

May News 2019

We have some AMAZING teachers!

This week is teacher appreciation week! We want to recognize the hard working, dedicated, and all around wonderful women who make up our teaching staff. Each year they help our students face challenges, overcome obstacles and navigate their paths toward graduation and earning their high school diplomas.

To say these women go above and beyond is an understatement. **We can't thank them enough.**

But don't just take our word for it! Read below to see what some of our current students and recent graduates have said about each of them.



Erica Gates, Passages Program Director

"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." - Breanna M.

"My teacher Erica was always AMAZING with Sophia and me. She was supportive and helpful with anything I needed. 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." - Hailey L.

Dana Fadel, Passages Teacher

"Passages and my teacher, Dana, have supported me with everything ever since I joined the program. Because of Passages, I have become proud of myself and that hasn't happened in my entire life."

- BriAnna S.

"Here I am today taking one step closer--even if it's tiny steps--to my dreams, all thanks to Wayfinder Schools. I want to

thank Katy and Dana for helping me reach my goals." - Deserea D.



Cathy Ames-Cruz, Passages Teacher

"Cathy is my 2nd mother. I don't know how else to describe her. When I was at school, she comforted me, made me feel at home. Her hugs are the best, and even though I graduated 6 years ago, I know I can still count on her to be there for me if I ever need her!" - Peyton F.

"Cathy is a mother, a friend, an inspiration to everyone that meets her. She is compassionate and honest always. Cathy opened up my eyes to the real joy of cooking and helped me learn so much about myself as a person. Her contagious laugh and spirit always brightened my day. Happy teacher appreciation week Cathy. I'm so thankful for all the time I was able to spend with you and I'll cherish it forever. Love you Momma Cathy!" - Marissa L.

"Cathy is one of the most, if not the most, caring, determined, and fabulous women I have ever met. She's a true gift, and continues to inspire and empower me in my personal life, and I only ever think of her fondly." - Serenity B.

Julia Johnston, Passages Teacher

"I am so thankful I had the opportunity to have you as my teacher. If it wasn't for you I would not have graduated and most definitely would not have applied for college. You helped me become a stronger person with your kind words and being so understanding. I admire you so much! Thank you for all you've done and do for your students!" - Alexis W.

"Julia has been helping me achieve things

to help me become more successful in my future. She's been pushing me & has always pushed me to step outside the box and fake it till I become it. I've never had a teacher like Julia and I'm super grateful to go to Wayfinder." - Katie S.



Joy Knowlton, Passages Teacher

"I would not be who I am today if it wasn't for Joy. Not only did she give me the strength to graduate high school at 17, but she also gave me the strength to come out of my tiny shell, to leave an abusive relationship, to be an all-around better person. She always knew what was wrong without me saying anything and always knew what I needed. Joy made me the person I am today and I'm forever thankful for her." - Heather B.

"My teacher, Joy, pushed me to do my best because she knew what I was capable of and just what I needed to do to pick myself back up. She definitely showed me what the meaning of support was when I felt so alone. I feel honored to be one of her first students in Passages. We grew to find a system that worked for both of us no matter what happened in the process. Joy is a very caring person and I couldn't be happier to have her as a teacher. Passages teaches you a lot about self-care because if you don't take care of yourself you won't be able to provide for your loved ones." - Deirdre G.

Fern Polsky-Hilyard, Lead Passages Teacher

"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." - Jasmine S.

"I had Fern Hilyard as my teacher. I couldn't be more happy. 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. My teacher gave me a lot of the tools to get it done which I was and still am very thankful for." - Courtney D.



Cindy Stevenson, Passages Teacher

"I'm so thankful to have Cindy Stevenson as my teacher. She's pushing me even with the stress I'm under to graduate this year. And with her support I believe I can! I will miss her dearly once I'm finished."

- Lei-Ann M.

"You are the best teacher I have ever had. You have guided me so far in life and I will forever be grateful for you. Thank you so much for making my passage experience as wonderful as it could be." - Rebecca P.

"I don't have enough good things to say about Cindy. She showed true compassion, patience, and really helped me shape my life. I never would have graduated without her. She never gave up on me." - Desiree F.

MAKE A GIFT IN HONOR OF ONE OUR TEACHERS

Save the date for our 2019 Graduations!

Class of 2019 Graduations



You are invited to the 2019 Wayfinder Schools graduation ceremonies! This year we will hold ceremonies in Machias, New Gloucester, and Rockland. Join us as we celebrate our graduates and their accomplishments!

Washington County Graduation

Monday, June 10 at 6pm
Machias Savings Bank, 4 Center St, Machias

Southern Maine Graduation

Wednesday, June 12 at 5:30pm
Opportunity Farm, 215 Gloucester Hill Rd, New Gloucester

Midcoast Graduation

Thursday, June 13 at 5:30pm
Unitarian Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland

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