Giving the Homeless Population a Chance to Become Healthier:
An Initial Needs Assessment of the Homeless Population of Portland, Maine

Doctor of Physical Therapy Candidates: Annarea Andresen, Oana Butnarasu, Jayme Keith, Sarah Kou, Dana McCoy, Stephanie Sheehan, Jessica Takatsuki
Master of Public Health Candidates: Zoe Hull, Ian Imbert
Master of Occupational Therapy Candidates: Suzanne Dunn, Tara Lonnerman, Marissa Prezzano
Doctor of Osteopathy Candidate: Catherine Bixby

Stakeholders interviewed:
- Community Policing Coordinator
- Homeless Voices for Justice
- Milestone Foundation
- Opportunity Alliance
- Portland Community Health Center
- Portland Housing Authority
- Portland Police Department
- Portland Public Library
- Preble St. Resource Center
- Stepping Stones

Summary of the greatest needs of the Homeless gathered from stakeholder interviews
- Housing
- Substance Abuse Services
- Mental Health Services
- Case Management
- Funding
- Job Opportunities
- Women's Services
- Dental
- General Health Care
- Livable Minimum Wage
- Smoking Cessation
- Better Locations for Services
- Skill Development Services
- Handicap Accessibility

Homeless Voices for Justice Advocates, Jeff and Jim, and Joseph McNally from Milestone all provided invaluable insight into the needs of the Homeless and those that served them.

[The greatest unmet needs of the homeless population:]
"Philosophically: empathy. I don’t think anyone sets out with a life goal to be homeless. But we have an incredible culture of blame and shame.” Paul Golding, Stepping Stones.

Through the future programs developed from the needs assessment, we aim to empower UNE health professionals with cultural sensitivity and the social responsibility to improve the health and wellness of those that are underserved in our communities and those that serve them.