

## **Endorsing Transitional Housing**

**by Kristen Burkholder, Morrill**

I write to heartily endorse the newly formed Midcoast Maine Homeless Coalition and the proposal they put forth on Jan. 7 at Belfast City Council, to create transitional housing at the United Methodist Church on Mill Lane in East Belfast.

Housing insecurity is a real and growing problem in the Belfast area. Everyone is affected: children, teens, families, unemployed and employed persons alike. Especially of concern are the families who are seeking permanent housing but have no place to go until they find it.

Transitional housing is not a shelter, as defined by HUD, it is temporary housing with supportive services with the goal of interim stability and eventual permanent housing. MMHC's proposal focuses on the homeless families in our community. The people on its board are a beautiful cross-pollination of local churches and organizations with decades of experience caring for the marginalized in and around our city.

This temporary housing is an idea whose time has come. We need to do something here in Waldo County. I urge the city council and planning board to help make this idea a reality.