

Family Ties



Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine

Volume 15 Number 11

Newsletter

November 2012

AFFM Expands Services Effective January 1st, 2013

As many of you know, AFFM has for many years held a sub-contract with Families and Children Together / Maine Kids-Kin. Under that contract we provided a few of the many services we offer to resource and in particular, kinship families in Maine. Some of the services included, holiday parties, roller parties, summer camp opportunities and listening support. Of particular interest to many has been the work AFFM has offered to kinship families who opted to get licensed as foster parents for their relatives' child/children, or to adopt or form a permanency guardianship arrangement.

Recently, both the Resource Family Support Contract (held by AFFM) and the Maine Kids-Kin contract was merged and put out to bid. AFFM won the bid with the Maine DHHS that will incorporate many of the services previously provided by FACT (Maine Kids-Kin) into the services AFFM has traditionally provided. While we will miss our partners at FACT, we are proud to add the services to Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. The concept of all "Resource Parent" providers being accommodated under one umbrella makes sense and broadens the capacity to meet the needs of more resource parents.

For a majority of the kinship families in Maine, most will have accessed services here for holiday gifts, or many of the other material goods AFFM has available to all resource parent providers. For those of you who will be added to the mailing list for the first time please trust that we will do all in our power to make as seamless a transition as possible. I am sure your friends at FACT/ Maine Kids-Kin will assist you with positive support as well as the changes are made.

AFFM intends to continue to provide support groups. It is likely that there will be a slight interruption while we access sites and develop relationships in each area of the state where support groups exist at this time. If you belong to a support group that is exclusive to kinship providers and wish to continue to participate please contact us as soon as possible.

This Month's Family Ties:		
NEFCA Conference	2	Another area that will change for AFFM is the inclusion of AFFM staff in the Fundamentals Training that is provided by DHHS staff in each of the state-wide districts. The amount of involvement in each district will be dependent on the amount requested by the DHHS staff. Having AFFM involved will among other things, expand the upfront information about the resources provided through this office as well as expand the basic information frequently asked for by resource families who contact AFFM.
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National Adoption Awareness Month	6	We at AFFM look forward to continuing to serve you and welcome your ideas and comments on how we can improve the services we provide.
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NEFCA Conference 2012

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine was honored to host this year's New England Foster Care Association conference, *"Peacing Together the Fabrics of our Lives"*, at the Double Tree Hilton in South Portland, Maine. The New England Foster Care Association came together to develop training resources and to strategize how resource parents in New England could best optimize their respective and similar needs. NEFCA delivers a conference every two years rotating from one state to the next in each of the 6 states that comprise New England. This year, AFFM was able to combine it's annual conference with NEFCA.

AFFM will hold its typical Spring conference in April of 2013.

Derek Clark, a former youth in care, inspired attendees with his keynote on Friday morning and workshop Saturday. Kinship Specialist, Dr. Joseph Crumbley, spoke on involving Birth Parents with Kinship Families during Saturday's keynote. Brian Clark, of Strong Fathers Program, delivered the closing keynote Sunday morning, sharing of his work with biological fathers and the importance of engaging biological fathers of children involved with child welfare.



Photos taken from AFFM's annual award ceremony for advocates of the year



Jazzmin

Meet Jazzmin, a talented, fun-loving and gifted gymnast who is tall, lean and full of energy! She attends gymnastic lessons and recently participated in her first gymnastics competition. Future plans include her becoming a professional gymnast when she is an adult. On a sunny day you can find Jazzmin outside listening to her IPOD, practicing her gymnastic routine or running. Being a star gardener Jazzmin is also known for her "lucky" green thumb. She enjoys working in her community's green house.

Like most teenagers her age, Jazzmin enjoys music; especially One Direction and Justin Bieber. She is a typical 14 -year old young lady with beautiful brown eyes and a warm infectious smile. When talking about herself she shares, "I love to dance" and she enjoys watching movies. "My favorite movie is the Never-ending Story." Entering the 8th grade in the fall of 2012, Jazzmin states she enjoys recess, reading, music and choir activities.

Jazzmin continues to show great resilience in relation to the trauma she experienced during her childhood. She is a true survivor who uses writing in her journal as a positive way to express her feelings. Her individual and group therapy is also a support to her and has allowed her to be hopeful for her future. She believes the "right" family is out there for her; and that family is described as a two-parent home with experienced parents who have dealt with trauma and loss. Jazzmin understands the importance of being part of a family and is excited about sharing everyday household activities such as baking and helping with chores. Other then the dreaded "meatloaf" Jazzmin is not a picky eater who will eat all sorts of fruits and vegetables (especially broccoli) and she loves to have pineapples and pizza!

Jazzmin likes to be on the go and an active family is the right fit for this teenager. The adults in her life affirm she is an appreciative young lady with good manners. She is an animal lover so pets are welcome; however, she prefers smaller dogs! Jazzmin is originally from Connecticut but resides in Maine and because of this we strongly encourage licensed families in both states to respond.

Please consider opening your heart and home to this wonderful young lady who will enrich your family and bring joy to your life!

Contact: Jane Pertillar, (860)550-6678 or Jane.Pertillar@ct.gov
Adoption Resource Exchange
Department of Children and Families,
505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ctfosteradopt.com

Adoption Announcements!

Phil & Karen DuBois of Oxford welcomed their sons Shane Edward (7) and Kaden Shawn (5) on October 10. "It was a wonderful event, and we are so blessed with these 2 guys."

Congratulations!

A Time to Say Thank You!

As We Recognize All Adoptive Parents this November...

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all adoptive parents in Maine for the outstanding commitment and care they provide to our youth.

Words can not express how thankful we are and for the difference adoptive parents make when they open their home and heart to a child in need.

Thank you so much for your unconditional love. You are truly amazing!

With sincere gratitude,

*Community Health and Counseling Services
& Department of Health and Human Services*

Mary Lake wishes to thank the following people for the financial help with making the dresses:

AFFM for their generous donation; Ellen and Mal from my Belgrade church who gave me \$100.00 gift certificate for Marden's and also gave me enough blue butterfly material to make bottoms of 5 dresses. A lady named Martha at my church who gave me a check for \$50.00 for material; Also, a woman at my Belgrade church who gave me a couple of boxes of cloth.

Thank you for all your help!

Sincerely,

Mary Lake



Upcoming Training

Kids, Computers and the Internet

Facilitated by David Plourde

David is a senior Computer System Expert currently working for the State of Maine Office Information Technology. David will present a practical look into computers being used by kids in your home. We will discuss the educational benefits, confidentiality on the internet and the enjoyment computers can provide while keeping our kids safe. We will talk in plain English WITHOUT all the techno jargon. This training will be interactive with plenty of chances to answer questions.

Date: Tuesday, November 13th, 2012

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Families and Children Together (FACT)

304 Hancock St, 2nd Floor, Bangor

There is no cost for this training. Space is limited

Sorry, no childcare available. 2 Credit Hours available to Foster Parents.

Please RSVP by November 9th, 2012 to Meagan Stearns at 1-800-833-9786 or email meagan@affm.net

Celebrate Adoption Awareness Month This November!

National Adoption Month has been celebrated for 17 years.

1976: Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis announced an Adoption Week to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in foster care.

1984: President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week.

1995: President Clinton expanded the awareness week to the entire month of November.

1998: President Clinton directed the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a plan to expand the use of the Internet as a tool to find homes for children waiting to be adopted from foster care.

Each year in November, the President of the United States issues a proclamation to announce National Adoption Month. Many State governors also issue proclamations to raise awareness of the need for adoptive families and encourage citizens to become involved in the lives of children and youth in foster care.

How Maine is Celebrating National Adoption Awareness Month

November 1st

Blaine House Tea. Celebrating National Adoption Awareness at the Blaine House. The Governors' Mansion 2—3:30 pm. By invitation only hosted by First Lady Ann LePage.

November 4th

“Orphan Sunday”, many churches across the state will have programs, messages, sermons and events related to Adoption.

November 5th

Adoption Legalizations all across the State at Maine’s Children’s Museums and in selected districts -Maine Children’s Discovery Museum-Bangor, Event will begin at 8:30am. Maine Children’s Museum & Theatre– Portland, Event will begin at 11:30am. *Other legalizations being planned across the state.*

November 8th

Hall of Flags adoption celebration and recognition event in the State Capitol Rotunda sponsored by AFFM. There will be speakers, awards, performances, provider displays, and raffles along with pizza/lunch provided by AFFM and Pizza Hut.

November 15th

York Probate Court Adoption Legalization Event 8:00am to noon Alfred, Maine

November 17th

National Adoption Day!

November 17th

Aroostook County Event at UMPI 1:00 to 3:00 pm This event will be geared toward presenting our children available for adoption and a focus on retention and recruitment.

Host Home Program Information Meeting



Learn more about providing safe and temporary shelter for a teenager in your community.

November 28th, 7-8 p.m. at 550 Forest Avenue, Suite 101, Portland

Please use Forest Ave. entrance. Contact Jada at 212-2534. www.newbeginmaine.org

Upcoming Events

7th Annual Festival of "Fostering" Trees

Come stroll through our magical enchanted forest of beautifully decorated Christmas trees with over 100 trees for your viewing pleasure, no two are alike! All proceeds help older youth who are aging out of the Southern Maine Foster Care System.

Free admissions with a voluntary donation for the York Food Pantry!

25 Raffle Tickets for only \$5.00

Location: American Legion Post #56-Function Facility York, Maine (Next to Hannaford)

Dates & Times: Friday, November 30th 10:00am-8:00pm

Saturday, December 1st 10:00am-8:00pm

Sunday, December 2nd 10:00am-4:00pm

**Raffle @4:15 on Sunday*

Calls will be placed to all winners 6:00pm-9:00pm

Monday, December 3rd Pick Up of All Trees 8:00am-11:00am



Refreshments Each Day!

For More Information call Janalee at 351-1988 or 423-4281 or email janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com



Kinship Corner

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 2nd, 2012 Time: 11am-1pm

Location: Portland YMCA

Come and enjoy arts and crafts, pizza and swimming!

Bangor Kinship Holiday Party

Date: November 25th, 2012 Time: 1pm-4pm

Location: Bangor Ramada Inn

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

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