeking social services enter the system through a single agency, where an intake process typically involves an appointment, applications, and sharing with strangers the most personal details of their lives. More often than not, individuals are sent off to other agencies to repeat this time-intensive and emotionally draining process over and over again, always subject to the hours and availability of any one program. Social service agencies do their best to coordinate care, but without a system in place to do so with ease, they often end up working in silos. Seeking and receiving assistance can be a full-time job resulting in only short-term solutions.

Our community leaders came together in 2019 to address these challenges. At the foundation of this conversation was the belief that by thinking big, working together, and centering the individual at the heart of our work, we can tackle these complex issues and turn the tide. The desire to collaborate more effectively was at the forefront for two years while we developed the vision, conducted the research, and strategized a solution to overhaul our system of social services.

The outcome of this collective work was Mainspring, a resource hub of social services that brings many nonprofit organizations together under one roof to provide a comprehensive suite of programs and services. The Mainspring model is based on best practices associated with addressing poverty and strengthening individuals, families and communities. It removes many of the barriers that currently exist for individuals seeking assistance and creates a new space for providers to be systematically and physically connected through co-location, centralized intake, shared data, comprehensive care, and more. Taken together, these critical elements offer a long-term and sustainable solution to the broken system we have in place today.

Mainspring offers a dignified, efficient, and effective model of care that empowers individuals to navigate the pathway out of poverty.

In late 2021, Fair Tide and Footprints received \$750,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds from York County and purchased the property at 22 Shapleigh Road Kittery, Maine. The existing building on site is being renovated and expanded into the nearly 12,000 square foot resource hub. With a combined 55 years of experience serving our Seacoast communities, Fair Tide and Footprints are well-positioned to lead this endeavor. The two organizations, alongside strong boards of directors and an experienced capital campaign committee, are directing a robust team of architects, engineers, and contractors to bring the vision to life. In late 2024, Mainspring will open its doors to the public, paving the path toward a thriving Seacoast community.

An initiative of this magnitude with far-reaching and long-lasting benefits requires the participation of our entire community. We invite you to learn more about the vision and impact of Mainspring and consider how you can be a part of bringing this critical resource to the Seacoast.

FORWARD TOGETHER,


Emily Flinkstrom,
Fair Tide Executive Director


Ali Goodwin,
Fair Tide Board Chair


Megan Shapiro-Ross,
Footprints Executive Director


Lorianne Saniuk,
Footprints Board President

The Increasing NEED

“I can’t take another day off of work to go on a scavenger hunt for social services. I’m starting to think that it would be easier to end up in the hospital or in prison where I’ll at least have a warm bed and three meals a day.”

This scenario is all too common. Food insecurity and housing needs can be invisible in a prosperous community, but the statistics don’t lie: In the last two years, Footprints has seen a 134% increase in the number of people served while 42% of renters pay more than 1/3 of their income on housing. The effects of inflation, especially the increasingly high cost of living in this region, are very real, with dire consequences for those already struggling financially. Many in our community would benefit from multiple services, but when their pathway is delayed or blocked, exhaustion and hopelessness often outweigh the need for food, shelter, or heat.

We can and must do better.

The word **MAINSRING** is defined as, “the chief or most powerful motive, agent, or cause.” As a collective of social service agencies working together toward the shared goal of eliminating poverty, **we will serve as the mainspring of a stronger and healthier community.**

Imagine if all these resources were under one roof, existing in a coordinated network of care where providers were systematically and physically connected. A family could drive to one place, visiting Footprints to gather weekly groceries. While there, they could meet with Fair Tide’s case manager to address their housing instability. She could then walk them down the hall to connect with MaineHealth’s staff for assistance accessing affordable medical care. All these agencies could convene and collaborate to ensure efficient and effective service delivery. This model removes much of the weight from the household in crisis by streamlining access to the comprehensive and coordinated care, resources, and support necessary to thrive.

This is what we can create together.

The Community's Solution: MAINSRING

ABOUT OUR HOME

Mainspring will serve the Seacoast region and is committed to assisting any individual or household who walks through our doors. Just as social issues do not cater to town or state lines, Mainspring will support individuals regardless of “home” location.

The Mainspring facility is located at 22 Shapleigh Road in Kittery - a highly visible and easily accessible site for residents of the Seacoast. The road is well traveled and is en route to the only pharmacy in the area as well as one of the main entrances to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The property is nearly 2 acres and is zoned for the variety of uses this project calls for. Additionally, 22 Shapleigh sits in close proximity to a senior, affordable housing development as well as one of the more affordable neighborhoods in the area.

Mainspring is anchored by two long-standing community organizations: Fair Tide and Footprints. Footprints will bring to the site a new and improved market-model food pantry and commercial kitchen for prepared meals, job training and cooking classes. Fair Tide will relocate its thriving thrift store, as well as its administrative, affordable housing, and case management services to a more conducive space.



The mission of Fair Tide is to reduce homelessness by providing housing and supportive services to individuals and families in the Seacoast.



Footprints exists to reduce the impact of hunger in the region and also to share resources and support the lives of those who have joined the Footprints community.

“Mainspring will be a beacon of hope, supporting community members in need with access to the programs, services, and resources vital to their health and wellbeing. Fair Tide and Footprints are leading the way forward, and ensuring we serve all members of our community with compassion and dignity.”

*-Kendra Amaral,
Kittery Town Manager*



Sharing the property with Mainspring are six new units of deeply affordable housing developed and owned separately by Fair Tide. This project is fully funded through MaineHousing’s HOME-ARP program and is not included in the capital campaign. Residents in these units will have immediate and ready access to the services of Mainspring, ensuring long-term stability and success.

Mainspring PROGRAMS & SERVICES

While food and shelter are two of our most basic human needs, there are many other prerequisites to a healthy and thriving life. In addition to Footprints and Fair Tide's offerings, Mainspring will provide direct and coordinated access to a variety of other programs and services to ensure the whole person and family are supported along the pathway out of poverty.

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS AT MAINSPRING:

- York County Community Action's Outreach Worker and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program,
- General Assistance which provides funding for emergency needs,
- Domestic violence/sexual assault resources,
- MaineHealth for prescription assistance, access to free/low-cost medical care and health insurance navigation,
- Substance use recovery support,
- Adult education,
- Fuel and utility assistance,
- Seacoast Outright's LGBTQ+ programming,
- Table of Plenty's community supper, and
- Flexible space for providers to deliver mental healthcare, medical care, legal aid, tax prep, veterans services and more.

“ Having a comprehensive assistance service model for the region is a sound and pragmatic approach to the challenge of poverty, as poverty has no respect for boundaries created by government. Addressing the challenges in a wholistic manner will impact not only the lives of those living in poverty but be far more cost-effective than treating each challenge in silos.”

*-Mike Sullivan,
Eliot Town Manager*



Mainspring: CHANGING THE SYSTEM

Mainspring is based on best practices associated with addressing poverty and strengthening individuals, families and communities. Taken together, the critical elements of the Mainspring model offer a long-term and sustainable solution to the broken system we have in place today.

Co-Location

Mainspring brings existing organizations, programs, and services together in one location for easy and streamlined access.

Centralized Intake and Assessment

A Mainspring team member will conduct a single, comprehensive intake and assessment for each household and connect them to the appropriate resources based on need.

Regional Focus

Mainspring's primary service area is the Seacoast region but is committed to assisting any individual or household who walks through our doors. Partners will collaborate under the same roof, as well as work closely with outside organizations to make and receive referrals.

Shared Data

Through a shared data collection and tracking system, we will be able to determine baseline data relative to the issues we are collectively addressing. From there, we can set goals, track progress, measure outcomes, and evaluate programs and services - both on an individual and aggregate level.

Case Management & Case Conferencing

Each household with multiple and/or complex needs will benefit from the guidance of a case manager who will coordinate care and provide the support necessary to navigate the path out of poverty. Agencies will come together regularly to touch base on shared clients and troubleshoot roadblocks to ensure efficient, effective, and collaborative service delivery.

Comprehensive Care

Addressing poverty requires addressing the many life areas that affect a person's overall wellbeing. At Mainspring, programs and services will be comprehensive, including resources for a range of ages, identities, and needs.

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\$6.3M+

Mainspring's capital campaign budget of \$6.3M covers the costs to renovate and expand the existing building at 22 Shapleigh Rd. to nearly 12,000 sq. ft. Once complete, individuals will be welcomed to a light, airy, calm space where they can easily navigate between floors and programs, feeling confident they have come to the right place to get the support they need. The Mainspring facility will be a life-changing resource for households throughout the Seacoast region.

A donation to Mainspring goes so much further than brick and mortar. Your investment in this transformational project builds a legacy of positive change for our community.

Use of Funds

Construction	\$4,260,000
Property Acquisition (Secured through ARPA funds)	\$755,000
Contingencies and Maintenance Reserve	\$467,000
Architecture and Engineering	\$319,000
Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment	\$170,000
Campaign Costs	\$160,000
Soft Costs, Fees, Misc.	\$169,000
Total	\$6,300,000

**Projections are subject to change based on variable factors including use of construction contingencies and financing charges.*

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE AN IMPACT



WAYS TO GIVE

The Mainspring Campaign accepts multi-year pledges, cash/checks, matching gifts, stocks and securities, donor advised funds, endowed gifts, in-kind support and services, and planned gifts or bequests.

Gift recognition opportunities are available. Please reach out if you're interested.

To learn more about Mainspring and follow our progress, please visit:
www.mainspringcollective.org



CONTACT:

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TO DONATE:

www.mainspringcollective.org/donate

OR MAIL TO:

Mainspring c/o Fair Tide
15 State Road, Kittery, ME 03904