

Live United

More than ten years ago, Candace and her then young daughter had come to Maine to start a new life for themselves. The promise of a job and housing fell through and they found themselves in need of emergency shelter. The Tedford Shelter put them up at a local motel as there was no family shelter at that time. Candace also found help at the Brunswick Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen, now Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program. She soon was able to start a new job at Shop and Save using her skills as a cake decorator.

Of those early days in Maine Candace says: *“The staff from Tedford made me feel like I wasn’t alone. The volunteers at the soup kitchen made sure I was comfortable and felt deserving of this assistance, not embarrassed or ashamed. During this time I began volunteering with the food pantry and soup kitchen to help give back.”*

After living out of state for several years, last year Candace decided to move back to Maine to be near her daughter and grandchildren. She saw an ad and was hired for a job at Tedford Housing working at the adult shelter. She is so pleased to be helping people to find more stability in their lives, in the way she was helped so long ago.

“It’s amazing how quickly everything can fall apart. I’m grateful every day to be here now. I have not forgotten the compassion and guidance that I received back in 1995 from the staff at Tedford and from the community in general. I was made very, very welcome on many different levels. The staff at Tedford, the volunteers at the soup kitchen, and the United Way were the resources I used back then. They made a real difference in my life and the life of my daughter.”

Candace strives to **LIVE UNITED** by making a difference in other people’s lives, helping families and individuals stabilize their lives and get back on a positive track.