

# Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine  
& The Kinship Program

Volume 16 Number 1

Newsletter

March 2013

## *National Child Abuse Prevention Month*

### Baby steps

- Meet and greet your neighbors
- Go to a parents meeting at your child's school
- Participate in an activity at your local library or community center

### Small steps

- Set up a playgroup in your community at homes or local park (consider inviting people who may not have children at home, like local seniors)
  - Organize a community babysitting co-op
- Volunteer at your child's school through the school's administration or the parent's organization
- Encourage local service providers to produce a directory of available services that are easy to find in the community

### Big steps

- Organize a community event (a block party, father/daughter dance, parent support group)
  - Run for an office in the parent organization at your child's school
- Attend local government meetings (city council or school board meetings) and let them know how important resources are in your community. Let them know how parks, strong schools, and accessible services help to strengthen your family and other families.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each can play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in communities.



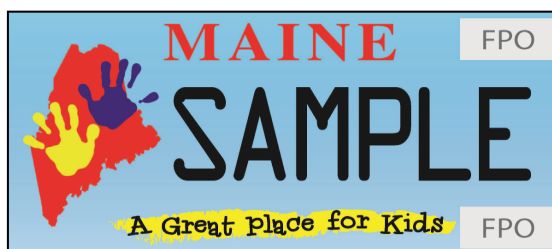
## Announcements/FYI

**Interested in helping out Maine's youth in care? Order a "Maine's a Great Place for Kids" license plate today and you'll help support kids in foster care or kinship placements!**

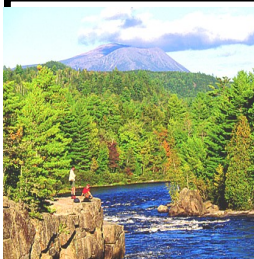
\$10 of the annual fee will be transferred to a special fund for Kids in Maine from the original fee and \$5 from the renewal fee will be used for administration and production costs of the plate. Monies will go to the Department of Education to help support after school programming as well as to kids in foster care or kinship placements to support recreational activities as well as summer camps.

Cost to order a plate: \$25, in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee. Renewal of the plates will cost \$15 annually to your regular registration fee

\*Please make checks payable to Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine. Please write in memo section Kids Plate.



For more information please visit [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net) and click on a *License Plate for Kids* tab.



*State Park Passes are in!! 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](mailto: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!*



**Register today for *Maintaining Family Ties... Today, Tomorrow, Forever***

AFFM's 16th Annual Spring Conference. April 19th-20th at Point Lookout Conference Center in Northport, Maine. For more information visit [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net) and click on the AFFM Conference 2013 tab.

**Registration available online!**

**Youth in Southern Maine are in need of safe and temporary housing. Would you be willing to open your home to a teen in need?**

**Please contact Jada Caron at 212-2534 or [jada@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:jada@newbeginmaine.org).**

**Go to [www.newbeginmaine.org](http://www.newbeginmaine.org) for more information on Host Homes.**

**New Beginnings, Inc., located in Lewiston, has provided housing and support for youth since 1980.**



**New Beginnings**



# SPRING FLING!!!

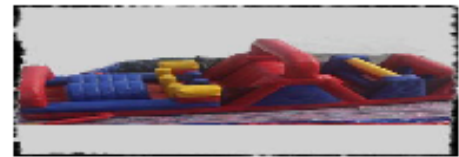
## Indoor Carnival

-To benefit youth involved with the Southern Maine Foster Care System

Saturday - March 23, 2013 10am-4pm

American Legion Function Hall

9 Hannaford Drive York, ME



**\*\* Admission ONLY \$5.00 \*\***

- . Includes 5 tickets towards games and/or concessions
- . AND unlimited use of bounce house & obstacle course
- . Purchase additional tickets for only \$1.00 each!



Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Drinks!!!

Balloons & Tattoos!!!

FMI Call Janalee at 207-351-1988



Proudly supported by Blast Party Rentals – [www.BlastPartyRentals.com](http://www.BlastPartyRentals.com)  
and the American Legion of York - [www.ramsdellrogers56.com](http://www.ramsdellrogers56.com)

**\*Attention York County Resource Families:** All children in your group will receive FREE entry which includes 5 tickets that can be used for any of the games and/or concessions. Unlimited use of the bounce house and obstacle course are also included! You must RSVP by calling Janalee @ 351-1988 or email [janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com](mailto:janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com) (please put CARNIVAL in the subject line) by

Monday March 18, 2013

## Meet the Staff of AFFM!

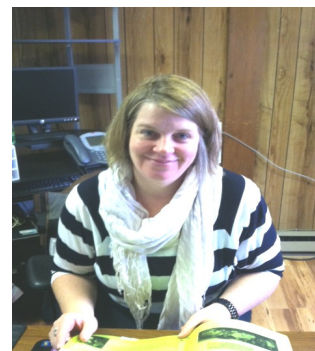
In February AFFM welcomed Margaret Warman as the new Training Coordinator. Margaret will be coordinating the annual conferences, partnering with DHHS licensing workers in delivering the Fundamentals Training, particularly session 5 and the 6 hour Kinship training. Margaret will also assist in the development of trainings requested by resource parents. She will also participate on committees geared towards trainings.

Margaret is an adoptive parent and has been a advocate for the kids and families of Maine for several years. Margaret is excited to be on staff at AFFM and to be teaming up with and getting to know resource families across the state.

Margaret is a mother to 5 children aging from 4 to 19. The movie *Blindside* sums it up best for Margaret in reference to adoption, "you're changing that boys life" "NO he's changing mine".

Margaret enjoys quiet moments at home, (she likes the crazy, chaotic moments at home too), and hiking and exploring with friends and family. Margaret is active in her church and the adoption and orphan care ministry there.

AFFM is excited to have Margaret on board!



## Mental Health Services for Children and Adults

(Independent Private Practice Clinicians)

43 Acme Rd Suite A

Brewer, Maine 04412

*We are dedicated to improving the lives of children, adults and families through services that are client driven, built on strengths and are proven to be helpful. Therapy works best when clients define the problem, are motivated to make changes, and have the right supports. Children do best in treatment when their parents are supported and are an integral partner in the therapeutic approach.*

**Dawn LeVasseur, LCPC**

207-907-4757

Adoption Preparation

Post Adoption Issues

Teen Age Issues

Grief and Loss

Trauma

Anxiety and Depression

**Emily Shepard, LCSW**

207-907-4677

Adoption Preparation

Post Adoption Issues

Trauma

Grief and Loss

Adjustment Disorders

Mood Disorders and Autism

**Diane Hall, LCPC**

207-404-4866

Adoption Preparation

Post Adoption Issues

Trauma

Grief and Loss

Adjustment Issues

Speciality ages 0 to 12

**Bonny Dodson, LCSW**

207-404-4864

Adoption Preparation

Post Adoption Issues

Trauma

Family Therapy

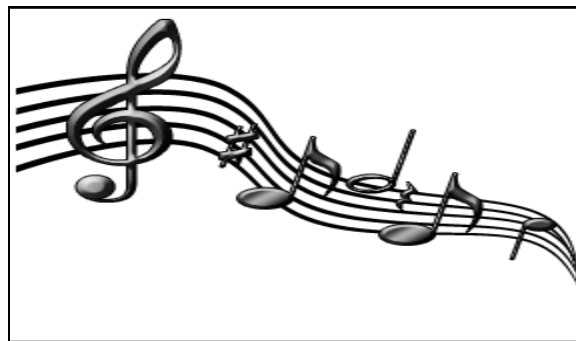
Attachment Disruptions

Anxiety and Depression

# Kinship Corner

## **AFFM is ready for your request for the Summer Campership Program!**

If you are a kinship provider (raising a relative's child in your home) and are interested in having your child/children attend summer camp give the office a call at 1-800-833-9786 Please be prepared to provide information about your child's interest, special needs and/or medical needs so we can find a camp that is best suited for him/her.



## **Bill Giasson Memorial Music Camp Scholarship**

Applications for the Bill Giasson Music Camp Scholarships are now available and may be obtained by contacting a member of the Grandparent's Support Group: Rachel Bumford 623-3651, Jan Patridge 495-3864, or Jan Strout 582-5784. Awards will range from \$150.00 to \$300.00 and will be sent directly to the camp, once the applicant has been enrolled at the music camp of his or her choice.

Bill Giasson touched the lives of many families and children throughout his life. He gave freely of his time, his energy and his love. He was a teacher, family man, musician and friend to many. This music camp scholarship was established by members of a support group which Bill facilitated for nearly 10 years. Its members, made up of grandparents and others who are raising a relative's child, wanted to honor this gentle man who loved children and music and to ensure that his generous spirit would continue to have life. Twelve scholarships will be awarded for the Summer of 2013 thanks to the generosity of everyone who donated their time, talents, goods and support to help make this scholarship reflect Mr. Giasson's spirit.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship must meet the following criteria for eligibility:

1. Maine Residency
2. Financial Need
3. Demonstrated Musical Interest
4. Applicant must participate in the musical enrichment program at the camp of their choice
5. Applicant accepts responsibility for writing thank you notes to the sponsoring organizations

**Priority will be given to applicants living in kinship homes.**

# Ellen Kornetsky, LCSW Counseling

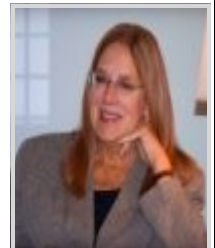
I'm pleased to announce the opening of my counseling practice serving individuals, couples, families, and groups in the Forest Falls Drive business complex in Yarmouth. A 20-year veteran in the field, I specialize in adoption, relationships and family issues, and a variety of mental health concerns. More specifically, I provide adoption options counseling and assistance with identity and birth family issues, search and reunion preparation, and post adoption challenges. I offer therapy to address grief and loss, depression, anxiety, attachment issues, trauma, and life transitions. Family issues I address include interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, blended-family struggles, and what I call "compassionate divorce/disengagement." I work best with clients from middle-school age through adulthood, including adolescents, and I can provide referrals for younger children to clinicians who are highly qualified in the above areas.

## Philosophy & Values

We all have an inner wisdom that often is overwhelmed by interference or "static" from the world around us. When we learn to be still and really listen, we can hear our own wise heart and follow its direction. I believe that human growth occurs in a relational context, and we all have the ability to envision a better life and create our own solutions. To me, therapy is a collaborative process in which clients join to discover possibilities, set achievable goals, and follow the chosen path. I provide a safe space in which to explore challenges, gain insight into underlying needs and how best to meet them, and acquire tools needed to strengthen important relationships.

## Please Contact Me

I'd like to facilitate ongoing groups (therapy or support) and/or workshops of interest to the community. To suggest a specific focus for a group or workshop, please email me at [ellenkornetskylcsw@gmail.com](mailto:ellenkornetskylcsw@gmail.com)! I'll get back to you when I have people to move forward. Office hours are generally Monday-Friday, 9-5, but definitely flexible, depending on your needs. I'm located at Forest Falls Drive, #6-B. Office: 846-0400/Cell:650-9699.

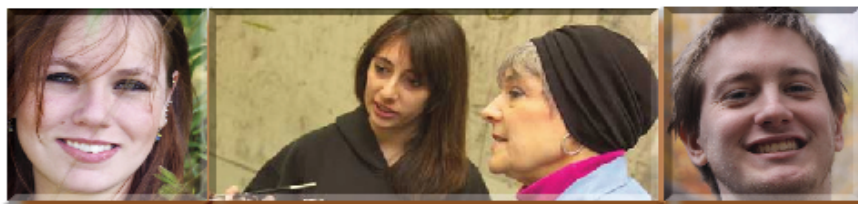


## URGENT NEED

### Multidimensional Treatment Agencies Announce Openings

*Interested in providing a teen with an opportunity to learn, grow and get back on track?*

- **Coach**
- **Advocate**
- **Mentor**
- **Cheerleader**
- **Guide**



#### What is Multidimensional Treatment (MT)?

- MT provides an opportunity for a youth to live successfully with a family while helping to prepare the youth's natural family to sustain positive changes that have occurred.
- Placements are short term, typically 6-9 months. Each home has only one MT placement at a time.
- MT is community-based treatment in a home setting for youths 12-17 with emotional and behavioral challenges.

#### What Type of Support Will My Family Receive?

- You will receive a high level of support from MT staff. The program supervisor is on-call 24 hours a day for any assistance.
- You receive daily phone contact and attend weekly support meetings.
- You are provided with extensive and ongoing training to ensure you use specific behavior management skills to help these teens.
- You receive financial compensation of \$525.00 per week, which is tax-free.

Multidimensional Treatment has over 30 years of research by the Oregon Social Learning Center

60 Miles from East Winthrop  
Contact: Melodie Rand  
[mrاند@chcs-me.org](mailto:mrاند@chcs-me.org)  
207-213-2164



Community Health and  
Counseling Services

# Tamarack Vacation

The Wilhelm Reich Museum is owned and operated by The Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust. This Trust was established by world renowned scientist, Wilhelm Reich, in his Last Will and Testament. The Trust maintains the property at Orgonon under the name and style of the Wilhelm Reich Museum. On this land is his cabin, Tamarack. Mr. Reich's Will also stated that Tamarack be used as a "summer home for children." The Trust has chosen a way to fulfill this final wish by making Tamarack available for adoptive, foster, and kinship families for five weeks in the summer! This opportunity is available to those that might not have another means of this type of vacation. Mary Higgins, trustee, works with AFFM on this opportunity annually.

The cabin is located on the grounds of Orgonon, formerly the home, laboratory, and research center of Wilhelm Reich. Orgonon is located just off of the Dodge Pond Road in Rangeley. Tamarack is about 75 yards away from Dodge Pond. Because the pond is a natural nesting place for loons, power boats, jet skis, and recreational vehicles (i.e. four wheelers) are all strictly prohibited. Rowboats and canoes are permitted. At the foot of the path leading to the pond is a floating platform, a great spot for shore fishing, sunbathing, and jumping in the water. The water is deep and the area is quite rocky. Children will require careful supervision and non-swimmers will require life jackets.

Tamarack is a large, charming, 3 bedroom, 1 bath cabin with a comfortable interior. Tamarack has a complete kitchen with a full size refrigerator and gas stove, and a beautiful living room with a stone fireplace. The camp does not have a phone or television.

Families need to provide their own food and bedding. The Tamarack vacation opportunity is designed for the families who otherwise might not be able to afford a vacation, so there are certain eligibility requirements that apply.

**To be eligible, you must not own or have access to a summer camp, time-share, or RV. Also, if you have been a Tamarack winner in 2011 and 2012, we ask that you not apply. The drawing will be held April 7th and winners will be notified by phone or email by April 21st.**



Many families dearly want to utilize Tamarack. It is necessary that any winners who cannot attend please notify AFFM at least one week in advance. It is important to have time to find an alternate family and give them time to prepare for their vacation, so this beautiful cabin can be enjoyed throughout the heart of the summer.

## "2013 Weeklong Summer Vacation at Tamarack ENTRY FORM"

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please circle the weeks below that your family would be able to attend. Put a star(\*) by the week(s) that are your family's top choice(s).*

**June 1-8**

**June 8-15**

**June 15-22**

**June 22-29**

**June 29 –July 6**

Mail entries to: **Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine, 294 Center St. Suite 1, Old Town, ME 04468**

**Entries must be received by March 30, 2013. Winners will be notified by April 6, 2013**

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](http://www.affm.net)  
E-Mail: [info@affm.net](mailto: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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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILIES OF  
MAINE'S 8TH ANNUAL EVENT:**

**FOSTER FAMILY DAY AT THE FORT**

**MAY 18, 2013**

**11:00am-3:00pm**

**FORT KNOX**

**PROSPECT, MAINE**

**To Sign up call the office at 1-800-833-9786**

**This is a FREE event!!**