



Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

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Newsletter

June & July 2011

One Father's Story: The Baseball Game

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question.



"When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes, in the way other people treat that child." Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and, getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, would the boys let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

This Month's Family Ties

Conference Recap

2

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact.

Thank You

3

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and turned and threw the ball on a high arc to right field, far beyond the reach of the first baseman.

Fort Knox Recap

4

Announcements

5

Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled; everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" By the time Shay rounded first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Shay ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases toward home.

Kinship Corner

5

Kids License Plate

6

Borders Support Group

6

Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on to the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

Adoption Announcements

7

Casey Family Services Announcement

7

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

AFFM would like to wish all Resource Family fathers a Happy Father's Day on June 19th!

AFFM'S 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011 CHANGING TIMES, IMPROVING HEART AND MIND

2011 Outstanding Resource Family of the Year:



District 1: Marion & Brian Pelletier



District 2: Gene Villacci & Helena Hollauer



District 3: Debbie & Greg Hallowell



District 4: Linda & Roger Ryan



District 5: Lori & Kevin Norris



District 5 (Augusta): Annmarie Fitzpatrick



District 6: Michelle & Kevin Buttoli



District 7: Belinda & Lawrence Smith



District 8: Stephanie & Kim Silver



Kinship Advocate of the year: Barbara Kates



Licensing Worker: Paula Rytky



Adoption Advocate: Phil DuBois



Guardian Ad Litem: Christopher Dilworth



Child Advocate: Suzanna Ford



Friends of Tamarack: Mary Higgin & Mary Henderson



Child Advocate: Penny Dillingham



**Private Agency Assistant Director:
Jo Bradeen**



**Legislative Advocate: Senator Richard
Rosen (Award accepted by Representa-**



**Community Organization: Leon
Seymour & Friends of Fort Knox**



**Child Protective Worker: Maryann
Boyle**

Also awarded for Children's Services Worker of the Year, Duane Higgins and Assistant Program Administrator of the year, Sheri Barghi.

The Black Bear Inn in Orono, ME hosted AFFM's 13th Annual Training Conference on April 29th and 30th. Resource Families and professionals attended the conference and took part in workshops that addressed issues of adoption tax credit, collaborating with birth parents, kids and the internet, behavior breakdown, allegation support, as well as the challenges of aging out of foster care and the emotional impact of foster care presented by the keynote speaker, Adam Robe. Thank you to all who attended and contributed, a special thank you to Debbie Irish for her selfless donation of quilts for the silent auction, which as always, were a hit! Join us for next's years conference as we join with New England Foster Care Association, NFCA in Southern Maine.

AFFM would like to extend a sincere



To All Those Who Made this years
conference a success!

- ♦ FACT
- ♦ Stetson Shores Campground
- ♦ Eufura Natural Salon
- ♦ Oriental Jade
- ♦ The Black Bear Inn
- ♦ Tammy Cutchen
- ♦ Shepard's Godparents Home
- ♦ Kidspace
- ♦ Spotlight Cinema
- ♦ Winterport Discount Furniture
- ♦ Cathy Hatch
- ♦ River City Wellness in Bangor
- ♦ Youth Alternatives Ingraham
- ♦ Board of AFFM
- ♦ Adam Robe
- ♦ Steve & Cindy McDonald (Trivita)
- ♦ Joe Kroll
- ♦ Catholic Charities
- ♦ Debra Patterson (Silpada)
- ♦ Challenger Learning Center
- ♦ MJ McGuire (Tastefully Simple)
- ♦ Esther Littlefield (Melaleuca)
- ♦ Mr. Bernard's School of Hair Design
- ♦ Challenger Learning Center
- ♦ Mike & Erin Giles (Karate Lessons)
- ♦ Community Care
- ♦ Jake Kipping- Artist
- Elizabeth's Hair Salon
- ♦ Pat Tavernakis
- ♦ Cliff McHatten
- ♦ Debbie Irish
- ♦ SMART
- ♦ Maine Discovery Toys
- ♦ Community Health and Counseling Services
- ♦ Casey Family Services
- ♦ Kim Plourde
- ♦ Woodfords
- ♦ YLAT
- ♦ David Plourde



Fort Knox 2011



Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. kicked off the 7th annual

Foster Family Day at the Fort on Saturday May 21st to celebrate National Foster Care Month. The weather held up long enough for families to enjoy a barbeque with hot dogs from Tozier's Market in Searsport, (thanks Pat O'Roak for manning the grill) pizzas from Papa John's in Bangor, a party sub from Bucksport Subway, chips, soda, watermelons donated by Bell's IGA in Orono, an array of desserts donated by Labree's Bakery, Governor's and Rosemary Bingaman, coffee from Dunkin Donuts, hot chocolate from Tim Hortons and water from Spring Valley Water. A huge thank you to Gloria Flewelling and Frances Thibodeau for managing the food table and Hannaford for donating the paper goods!

Throughout the day families were able to explore the Squeaky Wheels Adventure bus thanks to Bryan Wolfe, have their Faces painted by KidsPeace, build workshop kits donated by Home Depot, collect coins in the annual hay game, create bubbles and take part in playing parachute games. The Anah Temple Shriners entertained kids with balloon animals and tricks. Of course the fort itself, provided families with fun and entertainment throughout the day as well. Wonderful resources were provided by Tammy Cutchen from Bed Bath and Beyond as well as Borders. Thank you to Robert Kinnie for donating a beautiful unfinished child's rocking chair to AFFM! (Check out www.affm.net for details on winning the rocking chair). Last but certainly not least, AFFM would like to say thank you to the Friends of Fort Knox who allow us to hold this event for our families, rain or shine this event has proved to bring joy to the families who attend!



Announcements

Summer Job Opportunities for Youth!

Are you working with a young person who is self-motivated to work and you feel has the skills and interests that would be a good match with the employer? If so please encourage the young person to contact the employer directly to find out more about the hiring process (most will require an application or a resume). The following is a list of employers who will be hiring for the summer:

- ♦ McDougal Orchards (1-2): Contact Ellen & Jack McAdams (207)324-5054
- ♦ Shaw's Supermarket Sanford (6): Contact Phil Scarponi (207) 490-5309
- ♦ Goodall Hospital-Food Services (1): Contact Vicki Pinnet (207) 490-7435
- ♦ Shain's of Maine Ice Cream: Contact Jeff Shain (207) 324-1449 (Positions at his tee-shirt shop and scoop shops in York County)
- ♦ Shaw's Supermarket Biddeford (1-2): Contact Becky Drake (207) 283-8616

Information provided to you by The York County Foster Care Collaborative (YCFCC)



New addition to AFFM's Discount Card Program: Riverside Motor Company in Vassalboro, ME has graciously offered families a 10% discount on all auto repairs! Call the office today and request a discount card to take part in this great offer!

Scholarship Opportunity

Through a partnership between the University of Phoenix and the National Foster Parent Association, NFPA, is providing 15 full tuition scholarships redeemable at any University of Phoenix campus for youth in foster care, former foster youth and foster parents.

- ♦ Any foster parent applying for a First Chance Scholarship must be a member of NFPA or become a member at the time of application
- ♦ Recipients may choose any campus they want to attend, including the online campus. The program will be administered by the NFPA under the First Chance Scholarship umbrella. The scholarship application is available online at: www.phoenix.edu/tuition_and_financial_options/scholarships/nfpa-scholarship.html
- ♦ The deadline for submitting applications is July 1, 2011

Space is still available for this Summer on the Squeaky Wheels Adventure! Trips range from 3 days to 5 days each filled with camping, hiking, amusement parks, tours and so much more! Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity for youth in foster care!

For more information on Squeaky Wheels Adventure

contact:

Bryan Wolf at (207)266-4360

Email:

bryan@SqueakyWheelsAdventure.org

Website:

www.SqueakyWheelsAdventure.org



Kinship

Corner

Families and Children Together and the City of Bangor will be hosting a community garden for grandfamilies this summer! Volunteers will garden with your children and you can join in the fun or relax nearby with other grandfamilies. Participating families will take home the fresh vegetables!

Garden times for the remainder of the summer will be on Mondays from 3:00-4:30pm and Thursdays from 5:00-6:30pm at 103 Texas Ave. in Bangor.

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Anna at alibby@mainekids-kin.org or 941-2347.



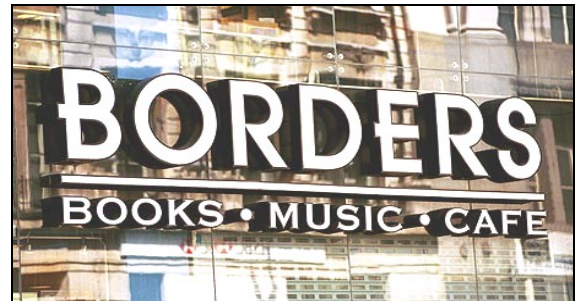
Please help support Maine's youth in care by ordering a "Maine's a great place for kids" license plate!

60% of the proceeds will go to children in DHHS custody and 40% will go to schools for children and youth. A specialty plate cost \$25 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee. The goal is to have the plates available in the spring of 2012, however, 2000 signatures and \$50,000 needs to be obtained first! So please **help support this great cause and order a plate today!** You can receive more information by "liking" Maine Kids Plate on Facebook or you can go to www.woodfords.org and click on the Maine Kids Plate link. You can pay by credit card on the website or get information on how to send a check.



Car Seat Update:

- ◆ The nation's largest organization of pediatricians is telling its members and parents that children riding in cars should remain in rear-facing child safety seats until at least their second birthday and preferably even longer.
- ◆ The new policy from the American Academy of Pediatrics, is buoyed by research that shows children under 2 are 75 less likely to die or be severely injured in a crash if they are in a rear-facing restraint.
- ◆ The academy now recommends that children remain in a seat with a five-point safety harness as long as possible and should only transition to a booster seat that relies on the car's adult seat belts when children exceed the height and weight limit for the five-point harness.
- ◆ Pediatricians recommend that children remain in booster seats until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall—a height most kids don't reach until they are between 8 and 12 years old.



New Support Group being offered at Border's Bookstore in Bangor!

Border's Bookstore in Bangor has generously offered their space to hold a support group for Resource Families in the Bangor area. Childcare can be provided if needed!

Contact: Meagan Stearns at 1-800-833-9786 or by email meagan@affm.net if this is something you would like to be involved in.

Adoption Announcements

Steve and Jeannie Hatch are thrilled to announce on March 30, 2011 they were joined by 16 family and friends to grow from a family of four to a family of six when the adoption of Isaiah Daniel and Alexa Amelia Hatch became legalized! Alexa and Isaiah are happily joined by older sister Heather and older brother Jeremy!

Congratulations goes out to the Horch family who are excited to announce the adoption of Karli Marissa Horch on July 5, 2011. Karli is welcomed by her siblings Corbin and Willow!

Save the Date:

July 11, 2011

9:00am-11:00am

Elks Club at 108 Odlin Road Bangor, Maine

Penobscot Partners will be holding the first quarterly networking meeting for community partners in Penobscot. Penobscot Partners is a community group open to anyone in Penobscot County who is interested in making our county a responsive and collaborative community for our children and families. This group works to network and connect our community with initiatives happening in our county and state.

It is recommended that agencies send 1-2 people to get the information being shared and to give information about their own organizations. (However more are welcome!)

Contact: Jessica Cambridge at 207-941-2988 with any questions you may have.



A Country Sunday

Show your support for the Tri-County Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parent Association by attending the fundraiser, A Country Sunday! This event is open to the public, including children, \$5 per person, tickets at the door.

Join the family-friendly afternoon of good music with good friends. There will be auction items, CDs for sale, a 50-50 raffle, all to raise money for the association.

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall—Jay, ME (Right on Route 4)

When: Sunday June 26th, 2011 at 1:00pm

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.



THE DIRECT SERVICE AGENCY OF
THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

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.

Www.facebook.com/caseyfamilyservices

www.caseyfamilyservices.org

www.twitter.com

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National Foster Parent Association

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Happy Fourth of July!

