

Family Ties



Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

Volume 14 Number 5




Newsletter

May 2011


May is National Foster Care Month


You Can Make a Lifetime of Change for a Young Person in Foster Care and here are some ways to do just that:

If you only have a few minutes...


-  Learn the facts about foster care and gain a better understanding of the needs of those touched by this issue
-  Be inspired to make a difference! Read more about former foster children from all walks of life who are enjoying positive, accomplished adult lives thanks to the relationships they shared with caring adults
-  Wear a blue ribbon during May in support of National Foster Care Month. Attend a local ribbon-tying ceremony to advocate on behalf of the children in foster care

If you only have a few hours...

-  Volunteer with a local foster care program to provide personal, social and academic enrichment opportunities for youth in your community

-  Recognize a person or organization helping foster youth in your community. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in praise of someone making a difference in the life of a child in foster care.


This month's Family Ties:

-  Are you a young person who wants to support other kids? Join a youth-led effort to raise funds and public awareness in your community to benefit kids in foster care and to fight child abuse and neglect


Squeaky Wheels Adventure 2

If you have a few weeks...

Adoption Announcement 2

-  Become a licensed respite care provider as a way of providing support to foster families in your neighborhood


Casey Family Services Announcement 2

-  Learn how to help a youth in foster care explore career options, acquire new job skills and find employment or a resume-building internship. Contact the Independent Living Program in your area or visit any of the links below to find more information and how to get involved


AFFM Toolbar 2

If you have more time...


Upcoming Trainings 3

-  Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent. Caring families are especially needed for older youth, siblings and children with special needs

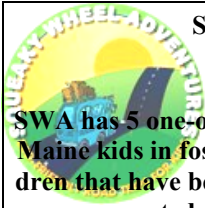
Kinship Corner 3

-  Mentor a young person. Research shows that children and youth with mentors earn higher grades and improve their relationships with friends and families

Fort Knox Reminder 4

-  Stay informed year-round. Become a member of the National Foster Care Coalition and join leading child welfare agencies and individuals across the country in improving the lives of youth in foster care

To explore more opportunities or for more information visit www.fostercaremonth.org



**Squeaky Wheel Adventures
2011 Summer Schedule**

SWA has 5 one-of-a-kind road trips this summer offered to Maine kids in foster care, other out-of-home care and children that have been adopted that utilizes their custom converted eco-friendly 1963 40' transit bus.

2011 Trips

- Wild Safari/4-Day Trip-June 29-July 2
Arethusa Falls, Off Road Safari, Canobie Lake Amusement Park
- The Big Apple/5 Day Trip-July 5-9
New York City, Statue of Liberty, Times Square, Broadway Show, Water Country Water Park
- On the Move/3 Day Trip July 12-14
Climb Jockey Cap, Attitash Mountain Resort, Canoe on Saco River
- New England Fun/ 5 Day Trip July 18-22
Horseback riding, Ben & Jerry's Factory, Boat ride on Lake Champlain, Quechee Gorge, Dinosaur tracks, Six Flags Amusement Park
- Sturdivant Island & Boston/4 Day Trip August 1-4
Camp & visit Sturdivan Island, Boston, Red Sox Game, Franklin Zoo, Salisbury Beach

Helps support AFFM WITHOUT having to write a check or sell a product!
Download AFFM's toolbar at:

<http://www.benefitbar.com/benefitbar/subscribe/toolbar.php?toolbarId=10896>

For more information contact Errol Grant @ egra56@hotmail.com or call 207-852-8259

Adoption Announcement

Kenny and Diane Laporte are excited to announce the adoption of 3 year old, Kooper Laporte! He is welcomed by two older sisters



Materials by Adam Robe, this years keynote speaker at AFFM's Conference: Changing Times, Improving Heart and Mind

Are now available at AFFM!

- *Meeting my CASA*
- *Wanting to Belong*
- *Moving to Another Foster Home*
- *Robbie's Trail through Foster Care*
- *Robbie's Trail through Open Adoption*
- *Robbie's Trail through Adoption*

Casey Family Services Announces Openings

Services for Families Formed through Adoption and Guardianship in Maine

Now accepting referrals for Targeted Case Management and Outpatient Counseling

In Bangor contact: Bonny Dodson

bdodson@caseyfamilyservices.org

207.973.2491

866.662.2739 Toll Free

In Portland contact: Heather Dunbar

hdunbar@caseyfamilyservices.org

207.772.4110

800.559.1115 Toll Free

Casey Family Services has over 10 years of experience working with post adoptive and guardianship families. Our Masters-level staff have advanced training and experience in adoption, guardianship and trauma-related issues.

Targeted Case Management

- Offered to children adopted from the child welfare system or in permanency guardianship through the Maine court system.
- Assessment, service planning, connections to community supports, and oversight of service delivery for children with an emphasis on supporting the whole family.
- Children must be enrolled in MaineCare .

Outpatient Counseling

- For children adopted through Maine's child welfare system, in a guardianship situation, or in a family with a plan to adopt.
- Casey's clinicians are trained in parent-child therapy as well as trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, an effective treatment for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or loss.
- MaineCare accepted.



THE DIRECT SERVICE AGENCY OF
THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Upcoming Trainings

Infant Mental Health and Trauma

Facilitated by Beth Walsh

Learn about the importance of healthy attachment to infant development, brain development, disruptions in development and how to repair them.

Saturday, June 11th, 2011
9:30am-11:30am

Location: Community Health & Counseling Services 42 Cedar Street Conference Room #4 Bangor, Maine

2 Credit Hours available to Foster Parents!

Space is limited, sorry no childcare available

Please RSVP to Debbie Rossignol at 973-2491 or e-mail drossignol@caseyfamilyservices.org by June 8th

Self Care for Dads

Facilitated by Tom Lynn

The focus of this training will be on common stresses involved with being a father figure, as well as a discussion of ways to address stress including possible solutions.

Wednesday, June 1st, 2011
6:30am-8:30pm

Location: Community Health & Counseling Services 42 Cedar Street Conference Room #4 Bangor, Maine

2 Credit Hours available to Foster Parents!

Space is limited, sorry no childcare available

Please RSVP to Debbie Rossignol at 973-2491 or e-mail drossignol@caseyfamilyservices.org by May 27th

Save the Date:

17th Annual Child Welfare Conference
Sponsored by: The Maine Citizens Review Panel

Hot Topics in Child Welfare
Hot Topics: Signs of Physical Abuse, Ethics, Medical Child Abuse, Investigation & Prosecution, Signs of Safety, Child Abuse Fatality

June 23, 2011
Registration begins at 8:00 am

Wells Conference Center, The University of Maine Orono

Keynote: Vincent J. Palusci, M.D., M.S.

Also featuring:

Robert Madden Esq., LCSW

Theresa M. Covington, MPH

Angela Downes, Senior Attorney, National District Attorney's Association

Kinship

www.grandfamilies.org

C The Grand families State Law and Policy Resource Center is a collaboration of Casey Family Programs, the ABA Center on Children and the Law, and Generations United. It serves as a national legal resource in support of grand families both within and outside the child welfare system.

O This website consists of a searchable database of laws and legislation; summaries and comparisons of laws and legislation for legal topic areas, including practical implementation and advocacy ideas; personal stories and other relevant resources and publications

R The easy-to-use searchable database of laws and legislation allows for a quick search of the laws and legislation for all states and the District of Columbia that address common legal questions surrounding relative care giving. Database topics include:



Subsidized guardianship
Adoption
Care and Custody
Fostering Connections Act
Housing
Kinship navigator programs
Financial Assistance
Relative Foster Care
National Family Caregivers Support Programs
Education



Corner

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.
294 Center Street, Unit 1 — Old Town, ME 04468

Phone: 1-800-833-9786 or (207) 827-2331
Fax: (207) 827-1974
On the Web: www.affm.net
E-Mail: info@affm.net

Affiliated With:
The North American Council on Adoptable Children
National Foster Parent Association

FAMILY TIES
THE NEWSLETTER OF ADOPTIVE & FOSTER FAMILIES OF MAINE, INC
PUBLISHED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.
PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMILY TIES, AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OLD TOWN, ME
PERMIT NO. 65**

**SIGN UP FOR ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILIES OF
MAINE'S 6TH ANNUAL EVENT:**

FOSTER FAMILY DAY AT THE FORT

MAY 21, 2011

11:00am-4:00pm

FORT KNOX

PROSPECT, MAINE

To Sign up call the office at 1-800-833-9786