

Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

Volume 15 Number 5

Newsletter

May 2012

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month

May is the perfect time for honoring the many people who are making a difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care. Take a moment to recognize a foster parent, relative caregiver, mentor, volunteer or social worker for their efforts throughout the year.

Here are some ways to be involved and support Foster Care Awareness:

Wear a blue ribbon during May in support of National Foster Care Month. Attend a local ribbon-tying ceremony to advocate on behalf of children in foster care in your state. If you would like a blue ribbon contact AFFM.

Call AFFM and Sign up for Foster Day at the Fort, May 19th and celebrate Foster Care Awareness Month!

Learn the facts about foster care and gain a better understanding of the needs of those touched by the issue.

Call AFFM and register for a Community Conversation being held in your district and learn about permanency planning for youth in care.

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Be inspired to make a difference by reading more about former children in foster care from all walks of life who are enjoying positive, accomplished adult lives, thanks to the relationships they shared with caring, committed adults.

Volunteer with a local foster care program to provide academic enrichment opportunities for young people in your community. Check out www.fc2success.org for ideas!

Send a care package to an alumnus of foster care who is attending college or donate goods such as suitcases, books, games, computers, sports equipment, musical instruments, clothing and school supplies to young people in foster care.

For more ways to get involved visit www.fostercaremonth.org

Celebrate Foster Care Awareness Month at:

**ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILIES OF MAINE'S 7TH
ANNUAL EVENT:**

FOSTER FAMILY DAY AT THE FORT

**MAY 19, 2012
11:00am-4:00pm**

**FORT KNOX
PROSPECT, MAINE**

**Come and enjoy games, giveaways, a tour of the fort, food
and much more at this FREE event!**

Hope for sunshine!

**Call AFFM and register today!
1-800-833-9786**

**This year don't miss out on a Bounce House by the Maine Jump, a cake decorated by
Rebecca's Cake Designs, musical entertainment by Planet Pan, a touch tank by Fields Pond
Audobon Center, Smokey The Bear, Raffles, and much, much more!!!**

Register today!

**Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. will be collaborating with Playland Adventures in
Brewer to celebrate Foster Care Awareness Month!**

May 6th 4-6pm

Cost will be \$5 per person.

**Check out all [Playland Adventures](#) has to offer and call AFFM today 1-800-833-9786
or email info@affm.net to register!**

**Host Homes Needed for Teens in Cumberland
and York County!**



**Informational meeting May 10th & May 22nd
7-8pm at 550 Forest Avenue, Suite 101, Portland
Call Jada at 795-4070 for more information.**

Maine Surrogate Parent Program

Make a Difference, Help a Child: A Volunteer Program for Children with Disabilities

What is a Surrogate Parent?

The Surrogate Parent Program was established to provide surrogate parents to children with disabilities whenever the natural parents or guardian of a child with a disability cannot be identified, located or when the child is in the custody of the state. Surrogate parents have all of the rights of the natural parents for educational matters, e.g. permission for evaluation and placement, release information and request for educational hearings. The primary goal of the surrogate parent program is to ensure that all children with disabilities are provided with equal educational opportunities.

Surrogate Parents for the Special Education Process

A surrogate parent is appointed when the natural parents or guardians cannot be located or the student is a ward of the State of Maine.

A surrogate parent is appointed to act independently on behalf of a child with disabilities and to safeguard the student's rights in the special education process.

Surrogate parents need to be caring individuals able to work with Maine Special Education Regulations and be able to attend IEP's (Individual Education Plan) meetings in the child's local school or residential setting.

Surrogate Parents May Be:

- Natural/Adoptive Parents
- Foster Parents
- Relatives of the child
- Individuals recommended by the School Administrative Unit
- Individuals recommended by a state agency
- Individuals recruited by the Department of Education's Office of Special Services
- Individuals recommended by the child

You're Not Alone...

We understand that people are going to have questions, comments and concerns about being a Surrogate Parent. We offer training and support at any time in which any is needed.

What Kind of Expenses are Reimbursed to a Surrogate Parent?

Mileage Allowance— Surrogate parents are paid a mileage allowance at the current state rate for use of their personal vehicles.

Meals and Lodging— Surrogate parents are allowed meal and lodging expenses at the current state rates.

Telephone Expenses— Surrogate parents are allowed actual costs for telephone toll charges related to special education issues.

Out of State Travel— Whenever out of state travel is being considered, the surrogate parent should contact the Department of Education, one month prior to departure for prior approval and necessary reimbursement forms.

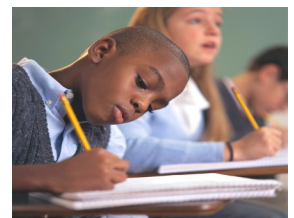
Other Expenses— Surrogate parents are allowed actual and reasonable costs for additional expenses incurred in the execution of their duties (e.g. child care, copying, etc.) when accompanied by receipt for expenses of over five dollars.

Need Additional Information on Maine's Surrogate Parent Program?

Cliff McHatten, M.Ed. Consultant for Exceptional Children

Maine Department of Education
Office of Special Services
23 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0023

Cliff.McHatten@maine.gov
Telephone: (207) 624-6650



Upcoming Trainings

Community Conversations: Permanency Planning for Youth

Save the Dates for the Community Conversations taking place in each district!

District 5— Skowhegan May 2, 2012

9:00am-1:00pm

(This schedule is to accommodate with school hours)

Skowhegan First Church of the Nazarene

31 East Madison Road Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Training Hours and Certificates will be provided

District 6—Bangor May 8, 2012

9:00am-1:00pm

(This schedule is to accommodate with school hours)

Husson University's Center for Family Business

1 College Circle Bangor, Maine 04401

Training Hours and Certificates will be provided

RSVP: Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine at 1-800-833-9786

District 7— Ellsworth May 17, 2012

District 4—Rockland June 6, 2012

District 3 — Lewiston June 7, 2012

District 7— Machias June 11, 2012

District 5— Augusta TBA

District 8— Presque Isle kicked off the Community Conversations on March 21st and had amazing response!

District 1& 2 will be held April 27th 9:00am-4:00pm in Ogunquit, Maine

Save the Date

18th Annual Child Welfare Conference

Date: June 13, 2012

Time: 8:00-4:30pm

Location: University of Maine, Wells Conference Center

Hot Topics in Child Welfare: The Trauma Affected Brain, Prenatal Drug Abuse, Ethics, Trauma Informed Child Welfare Practice, Poverty and its Impact on Brain Development, Supervision, Childhood Obesity

Supported By: Bangor Police Department, Casey Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Eastern Maine Medical Center, National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths, Penobscot Community Health Care, and Wings for Children and Families

Sponsored By: Casey Family Services

Attendees should print handouts/reference materials prior to arriving at the conference, as they will not be available for distribution in hard copy at the conference. Reference materials will be available at wingsinc.org by June 10, 2012

To Register go to www.wingsinc.org

Registration cost: \$45.00 (No Refunds Available)

Checks should be made out to: Wings for Children and Families Inc. Attn: CWC

Registration Form and Payment can be sent to:

Wings for Children and Families, Inc.

Attn: Jenny Dow, LSW

900 Hammond St. Suite 915

Bangor, Maine 04401

Ph: (207)941-2988 or (800)941-2988

Fax: (207)941-2989

Email: jdow@wingsinc.org

Please email any questions relating to the conference to: childwelfareconference@gmail.com

Kinship Corner

In 2009, Maine applied for and was awarded a Family Connections Grant by the federal DHHS, Administration for Children and Families. This was a three year grant and will be wrapping up in September 2012. The Maine Kinship Connections Project (MKCP) grant brought together various agencies statewide with the goal to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of children at-risk of entering the child welfare system and children in the system, especially those placed with relatives.

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine was one of the project partner agencies involved with MKCP and was responsible for developing a replication manual to support sustainability efforts. To assist in developing this manual, Alison Mitchell, MSW student at the University of Maine, joined AFFM in the Fall of 2011. Alison is nearing the completion of her portion of the manual and will be carrying out her internship at AFFM, as well as the Center on Aging where she divided her time under the supervision of Jen Crittenden.

While at AFFM, Alison extended her efforts far beyond the replication manual. Drawing on her experience as a CASA, Alison provided insight and showed empathy to the families served. Alison has brought lightheartedness and humor to the office. AFFM will be sad to see her go, however, believes she will be successful in her future endeavors.

1-866-298-0896



www.mainekids-kin.org

MAY KINSHIP MEETINGS

When attend 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

Wednesday, May 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

Tuesday, May 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.

Tuesday, May 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

Thursday, May 10th at 10:30 am meeting at the Belfast Free Library on High St. in the first floor conference room (on the right as you enter the library). Parking available on Spring and Miller Streets.

Dover-Foxcroft

Monday, May 21st at 6:30 pm, Penquis, 50 North St. Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.

Westbrook

Wednesday, May 9th at 6:00 pm, Maine Kids-Kin, 869 Main Street, Suite 900. Please contact Nancy at F.A.C.T. to reserve childcare at 591-6278.

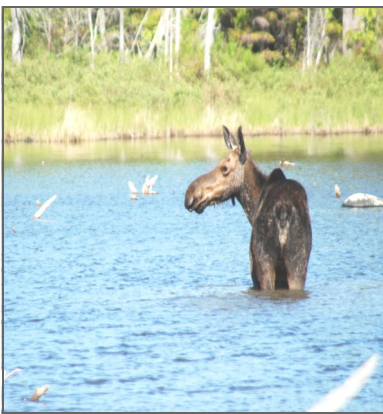
Tuesday, May 22nd at 9:00 am, Maine Kids-Kin, 869 Main Street, Suite 900. Please contact Cathy at F.A.C.T. to register at 591-6278.

Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm, Maine Kids-Kin, 869 Main Street, Suite 900. Please contact Nancy at F.A.C.T. to reserve childcare at 591-6278.

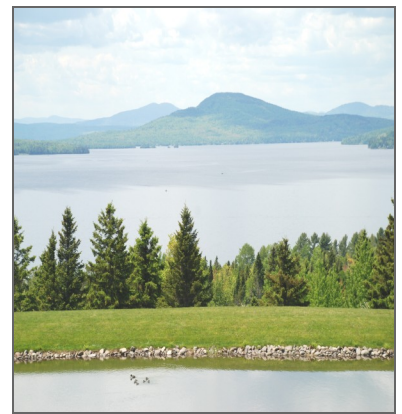
Adoption Announcement!

Tanya Savage is excited to announce the adoption of
Aireonna and Alexis Grover on April 11, 2012
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Following 2012 Tamarack Winners!



Michael and Donna Hakes and their 5 children!
Charolotte and Tyler Hollis and their 5 children!
Courtney and Norman Pachoski and their 5 children!
Jacki and Chris Niles and their 6 children!
Sarah and Lonnie Plante and their 5 children!



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.
- MaineCare accepted.

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

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AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

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AFFM would like to wish you a Happy Mother's Day on May 13th!

To My Other Mother

I love you for being to me that which others come by naturally.

*Most children cannot choose their mothers,
So I'm more fortunate than most others.*

*I know these words will never repay your kindness and love,
Yet I humbly say...
Thank You,
Mother.*

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!