

Downeast Project HOPE



Downeast Project Hope was launched in Ellsworth on September 30, 2016 and is in the process of expanding to Washington County to include Washington County Sheriff's Office, and Baileyville and Pleasant Point Police Departments. The goal of Downeast Project HOPE is to place people suffering from heroin and opiate addiction, as well as other substance use disorders, into high quality treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Downeast Project HOPE consists of the following elements:

Law Enforcement Training – Law enforcement officers throughout Washington and Hancock Counties will receive special training on addiction-related issues, to include the perspective of those in recovery. This enables officers to better interact with and assist persons suffering from addiction.

Public Education and Outreach – As officers respond to calls for service and incidents in which addiction or heroin–opiate misuse is known or suspected, the officer provides a Downeast Project HOPE flyer to the individual or family members and offers support and assistance in getting help. In addition, Healthy Acadia and Police/Sheriff Departments will use their social media presence (Facebook, Twitter etc.) to help publicize the services available through Downeast Project HOPE.

Drug Turn-in - Any person who enters a Downeast Project HOPE site and requests help under Downeast Project HOPE is allowed to voluntarily turn in heroin, opioids, needles and drug paraphernalia - without fear of arrest or charges.

Treatment and Assistance - Any person who enters a Downeast Project HOPE site and requests help for their addiction under Downeast Project HOPE is initially screened by a police officer to determine eligibility for participation in a treatment program. If they meet program eligibility requirements, they will be paired with a Downeast Project HOPE volunteer "Angel" who will guide them through the process to begin detox and recovery - including accelerated placement in rehabilitation and treatment programs whenever possible. In those instances in which a person is found ineligible to participate in such a program or a placement is not immediately available, alternative support and assistance will be offered through local community resources.

Downeast Project HOPE "Angels" are trained citizen volunteers who want to help. Some are currently in recovery from addiction and personally understand and empathize with what the program participant is experiencing. Others are civic-minded community members who wish to address the issue of addiction and help others. Still others are clinicians who wish to share their expertise through this important volunteer role.

Treatment Follow-Up - Those persons who have completed a treatment program through Downeast Project HOPE can continue to promote their recovery by maintaining a relationship with our community partners and utilizing the local support services provided.

How you can Help...

Volunteer - Downeast Project HOPE relies on volunteer "Angels" to help people who come to the police station to seek help for addiction. Our Angels provide support and comfort to program

participants and work with our Downeast Project HOPE partner treatment facilities to place them in one of dozens of treatment and rehabilitation programs around the United States as well as locally.

“Angels” receive training and instruction on the nature of addiction and how to interact with people suffering from substance use disorders, as well as Downeast Project HOPE policies and procedures.

Our “Angels” receive notification when a Downeast Project HOPE intake is occurring and can respond to assist if available.

Donate - Downeast Project HOPE relies upon donated funds, supplies, & materials to operate.

Funds

We anticipate significant funding needs to ensure that community members can access the treatment they need. Our program is modeled after the Scarborough Project HOPE initiative, where 2/3 of the people placed into treatment lack the insurance or financial resources to receive treatment on their own. Downeast Project HOPE relies upon donated funds to assist program participants in obtaining transportation to treatment programs around the country, and to cover costs of treatment, whether locally or out of state.

As the need for treatment and recovery services continues to grow, we are exploring partnering with treatment facilities to provide services for clients in need at reduced costs. Monetary donations will help further these efforts and bring treatment to those in need.

Supplies and Materials

When people come to the police station to ask for help, we anticipate that they will be tired, ill, and hungry. Our Downeast Project HOPE “Angels” seek to make them comfortable during their processing by providing snacks, drinks, and a warm blanket.

Our program participants may leave the police station to travel directly to their treatment and rehabilitation facilities. Often, they only have the clothes on their backs. We offer them personal hygiene items to sustain them until they reach their destination.

We are occasionally in need of the following items:

- Non-perishable snacks
- Bottled Water
- Travel-Size toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant, women’s personal hygiene items

For more information on volunteering, donating or questions about Downeast Project HOPE, contact:

Hancock County:

- Angel Coordinator, Denise Black, Healthy Acadia 207-667-7171 - denise@healthyacadia.org
- Law Enforcement Coord., Detective Dotty Small, Ellsworth PD 207 667-2168 dsmall@ellsworthmaine.gov

Washington County:

- Angel Coord., Terri Woodruff, Healthy Acadia 207-255-3741 - terri@healthyacadia.org
- Law Enforcement Coord., Chief Bob Fitzsimmons, Baileyville PD 427-6203 – policechief@baileyville.org
- Law Enforcement Coord, Paula Johnson-Rolfe, WC Sheriff’s Office 255-4422, admin@wcsheriffsoffice.com
- Law Enforcement Coord., Sgt Roger Newell, Pleasant Point PD, 853-6100, Sgtnewell@midmaine.com

or visit: www.facebook.com/EllsworthPD or www.healthyacadia.org