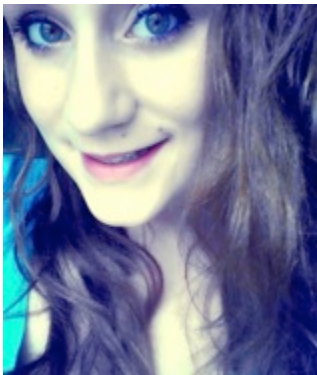




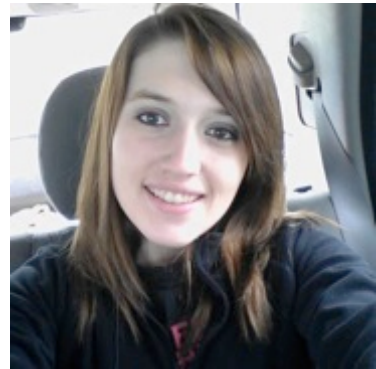
## *Passages Press - Graduation 2014*



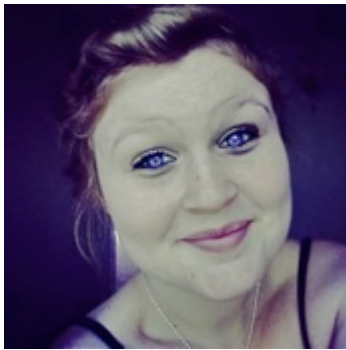
Monique Morin



Niomi Johnson



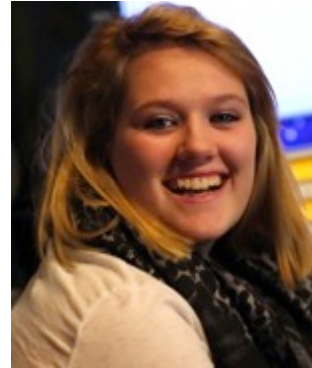
Kayla Jordan



Tasha Jarrett



Ashley Bartlett



Dakota Sprague



Aimee Barnstein



Miranda Brown



Nicole Downs

# Monique Morin



*Monique & Marissa*

During my time at Passages I have reached many goals in my life. My first teacher, Michelle Reynolds, and I got really close. She was not only a teacher, but she became a friend that I went to for help and advice for school and my own personal problems. She helped me come up with what I wanted to do for my final Passage and gave me many tips on parenting. I was and still am a young mother, so I took all the advice I could get. She pushed me through school and never gave up on me. When I moved to Bangor to be closer to the hospital, she even came to my house to do work together. We met on Skype, talked on the phone and texted. We always kept in contact and we still chat every once in a while to keep up with each other's lives.

Then Fern Hilyard came along as my new teacher and she was open-minded about my situation and helped me work on school around my own life issues. She also keeps me on my toes and makes sure I succeed in school. I asked her the other day if I could skip another photo shoot that I had planned for my final and she simply said, "No, you push hard. I want you to work for this." I was not mad. I am glad she was honest and wants to see me

June 2014

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push myself. Cora also is always contacting me to make sure I am doing my work.

Without these three women pushing me I would probably have given up. I am now going to walk down that aisle in front of my little girl to receive my diploma in front of my close family and friends and prove everyone wrong who has doubted me and put me down for being a teen mother. I would not change a thing about my past. I have a beautiful little girl, a loving man in my life, and a good job to support my family. There is nothing more important than that.

Thank you to the faculty of Passages for making graduation possible for me. I did not think I could do this when I found out at 16 I was having a high-risk pregnancy and had to leave high school. You made it possible and for that I am grateful. Thank you again. Congrats to the class of 2014 and good luck to you and all your families.

## My Photography Passage



*"Jonesport"*

*Monique Morin*

Photography-wise, I learned one huge thing - I love a high saturation, but it tends to change the skin tone to a mild orange. To stop it I have to upload the pictures onto iPhoto

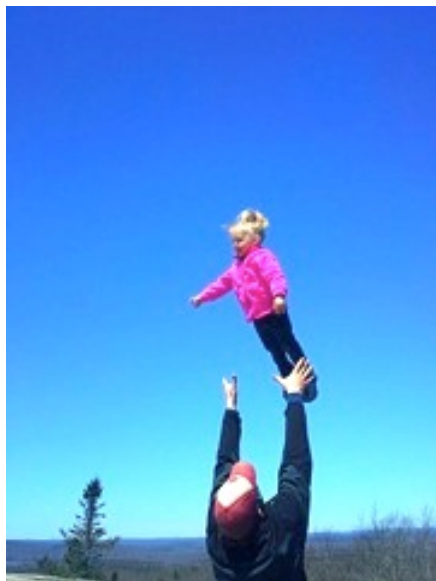
and click the button on that program that says, "Avoid changing skin tones!" After I do that I need to upload the photos into Picasa or Photoshop and continue my editing there.

I learned new angles and better editing skills from Steven Grey and Joslyn Adams. I had a wonderful experience in school. When I got my feedback from Joslyn, it warmed my heart to hear that I can capture a good photo. She talked about how I was good with the children and captured natural smiles. I was honored!

My last session, the session I did especially for my presentation, was so hard. Actually, it was the hardest shoot I had to do, because the light was not in my favor at all and the kid was not cooperating with his mother or me. I ended up having to bribe Isaiah with my phone to get him to smile. The editing part was also tough. I had to lower the exposure and boost the sharpness to get better detail and then heighten the saturation and change its colors. At the end of the day I was proud of my work!

I plan on keeping up with my photography and slowly turn it into a business, but right now I will take it slow and work on my busy life with my little toddler.

Thank you Cora and Fern, you made this diploma possible for me, and you changed my life. You two are like family. Thank you.



June 2014

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## Niomi Johnson



*Niomi & Succès*

My experience in Passages has been a long road. It could be a beautiful summer day or a bumpy, old, lost, back road. I have realized a lot during this program. It was not just a matter of "getting it over with." I have enjoyed my time here. I started off in the program at a very low point in my life. I have been through hell and back while being in the program. I have been a young lover, a young mother and a student. Now I am an independent, strong woman with a beautiful little girl, and I am graduating.

I was blessed with the best teacher, counselor and friend. My teacher has helped me realize things about myself; she has showed me that there is a better life for me and my daughter, that I know now I deserve. I can tell that this isn't "just a job" for her. She actually took an interest in who I really am as a person. That made me feel that if she cares enough to know who I am and takes the time to be helping me on my way, I should give back 100% too.

I have learned; I have taught; I have listened; I have spoken; I have become me with the help of Fern. I will miss every Thursday at three having conversations of wisdom and learning, not just about school, but about life. It has been a successful journey that isn't



ending with graduation. It is helping me to begin to form a new and improved me.

## My Passage: Bully Awareness



My Passage was a long, powerful journey. My teacher said it would have to be something that I am really passionate about, and I suggested a few things here and there, thinking about what I would want to do for my Passage. Finally, I said I am passionate about bully awareness. I figured I could do a fair at the high school I used to go to about this issue. It took a lot of hard thoughts and willpower. I had to get in contact with a lot of people, have meetings with the principal at the high school where I had the fair and get in contact with people willing to help at the fair. At first I didn't really think about how hard it would be to accomplish this huge project. I had to do a lot of research on all different types of bullying, and I chose which ones I thought would be most beneficial to the school. I had to make all the posters, and luckily, my mom helped by funding for extras, such as little gifts for students, tee-shirts for my staff, name tags and more.

When the fair actually happened, I was quite nervous, but had God, faith and my staff backing me up, which helped me get through that day. It was an overwhelming experience. I first had the whole school get into groups for the inspirational games. My group of students did well with the game I had set up. Everyone said something that was important to each of one of them or something that bothered them.

June 2014

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Next, the school played the "Power Shuffle." It was an inspiring moment for myself. I saw a look on some of the students' faces that indicated it really hit them.

After giving out items (anti-bully pins, bracelets, etc.), I had small groups of students go into different rooms. I had a room about bullying in general, suicide prevention, autism awareness, LGBTQ, & the chief of police in Eastport came to talk about the laws and what can happen if bullying gets out of hand.

After the fair I walked over to shake the principal's hand and he could not stop smiling because he was so happy with my project. He said that a few students came up to him during the fair and were very moved by what I was doing. I was in shock, but very pleased with it.

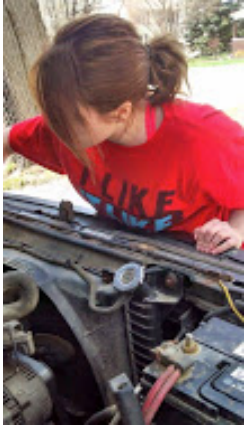
## Kayla Jordan



Kayla & Lillyanna

My experience in Passages has helped me out a lot. It has helped me get my schooling done while I was pregnant, and after I had my baby I could attend to my kid while doing my work. One time we went swimming at the college with Passages. We had a ball. I like that the Passages program is lenient and isn't judgmental about you being pregnant like

high school was. Now I am able to graduate. I'm able to go to college. Passages has helped me make a future for me and my daughter. I am very grateful. Thank you!



*Kayla working on her Passage*

## Tasha Jarrett



*Parker & Tasha with Bentley & Hunter*

My experience in the Passages program was awesome. I had some very great teachers and met some very great people. Passages allowed me to accomplish things that would have been much harder in a public school. I got my act together and finished all my schooling in time to graduate the same year my class is graduating. I feel very happy and proud to be getting my diploma, not only for myself, but for my children. I know that I've accomplished great things and can now move on to the next chapter of my life with my family by my side as always.

June 2014

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## Creating a Passages Scrapbook

My Passage Project was a photo shoot of as many Passages students together in one day as possible. I took photos of each mother and child together and of all the mothers and their children as a group. The last part of my project was a scrapbook for the teachers, Fern and Cora, of the photo group shot and each mother and child and their favorite mother and child quote.

I thought the photo shoot went well. I had expected chaos and was so surprised at how well girls of my age can take care of their children. I would have liked the photo shoot to be outside, but it was a rainy day, so we did it inside. I have pros and cons about using the lighting. The pictures came out well, but the lights were hot.

I really enjoyed putting the scrapbook together; it was fun. The day I showed Cora and Fern the scrapbook I put together was nice. My support team was my mom and Aunt Stacy. Mom took behind the scenes photos and they each were there to hold my babies when I needed them.

## Ashley Bartlett



*Ashley & Jazmyn*

Before I got into the Passages program I was a high school dropout. I struggled a lot in regular high school and didn't learn anything. Well, when I heard about the Passages program, I was excited. I got in and learned a lot more. This is a great program because the teachers work around your schedule and you do your work on your own. Now I'm graduating from high school because of this program.



## Job Shadowing in the W.I.C.U.

I job shadowed in the Women and Infants Care Unit; I learned so much. Back in 1987 the starting pay for a registered nurse was \$8.75 per hour and now it's around \$20.00. While I was job shadowing I got to see a baby born, which was amazing, and a circumcision done, which was nasty. The nurses in the W.I.C.U are amazing - they're great with their patients. They enjoy what they do for work.

What I liked about job shadowing in the W.I.C.U is that the R.N.s were so great with the mothers after they had their babies and during labor. They wait on the mothers if they need anything; they are calm, even with mothers who don't care about their babies. While I was watching a baby born, I thought it was going to be so nasty, but it's not. The nurses would check the baby's heartbeat every five minutes to make sure the baby isn't under stress. I got to watch Dr. Newsom break the amniotic sac. It looked like a hook that they stick in the vagina. Once they get ahold of the sac, they tug and then it's a waiting period.

A lot of things have changed in a year in the W.I.C.U. They now have a thing called postpartum appointments, which is when mommy and baby go back for a checkup two days after the baby goes home. They do not do an episiotomy for the most part; they let women tear unless it's an emergency. They also stopped having the parent be in the room when they do a circumcision.

What I didn't like about job shadowing was that some of the nurses are kind of rough with the babies. Also, some of the nurses weren't happy because they couldn't get the help they needed when they wanted it because they were understaffed. I didn't like watching the circumcision and see the baby in pain, but other than that, it wasn't bad.

Why I think this would be good for me is because I love babies and I feel like I could do just as good a job as other nurses. I would like to go get my L.P.N. degree and work with babies and mothers. I feel like I could make mothers feel comfortable while in labor and after having a child.

June 2014

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## Dakota Sprague



*Dakota & Emma*

When I first found out I was pregnant I was scared; I had so many things to worry about and one big thing was my education. A friend had told me about Passages, so I applied and waited. Before I knew it, I had a baby, and I was out of school for a week and was freaking out because I knew it was going to be hard to catch up on all the work I missed, especially with a baby! I got a phone call and began home schooling with Passages. Passages didn't just give me a second chance at an education, but it opened me up to so many opportunities I never would have dreamed of. One thing I absolutely love about the program is that they continue to push you as hard as they can, not with just schoolwork, but as a person.

A special thanks to my teacher who has been like a second mother to me and has really helped me straighten my life out and has taught me not everything is about everybody else. I never imagined that I would be walking with my cap and gown receiving my diploma. I can now continue on and make a better future for my daughter and me.

## My Passage: Inspiring Others

When I first began my Passage, I was really stressed out. I was giving inspirational speeches about my life. I was mainly stressed because I have always been an extremely shy person, and every time I would give a speech I'd have a knot in my stomach. After the second speech, I lost that feeling and just became nervous about messing up! After my Passage was done, I came completely out of my shell and opened up, it just felt so natural. After giving my speeches, I realized how many people's lives I touched and that was one of the best feelings. My Passage really opened up the person I truly am, which is definitely not shy.

### Beautiful Emma

*A lullaby by Dakota Sprague*

Beautiful Emma, beautiful Emma  
Laugh eyes and smile  
Filled with adventure

Beautiful Emma, beautiful Emma  
Be who you want to be  
Even a fashion diva  
Walking a Chihuahua.

Beautiful Emma, beautiful Emma  
Shine.

## Aimee Barnstein



Aimee & Kaidyn

My journey through Passages was nothing like I expected. I expected it to be the

June 2014

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hardest thing to accomplish, especially with a baby. But with the support of my teacher Erica and my family, it was not easy, but easier than I expected. There wasn't a day that I wasn't wishing to be back in public school, so that I wasn't getting so off on my schoolwork and getting lazy about it. I don't think I have a single bad thing to say about Passages. Passages is my lifesaver and my door to my future. I don't think that any teen mom would be able to do so much in life without Passages, because I couldn't imagine completing public high school with a baby.

There is so much that Passages lets you experience that you can't in public school. The workshops are wonderful and so helpful when you are like me and need a day out of the house. I have gotten close with most of the moms in Passages, and I have made some really good, dependable friends and future playdates for Kaidyn. When I look into Kaidyn's happy, smiling face I see so much in his future, and because of Passages, I can give him so much more for his future.

Passages has taught me that you don't have to give up, and you don't have to drop out just because you have a baby. Towards the end of the school year I didn't think I could complete the work I needed to do before the deadline to start the Passage. I started to work less and care less about doing my schoolwork, and then I realized this is the year I was supposed to graduate and that all my classmates were going to graduate. I wanted to graduate on time more than anything. So I got started and worked through my schoolwork like a madwoman. Before I knew it, I was getting ready to start my Passage. My time doing my Passage has been great and exciting. I really appreciate everyone who takes their time to help out teen parents and to understand us.

### Because of My Mom

My mom had me at only 16 years old. My father, like a lot of teenage boys, left when she told him that she was pregnant. She didn't have much support from her parents, either, and they refused to help her out with me so

she could finish school, so she dropped out her sophomore year. Because she had dropped out, her parents kicked her out. Doesn't make much sense to me, but I guess it did to them.

After she was kicked out she went to Biddeford to a home for young moms and pregnant girls. She had me at the hospital in Biddeford and stayed with me at the home for a while. At some point she was taken in by someone named Cindy who helped her to get back on her feet.

My mom ended up having a few other children as she got older. I have seen her struggle to make sure we had a roof over our heads, food in our stomachs, clothing for school, and every other essential. She dealt with us and raised us the best she could. And I never really took the time to appreciate her for the hard work she did all alone for us three kids. She worked just to be broke because all her money went to us three.

Because of watching my mom struggle, when I got pregnant I wanted to do everything in my power to make it through high school, get my diploma, and get a good paying job. So I called Passages at the end of my junior year and I started the September of my senior year. And guess what? I'm graduating on time and with some of the girls I went to my high school with. I plan to go to Capilo's or apprentice to become a nail tech. Right now I am working at Athen's part time and getting my license in August. It is a lot to juggle being a young mom, but I am determined to get it all done because of my mom.

## I Will Always Love You

*A lullaby to Kaidyn by Aimee Barnstein*

Stay true to yourself  
Keep on smiling  
Keep on laughing  
'til the end of the day  
as the sun goes away  
the light is slowly fadin'  
but I'll always love you Kaidyn.

## Miranda Brown



Miranda & Eliyanna



Eliyanna & Emonie

My name is Miranda Brown and I'm 17 years old. I have two kids – a boy and a girl named Eliyanna and Emonie. Yes, I'm young, but that's why I love the Passages program at the Wayfinder Schools. I can honestly say that if you're young with kids, don't let that be an excuse for not finishing school because if I can do it, then anyone else can do it, too.

Another reason why I love this program is I learned things that I didn't know, like spelling, correct grammar and other things, like having fun with your kids while making meals. I liked hanging out with other young teens in the program at workshops where we got to know each other and then started having play dates.

The best part about being in Passages was getting my education with two kids and learning how to be a better mother and how to handle things better. I also loved meeting new people like Amina, Kelsey and Dylan. I really enjoyed my time in this school and I wish I could have started high school at Passages, but I didn't have my kids that young – which is good. I love you, Katy, for being my teacher and being hard on me and making sure I accomplished my goals. J., I love you so much. Another big thanks to Miss Martha for accepting me as a student – I really appreciate it. I love you, Passages!!



# Nicole Downs



Nicole & Max

During my journey in Passages I have come a long way. It has been challenging, strengthening and informative. I have many thanks to Passages for working around my daughter's death and being there when I was ready to return. Although it was very hard to go back, I knew that I needed my diploma to be successful later in life, so I went into the program with full force.

I have loved my journey with Passages because it has given me an opportunity to achieve so much more than I felt I could in regular high school! I never had to stress about how I would get to school every day, or whether my son was in good caring, nurturing hands. I never had to worry about drawing attention to myself by asking teachers questions everyone around me seemed to know. Passages is great for any mom, but especially a mom who wants to have special bonding time with her children. Passages also is a great program for someone who wants to step out of their shell. The teachers have great opportunities on hand to strengthen their students in any way they can.

Graduating Passages feels like I climbed a huge mountain and now that I am finally at the top I have so many opportunities and so many paths I can take. I am excited to venture out and follow my dreams. Thank you Passages for everything - every opportunity, every caring hand, every push to get through. I am looking forward to helping out within the next couple of years and doing my part in helping students have the same opportunity I have had.

June 2014

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## My Passage: Pricing My Wares

Through my adventures in price research I have learned that pricing is one of the hardest parts of owning your own business. This is because if you charge too much, it will not be successful, but if you don't charge enough you will not be valued for your time and work. As I read more articles I found that many people price things by doubling what they pay for products. I have also read about people comparing pricing, which is looking online, finding someone with the same skill as you, and pricing about the same or a little less for competitive pricing.

When I decided to bring my prices up I looked around etsy. I soon realized what my letters could go for and I upped the price without matching etsy prices. I priced them a couple dollars cheaper, so I am able to say I have the cheapest letters around.

I also learned how to prepare for an art show. It begins with being sure to do an art show locally. This saves you money on gas, hotel expenses, etc. Also, I learned about booth rentals, which can range from \$20-\$500+. The most informative thing I have learned is to NOT change prices a lot. This makes customers think you are dishonest. If deciding to drop the price it is good to say, "Due to availability of certain items, prices are subject to change." In another article I read pricing too low can discourage customers, because it makes them think your product is cheap. A good tip I learned is minimum wage jobs are for people who have an easy job. A craft job is not always a job a customer can do, so you would charge roughly \$10 an hour unless you're experienced, then you would charge close to \$20 an hour. Then after calculating all that, you double what you have calculated and double again for retail.

In conclusion, I have been under pricing my work and I have found many ways and explanations on how to figure out a good, fitting price range for all my hard work. I have raised my prices and when I am judged on how high my prices are I feel like I would have a good explanation on how I calculated them.