

# Fair Tide expands area of services

*12 Rochester families, formerly homeless, given tools for better life*

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KITTERY, Maine — An organization that helps formerly homeless residents make the switch to a stable home is undergoing a positive transition of its own.

Fair Tide Executive Director Joseph Galli said the nonprofit organization has maintained five apartments in a home near downtown Kittery for formerly homeless people in the area. They can stay at the building for two years while Fair Tide provides resources and services to help them become self-sufficient and find permanent housing. In a partnership with the Portsmouth-based nonprofit, low-income housing developer The Housing Partnership, Fair Tide will now provide those same kinds of services to 12 additional families in Rochester.

The move was announced at a Fair Tide meeting Monday night with The Housing Partnership Executive Director Marty Chapman in attendance, according to Galli, and represents an exciting opportunity for the organization. The 12 families, who were once homeless and are dealing with some kind of medical or physical disability, live between four homes in Rochester and will have access to the educational programs and services already provided in Kittery.

"This is totally consistent with the plan we had," he said.

As Fair Tide depends entirely on donations and grants to keep going, Galli said it's helpful that a federal Housing and Urban Development grant received by **The Housing Partnership** is paying the cost of the four family homes and Fair Tide's involvement.

The goal in recent years had been to try to come up with a long-term plan to expand those services by purchasing an additional house. With the new announcement, Galli said that remains a goal for Fair Tide, but one that will have to be looked at more over the long term as the organization moves ahead with its Kittery and Rochester work.

And the effort, which began in early July, has been "very positively received" thus far.

"It's going great," Galli said. "Part of that is because it's so close to what we're doing on the Kittery property."

According to Galli, both organizations are also part of a United Way work group focused on ending homelessness in the region.

Fair Tide will hold its sixth annual auction on Nov. 20 at Kittery Estates and is seeking donations. Visit [www.fairtide.org](http://www.fairtide.org).