

Family



Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

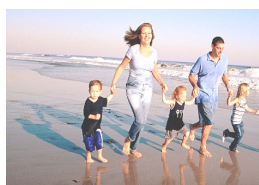
Volume 14 Number 7

Newsletter

August 2011

Family Activities for the End of the Summer

Before Summer officially ends and it's time to go back to school, consider taking part in some of these fun-filled family activities that will create unforgettable memories



Make a Memory Book— Have everyone in the family get together and make a memory book or scrapbook. Collect photos from your summer or other scraps and artwork that would fit into a book of memories. This will give you a lasting memento of the good times you had over the summer.

Have a Splashing Good Time— The Summer usually means a good time around water. Throw a pool party or play around in the sprinklers. Have a water balloon fight with your family. Involve water while you still can!

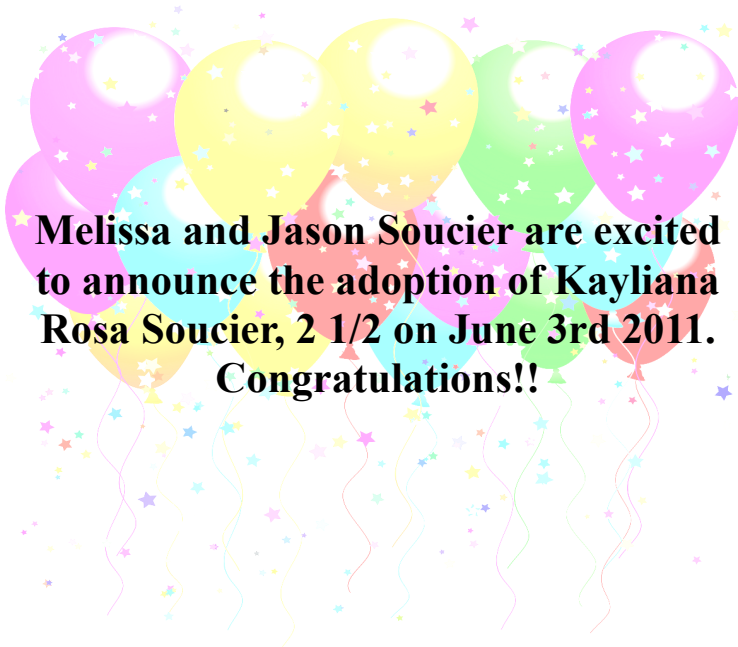
Make summertime recipes— Pick your favorite summertime recipes and make food and drinks with your family. Start with drinks like iced tea and lemonade, or pick another family favorite that you associate with summer. Then, make summer treats or throw a barbeque.

This Month's Family Ties

Adoption Announcements	2	Throw a summer party — Get together with your family and throw an end of the summer bash for all of your friends. Your family can plan the party together, cook the food and make decorations. Take lots of photos of your party so you can remember the good times you had.
Holiday Gifts Announcement	2	
State Park Pass	2	Go to the Zoo — Summer is a great time to enjoy the zoo during your free time. Go to the zoo with your family one last time before school takes away much of that free time. It's also a great way to learn about many different kinds of animals. (Call AFFM for your Grey's Wildlife Park Pass!)
Adoption Profile	3	Go to the Beach — The end of the summer might be one of your last opportunities to go to the beach this year. Wear sunscreen to protect your skin. Bring plenty of towels and beach toys. Build a sand castle with your kids. Bury one of your family members in the sand!
Casey Family Services Announcement	3	
Sharon Cormier	4	Get Ready for School — Enjoy getting ready for the school year with your family. Find the fun in shopping for clothing and school supplies. Get the whole family involved. Allow your kids to make some of the clothing decisions and to pick out some of their favorite school supplies. (AFFM can assist on a limited bases with back to school supplies!)
Tamarack Journals	5	
Tamarack Journals	6	Relax at Home — Enjoy some quiet time at home before the craziness of the school year starts. Make dinner together and talk around the dinner table, rent some family friendly movies and enjoy spending time together or pitch a tent and have a camp out in the backyard!
Upcoming Trainings	7	
Kinship Corner	7	<i>Pick one of these, or come up with your own end of the summer activities. Take time to enjoy your family. The end of summer can be an exciting time for your family to bond and experience priceless memories.</i>
Electronic Newsletter	8	

Activities for the End of the Summer taken from www.personaldevelopmentmaster.com/9-family-activities-for-the-end-of-the-summer.html

Adoption Announcements!



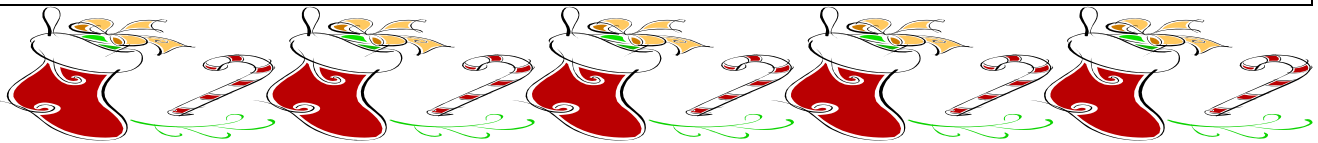
Melissa and Jason Soucier are excited to announce the adoption of Kayliana Rosa Soucier, 2 1/2 on June 3rd 2011. Congratulations!!



Baxter and Cathy Oliver are pleased to announce the adoption of Myla, 4 Autumn 4, and Michael 3!

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

It's hard to believe but AFFM will be gearing up for the Holiday Gift Giving Program soon! Kinship families are encouraged to add their children's names, gender, clothing size, shoe size and age to a wish list for gifts. AFFM will be partnering once again with the amazing people at the Ogunquit Spirit of Giving, check them out at www.ogunquitgiving.com and keep an eye out for more information about the Holiday Gift Giving Program in later Family Ties Newsletters!



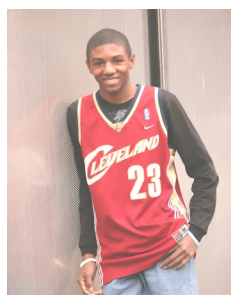
Summer is not over yet, there is still time to receive a state park pass! Are you a licensed foster home and looking for something to do this summer with your family? Give AFFM a call at 1-800-833-9786 or email info@affm.net, have your Foster Care License ID Number ready and a pass will be sent your way! This is an amazing opportunity to enjoy Maine's State Parks so don't miss out call for your pass today!

Meet Adrian



Adrian is a 17 year old young man, who is looking for his forever home! Adrian has a good sense of humor and loves sports, especially basketball. He would do best in a home where he is the only child as he loves one on one attention. He requires a home environment that has a predictable routine that incorporates physical activity as he likes to stay active. Adrian does well with others that are easy going and allow him to be a part of decisions in his life. He appreciates being listened to and is open to feedback from others to help him make choices. Due to his mild developmental disabilities, Adrian needs parents that are consistent and can patiently explain and teach him new skills. Adrian is an amazing, friendly, loving teenager who has a big smile that will light up any home.

For more information please contact Leigh Anne at 795-4637 at the Department of Health and Human Services or Emily at Casey Family Services 772-4110.



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

AFFM would like to extend a huge thank you and happy birthday to Sharon Cormier!

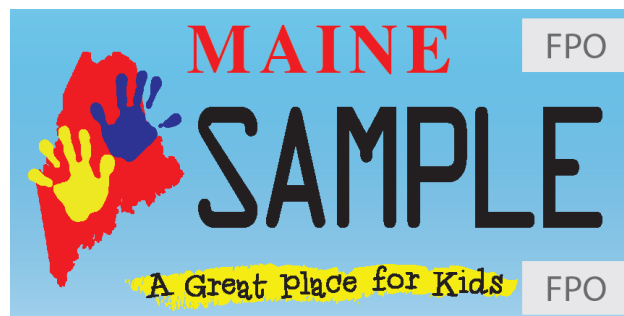


Sharon Cormier has recently celebrated her 50th birthday and instead of the usual celebration Sharon decided to usher in her 50th by thinking of others and hold a gala birthday party. Sharon was rewarded with life after a serious illness and because of it treasures life and is dedicated to helping others. In lieu of gifts Sharon asked that a donation be made to Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine and the Kinship Konnects Program! Sharon shares the same belief with

AFFM that every child has the right to be permanent members of stable, healthy families. Sharon recognizes similarities in her own journey to that of the often scary and confusing circumstances that children in out of home placements have known. Sharon's hope was that donations made on her behalf would help show these special children that they can also be survivors and journey towards fun filled days.

AFFM annually partners with boys and girls camps across the state in an effort to make sure that children in kinship families have the same opportunities as other children to enjoy a summer camp experience. AFFM gets no funds specifically to pay for the camps or respite care but with the donations raised at Sharon's 50th AFFM will be able to assist 35-40 children to attend!!

AFFM salutes, Sharon Cormier and the amazing opportunity she helped provide for the families served!



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 may also contact one of the following: Ellen Dorr at Woodfords Family Services at 878-9663, Margaret Mitschele at KidsPeace at 771-5714 or 272-7878 as well as Jo Bradeen at 893-0386. You can pay by credit card on the website or get information on how to send a check.

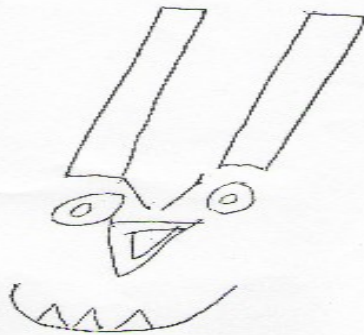
Thank You to The Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust for the generous gift of time at Tamarack Cottage!

AFFM would like to thank The Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust for the generous use of the Tamarack Cottage this summer. Thank you for allowing families to break away from their hectic lives and enjoy time together at this beautiful location! While at Tamarack families are encouraged to share their stories with others that are able to stay at the cottage.

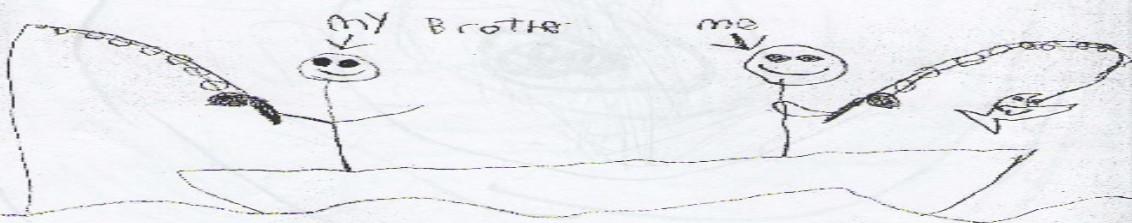
Here are just a few of the many memories shared, to show how much this experience is appreciated by our Resource Families!

I have had a wonderful week here at Tamarack in Rangley. You can go swimming and fishing off the dock down near the lake. If you go fishing, my advice is to use worms because lures don't work. If you have a mind to drop your line in the water from on the dock, you would probably get some little fish, but by accident I ~~got~~ got about a 13" Lake Trout. There are many fun things to do. I hope you had as much fun as I did. I hope to come back ^{soon} ~~some~~.
Goodbye!!
Si

Sean
Age 13



Jonathan



What a beautiful week. Our family had such a fun time. We went on numerous hikes in the area. Our favorite was Cascade Gorge with big rocks, waterfalls and swimming. We also saw three moose on a drive to Stratton - Pte. 16 - it was right before dark when we started to find them. Other fun times were spent swimming, blueberry picking, canoeing, fishing, playing ball in the yard, games and completing a 1,500 piece puzzle.

It was so peaceful listening to the loons, the kids laughing and just being able to unplug from our routine. Thanks for the visit - we LOVED IT !!

I had a lot of fun here. I went kneeboarding, and saw my first real live moose. We also did tubing, smores, swimming, walking, berry picking, listened to loons, had a campfire, went shopping, got ice-cream, went jet skiing, heard a story, and more! Thank you lots!!

Sincerely,
Kendra

P.S. We also went outside at Midnight, and looked for jumping fish down by the river. We didn't see any though. Thank you!

AFFM hopes that all Resource Families who stayed at Tamarack this Summer had a wonderful time and made lasting memories!

Upcoming Trainings

“Raising Successful Readers”

Why is raising a reader so important? On a basic level, reading is a fundamental part of existing. Think about your typical day. How often are you reading something: Street signs, reports, emails, grocery labels, medication info, newspapers, websites and stories to our kids. This workshop offers an understanding of how to engage your child in reading. Reading to our children routinely in their early years increases their language development, helps your child develop an attention span and concentration skills. A child that reads well is more likely to develop positive self esteem, independence and many other skills needed to last throughout their life. Join us to share reading strategies and meet other parents who are also interested in striving to raise successful readers!

Friday September 23rd, 2011 10:00-12:00pm

Location: Mid Coast Maine Community Action, 7 Union Street, Rockland

Presented by: Norm LeBlanc, Regional Support Coordinator

Call today to register at 1-800-264-9224 or online at www.gearparentnetwork.org

“Building Our Kids in Goal Setting”

Includes an hour long video from Drew Bledsoe’s “Parenting with Dignity” series.

We all want our children to make smart and wise decisions. Treating our children as if they are responsible, capable, intelligent and important requires that we give them goal setting tools and skills. It is our hope that these skills will help them to become self-disciplined, responsible, decision makers.

Thursday September 1st, 2011 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Mobius, Inc. 319 Main Street, Damariscotta

Presented by: Norm LeBlanc, Regional Support Coordinator

Call today to register at 1-800-264-9224 or online at www.gearparentnetwork.org

Kinship

C o r n e r

Come Celebrate National Grandparents Day, September 11th at the Portland Children’s Museum! Admission for grandparents is FREE all day!

Can’t make it this day? Call AFFM to get a FREE pass to the Children’s Museum for another day! AFFM offers passes to the Bangor, Augusta and Portland Children’s Museum for all Resource Families! Call the office at 1-800-833-9786 today!



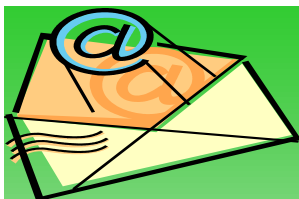
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PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMILY TIES, AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.



AFFM is asking all Resource Families who would like to receive the Family Ties Newsletter electronically to please submit your email address to info@affm.net. AFFM understands and accepts the responsibility of caring for Resource Families personal information. The Family Ties Newsletter is also available to view and print online at www.affm.net

Thank you for all you do for Maine's Youth in Care!