

Family Ties



Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

Volume 14 Number 11

Newsletter

November 2011

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

The first major effort to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in foster care occurred in Massachusetts in 1976, when Governor Michael Dukakis announced an Adoption Week. The idea grew in popularity and spread nationwide. In 1984, President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week, and in 1995, under President Clinton, the week was expanded to the entire month of November.

Every November, a Presidential Proclamation launches activities and celebrations to help build awareness of adoption throughout the nation. Thousands of community organizations arrange and host programs, events, and activities to share positive adoption stories, challenge the myths, and draw attention to the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.

On November 1, 2011 Governor Paul R. LePage presented a proclamation declaring November as Adoption Awareness Month!

On November 19, 2011, families, adoption advocates, policymakers, judges and volunteers will come together and celebrate adoption in communities large and small all across the nation.

National Adoption Day is a national day of celebration of adoptive families and an opportunity for courts to open their doors and finalize the adoptions of children from foster care. Since 2000, more than 35,000 children have had their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day.

Meet the Staff of AFFM!

AFFM wishes to introduce you to Sindy St. Laurent. Sindy has served as the Administrative Assistant of AFFM for over two years. She recently married her wonderful husband Andy so her last name has changed from Roberts to St. Laurent but to avoid confusion her email address has remained the same.

Sindy is a wonderful bookkeeper and works diligently to keep the payroll and financial records up-to-date, to fill in our various contracts, grants and project budgets as well as, orders all our supplies, answer the phones and greets all of our callers with warmth and respect. She will also be the person who responds as callers register for training events and conferences sponsored and presented by AFFM. Another gift Sindy shares with AFFM and its families is she frequently makes house calls and delivers such items as beds, dressers, and other large furniture. All of us at AFFM can not imagine how we would ever get along without her.

Outside of work Sindy is the proud mom to two grown children. Her daughter, granddaughter and son-in-law reside in Maine and are never far from her heart and mind. Her son is a part of the Search and Rescue Team in the Navy currently stationed for his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan. He and his wife are expecting a new baby. Sindy has provided kinship care in the past to her nieces so is very empathetic to that population of caretakers. It is not unusual to hear her say to resource parents, "I have to hand it to you, I can't imagine doing what you do 24/7."

Sindy and husband Andy are motorcycle enthusiasts and it is not uncommon to see Sindy with a blush of color on her face after a weekend bike ride. In addition to her position with AFFM, Sindy is also a partner in a family run business and co-operates the Stetson Shore Campground from April to October. A busy lady, YES!!



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Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine is very thankful for the following businesses and individuals who were able to make this year so special and help support Maine's youth and the Resource Families that care for them!

Storyland	York's Wild Animal Kingdom	Palace Play Land	Ogunquit Play House	Sea Farer
Black Bear Inn	Portland Sea Dogs	New England Patriots	Feld Motorsports	UMaine Athletics
Portland Stage Theatre	Cumberland County Civic Center	Sesame Street Live	Collins Center for the Arts	
JROTC	JMG	Debbie Irish	Mary Lake	Borders
Bed Bath and Beyond	Home Depot			
Pittston Fair	Windsor Fair	Clinton Lions Fair	Springfield Fair	Blue Hill Fair
Acton Fair				
Piscataquis Valley Fair	New Portland Lion's Fair	Common Ground Fair	Fryeburg Fair	Anah Shriners Circus
Tammy Cutchen	Marie Larrabee	UMaine Volunteers	Maine Wildlife Park	Sharon Cormier
Bangor Maine Discovery Museum	Augusta Maine Children's Discovery Museum	Ramada Inn Bangor		
Portland Children's Museum and theatre of Maine	Portland YMCA	Sons of the American Legion		
American Legion Auxiliary	AFFM would like to extend a thank you to the businesses and individuals who helped support Maine's youth in care by donating school supplies to kick off the school year right!			
Francie Criner				

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!

July 2nd.

Beautiful day, saw some amazing spiders. been on the dock. water was cool but very Refreshing



July 3rd.

Rained all day, but we still caught some fish towards the end. Relaxing day.

July 4th

Went to see the fire works, Sunny but Cloudy day. Took a visit to small falls, water was chilly but overall it was fun.

July 5th

Took a visit to StoryLand U and caught a bunch of perch on the dock, Sunny and beautiful day!

July 6th

Went to small falls and jumped in the water, also Rangely Public Beach. It was Sunny in the morning and thunder & lightning during the evening.

Perfect evening to stay in by the fire!





Upcoming Holiday Events!



Save the Date for Rockland DHHS First Annual Holiday Party For All Foster Families!

Families in Knox, Waldo, Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties mark your calendar on December 10th, 2011 from 1pm to 3pm for the Rockland DHHS Holiday Party. This event will be held at the Thompson Community Center, 51 South Union Road in Union.

There will be cookies to decorate, games, coloring contest for all ages, Santa and much more! Light appetizers and drinks will be available. We hope your entire family will join us! Each child will receive a gift as well as a quilt donated by Project Lynus. A mitten tree will be on hand for those families in need! Look for your invite in the mail as they will be coming soon! Be sure to RSVP so we can get an accurate count!

RSVP to: Wanda Gamage-Wyman at 207-596-4347 or email Wanda.Gamage-Wyman@maine.gov

Help Support Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine by checking out Sgt Farms home of Sugar Hill Wreaths for your holiday décor. 5% of all sales will be donated to AFFM. 10% discount for senior citizens.

- Huge selections of trees for \$20.00, trees are locally cut 2'-20'
 - Wreaths 8"-72"
- Traditional Maine Wreaths 21"-22" with bows and cones for \$9.50

Kinship Corner

ATTENTION KINSHIP FAMILIES: The Spirit of Giving has reached their limit of sponsors and will no longer be accepting requests for holiday gifts.

However, AFFM will continue to take requests but these will be filled in house to the best of AFFM's ability. If you would like to have your child's name on the gift list it is asked that you provide the child's first name, age, gender, clothing size and a special gift they may like, please keep the gifts under \$50.00 per child.

Don't miss out on this year's kinship holiday parties! Call AFFM today and sign up. Please let us know the age and gender of the children who will be attending the party with you so they can receive an age appropriate book from Santa and Mrs. Clause!

Portland Kinship Holiday Party

Date: December 4th, 2011 Time: 11am-1pm

Location: Portland YMCA

Come and enjoy arts and crafts, pizza and swimming!

Bangor Kinship Holiday Party

Date: November 27th, 2011 Time: 1pm-4pm

Location: Bangor Ramada Inn

Remember to bring your bathing suits and a dish to share for the potluck!



Adoption Announcements!

Tyler and Pam Davis are so excited to announce the adoption of Tyler and Trenady! Tyler and Trenady are welcomed by Tyrone, who was adopted November 2007, and younger siblings Travis and Tyrell.



Nancy Picard is thrilled to announce the adoption of 3 year old twins Shawn and Savannah! Congratulations!

Congratulations goes out to Jessica and Howard Towle for the adoption of their two boys Daniel Nathan and Jacob Brian on October 11th! Daniel and Jacob are welcomed by siblings Jasmine, Eliza and Charlie.



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 Maine Care.



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.
- Maine Care accepted.

Featured Treatment Foster Care Agency of the Month:

*Each month AFFM will be offering Treatment Foster Care Agencies a chance to be featured in the Family Ties Newsletter. This is a great opportunity to get the word out to families about your agencies. Agencies will be featured at a first come, first serve basis. Please email agency information to meagan@affm.net



CHCS provides Mental Health services in Central, Northern and Down east Maine. We support families, children and adults in their communities through a network of 12 offices in 8 Maine Counties. Our services range from the traditional office based care to in-home therapy services, 24/7 mobile crisis services, treatment foster care and group care. While not all services are able to be offered from all offices, we seek to find ways in which we can serve the people of Maine through referral to or collaboration with the services that they need. If you want to make a difference in a child's life by becoming a foster parent with CHCS, call our office nearest you for more information. A Foster Home Developer will be happy to answer any questions you might have. You can also visit our website for more information on all of our services www.chcs-me.org

East Winthrop, Skowhegan, Dover

Art Grant
858-4860 or cell: 461-0175
agrant@chcs-me.org

Machias

Toni Carter
255-6786
tcarter@chcs-me.org

Ellsworth

Jenn Johnson
667-2061
jjohnson@chcs-me.org

Bangor

Stacey Pelletier
947-0366
spelletier@chcs-me.org

Aroostook

Peter Crovo
532-5510
pcrovo@chcs-me.org

Lincoln

Lisa O'Donnell
794-3554
LODonnell@chcs-me.org



Host Homes Wanted

Teens in your community are in need of a safe and temporary home.

Learn how you can make a difference.

For more information please call 795-4070

or e-mail jada@newbeginmaine.org

NOVEMBER KINSHIP MEETINGS

When you go to a group meeting you get a chance to connect with other grandfamilies by sharing stories and information, offering support and listening to each other. Some group meetings provide childcare, giving the children an opportunity to meet and socialize with other children in similar situations. Please contact us if you would like to receive a phone call reminder for your local group meeting.

AUGUSTA

Group Meeting - Wednesday, November 16th at 6:00 pm, The Children's Center, 1 Alden Avenue. *Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.*

BANGOR Group Meeting - Tuesday, November 1st at 6:00 pm, Families And Children Together office, 304 Hancock Street. *Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.*

Group Meeting - Tuesday, November 15th at 6:00 pm, Families And Children Together office, 304 Hancock Street. *Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.*

Belfast Group Meeting - Thursday, November 10th at 10:30 am meeting at the Belfast Free Library on High St., 3rd floor conference room. Parking available on Spring and Miller Streets.

DOVER-FOXCROFT Group Meeting - Monday, November 28th at 6:30 pm, Penquis, 50 North St. *Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.*

LEWISTON Group Meeting - Wednesday, November 2nd at 6:30 pm, in the LePage Center at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center (entrance on Campus Avenue.)

PORTLAND Group Meeting - Wednesday, November 9th at 6:00 pm, The Family Workshop, 215 Congress Street. *Please contact Nancy at F.A.C.T. to reserve childcare at 591-6278.*

There will be no Portland Group Meeting on Wednesday, November 23rd, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

WATERVILLE

The Grandest Parents of All - Thursday, November 17th at 5:00 pm at Educare, 56 Drummond Ave. Childcare and dinner for the whole family served. *For more information and to register, contact Samantha Thibodeau at The Children's Center at 626-3497.*

WESTBROOK

Group Meeting - Tuesday, November 22nd at 9:00 am, Maine Kids-Kin, 869 Main Street, Suite 900. *Please contact Cathy at 591-6278 to register.*

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

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*Happy
Thanksgiving*

