



**WITH CATHERINE INGRAHAM
PROJECT COORDINATOR
Thinking about the Future of
Newry, Bethel, Greenwood and Woodstock**

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.” Alan Lakein



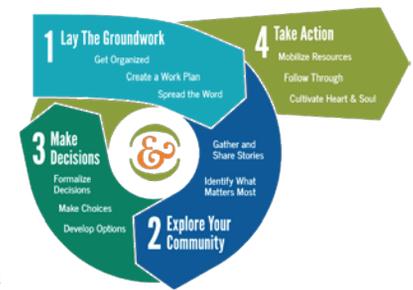
**ORTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

The Orton Family Foundation was created in Vermont in 1995 to focus on building stronger, healthier and more economically vibrant small cities and towns across America. For more than a decade Orton worked with small towns all over the country to design a community development model that harnesses local knowledge to improve public decision-making, create a shared sense of belonging, and ultimately to strengthen the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of a community. That work resulted in a step-by-step process entitled Community Heart & Soul® that sponsors action on a local level to generate positive change which is resident-driven, and recognizes the value in the unique character of each place and the deep emotional connection of the people who live there. Mahoosuc Heart & Soul has come to the Bethel area to do this work. By identifying what’s possible and inspiring hope and aspiration, Mahoosuc H&S is actively seeking the collective wisdom of all residents, including those whose voices are sometimes neglected.

Newry, Bethel, Greenwood and Woodstock are now at the beginning of a 4-Phase 2-Year Program

PHASE 1:

LAY THE GROUNDWORK: Build a solid foundation by identifying partners and leaders, spreading the word and developing a road map for successful Heart & Soul community engagement.



PHASE 2:

EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY:

Gather residents’ stories and build relationships across divides.

Identify what matters most, which leads to creation of Heart & Soul Statements. Examine how Statements are affected by community trends and conditions.

PHASE 3:

MAKE DECISIONS:

Guided by Heart & Soul Statements, identify options for the future and base decisions on what matters most to everyone and best enhances and preserves the community’s “Heart & Soul.”

PHASE 4:

TAKE ACTION:

Partners and residents work together to take action and ownership. Heart & Soul Statements are applied to future decision-making and become part of the fabric of the community.

Nine other Maine towns completed or are currently participating in the H&S project. Biddeford was hollowed out after mill closures — plagued with abandoned buildings and broken windows — leaving a downtrodden feel to it’s downtown area. With the help of Heart & Soul, a recycling center created over 60 jobs and a healthy new tax flow to the town. Some of the old mill area has been converted into housing for students from the University of New England, as well as professional offices, condominiums and healthy affordable spaces — refurbishing an old industrial Maine city and attracting an influx of vibrant young professionals. Gardiner and Damariscotta recently finished the project, Bucksport is right in the middle and Rockland is just getting started.



Catherine Ingraham
PROJECT COORDINATOR

Cat Ingraham grew up in the Saco area and worked out west for the US park service before returning to Maine and enrolling at the University of Maine/Farmington. Cat graduated from UMF in 2013 with a degree in Environmental Planning and Policy, and a focus on Economics. She was aware of the Heart & Soul Program from her college courses and applied to be a Heart & Soul Project Coordinator.

Now is the time for a well-organized, comprehensive overview to promote a deeper consideration of what is important to our quality of life and what we, as a community, want for our future. How will we leverage the local assets of people and places — the treasures of beautiful ponds, rivers, mountains and streams — to ensure a prosperous future for our area and our families? Thanks to Mahoosuc Heart & Soul for giving us the opportunity to help plan for our futures.



FMI and to get involved contact Cat at cat@mahoosuchearandsoul.org, or call 207-590-0541 and visit www.mahoosuchearandsoul.org

What Cat hears frequently as she crosses from Phase 1 to Phase 2 is that many of us live here for the same reasons: the quality of life, the sense of community and the outdoor activities available here in the Bethel area — hiking, climbing, skiing, and so much more.

OTHER MAINE HEART AND SOUL PROJECTS

- Biddeford, Gardiner and Damariscotta have completed two-year projects and are seeing how inclusion and positive disruption works over the long haul.
- Bucksport residents have their sleeves rolled up and are in the middle of a project to reinvent the town. (Bucksport lost 44% of its tax base when the paper mill closed in 2014.)
- Bethel, Newry, Greenwood and Woodstock are working together to tackle what it means to be less reliant on traditional industry and more reliant on a tourism-driven economy.
- Rockland is just starting out, looking at what they love about where they live and finding ways to reach everyone and involve them in planning the future.



Heart & Soul in Biddeford



Heart & Soul in Rockland



Heart & Soul in Gardiner