

# Family Ties



Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 17 Number 1

Newsletter

January 2014

## AFFM Year in Review

Happy New Year to friends and colleagues!

In the past two weeks we completed a gift giving campaign that began in late August and was completed (with a huge sigh of relief) on December 23, 2013. Once again over 800 children were the recipients of toys, clothing, and assorted toiletries. As readers can imagine the logistical nightmare of getting all those gifts to the families located from Kittery to Fort Kent and Machias to Rangeley and all points in between was no small feat and all who helped are sent a sincere thank you!

The thank you list to the many kind and generous donors is huge! Thank you sincerely to all who contributed to the joy and treasures of this special season of caring. Our wonderful friends at the Spirit of Giving Committee set in motion the giving of presents to children and families in need using AFFM as the sponsoring agency over 9 years ago. The giving practice has grown so much that even with the Spirit of Giving Committee providing gifts to over 600 children in our program, AFFM also found sponsors for nearly 250 additional children.

I hope those whose children got gifts from this amazing campaign will take time to send cards and/or letters. We at AFFM will share your messages with all the wonderful individuals and groups that donated gifts. All who helped and shared their time and talents were appreciated. Many of us were able to hand gifts to families and viewed first-hand the gratitude and thankfulness of the receivers but it is a small number that actually see this, so the cards and notes really do help. If you have pictures that can be shared of your children with their gifts remember those are worth a million words!

In addition to all the holiday gifts distributed, AFFM held holiday parties. A pool party was held in Bangor and one at the YMCA in Portland. Over 140 attended the party in Bangor. To say we need to expand the space for next year is an understatement! A Pot luck was provided at the party in Bangor. Santa and Mrs. Claus handed age appropriate books to every child along with candy canes and a stuffed toy. Photo opportunities were provided at both parties along with arts and crafts. In Portland guests were treated to pizza and special holiday treats. Children created lovely handmade decorations and crafts at both parties. These holiday parties grow each

year and the ratings are always nearly 100% satisfaction. We love that the parents/caretakers assist with the children as many hands make a lighter load.

This Month's Family Ties:	
Year in Review Continued	2
AFFM Heroes Announcements	4
Support Group Listings	5
Support Announcements	6
FAQ Community Conversation Dates	7
Multidimensional Treatment Program	8

As one might imagine, in a time when DHHS is actively engaging kin in the planning and placement of children for whom child protection becomes a concern, the numbers of kinship families becoming members of AFFM has increased dramatically. AFFM is working diligently to increase opportunities for traditional Resource Families (foster parents) to partner with kin as transitions are made. Maine has been blessed with a long history of training and education as well as socialization opportunities for resource parents. When kinship and traditional resource parents work together positive permanency outcomes are increased.

AFFM celebrated Adoption Awareness month in November with several events. A tea co-hosted by the Blaine House staff and AFFM was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Therese Cahill Low, Director of the Office of Child and Family Services, provided a greeting and shared her thanks and appreciation to all involved at the many levels of adoption here in Maine. The Governor's Proclamation and a Legislative Sentiment written for Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, presented by Senator Geoffrey Gratwick were read by Senator Burns.

Senator Burns is an adoptive parent and shared a bit of his personal journey. AFFM Board President, Barbara Ford also shared kind words of praise and celebration after introducing the guest speakers. Invited guests included, both private and public adoption workers and adoptive families, the staff of AFFM and several DHHS adoption workers. The individual stories shared were as always amazing! Maine continues to make getting youth to permanency a priority and it is never more obvious than during Adoption Awareness Month.

AFFM was also fortunate to partner with several agencies across Maine to assist with legalizations of adoptions at the Children Museum in Portland and Bangor. Congratulations to all the families in Maine who added to or formed a family through adopting one or more of Maine's waiting children. AFFM was pleased to add the Rockland area to its locations that celebrated adoption legalizations in November. The Rockland Museum made itself available to families following the legalizations at the Probate Court.

AFFM hosted a Fetal Alcohol Conference at Jeff's Catering in Brewer in September. Guest speaker, Dr. Paula Lockhart was both captivating and informative as she shared her remarkable knowledge of this intense subject. The audience of approximately 65 individuals from the greater Bangor area was given plenty of time to ask pertinent questions and gain insight to this country's number one cause of preventable brain dysfunction.

In August, AFFM participated in the Second Annual, 5k Run at the New Balance outlet in Skowhegan. This event was a collaboration between AFFM and DHHS of Skowhegan. Funds collected from the run assisted the Skowhegan office in providing holiday gifts to youth in their district.

During June, July and August six families were able to use the wonderful Tamarack Cottage in Rangeley. Thank you so much to Mary Higgins and Mary Henderson for making cottage available for the 16<sup>th</sup> straight year!

AFFM assisted families in celebrating May as Foster Care Month with its annual Foster Day at the Fort. Fort Knox was the site of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual picnic and family day. Nearly 350 individuals attended the event on that super sunny day. Watch your newsletter for information about plans for this year's Foster Day at the Fort.

Bette, Meagan and Sheila have assisted in numerous Family Team Meetings. If you feel the need to have someone attend one of these important meetings with you, feel free to call and ask for one of the trio to assist you.

Throughout this year AFFM has made free or reduced rates available to resource families to take part in various family programs. These events included but were not limited to; passes to state fairs, Maine Children's Museums, Apple and pumpkin picking events, theater tickets, tickets to Sesame Street Live and much more. AFFM also provided Season Park Passes to over 400 licensed foster families. AFFM provided nearly 600 reduced entrance passes to the Wild Life Park in Gray. If you have not made a request in the past AFFM hopes you will do so. If you have suggestions for other family entertainment that AFFM might contact to expand resources, please give us a call. Many of you have been able to take advantage of the various in-kind programs provided by AFFM. In the past year AFFM has recycled and or provided new items to over 400 families. Items provided included, beds, mattresses box springs, linens, dishes, portable cribs, youth beds, flatware, pots and pans, clothes, toys and assorted pieces of furniture. AFFM has distributed literally thousands of new children's books as well. Thanks again to Toys for Tots who provided more than a fair share of items that AFFM provided to youth celebrating birthdays.

Many thanks go to our partners at Bed Bath and Beyond, Sam's Club, Home Depot and Admiral's Inn in Ogunquit, and Seafarer Inn in Ogunquit and Books a Million in Bangor. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have new or gently used items to donate or if you are in need of items we can provide.

In July AFFM opened a second office. Meagan Stearns is heading up AFFM's office in Biddeford at 25 Pool Street. We are all so excited to have an actual permanent location in Southern Maine. Prior to opening the new additional office we were fortunate to have satellite offices in the homes of Janalee Moquin and Tammy Cutchen. Thanks so much to both ladies and members of the AFFM Team for your kind and generous donations of space and hospitality to AFFM. I extend a very special thank you to our Board of Directors; without their expertise and careful planning this association would not exist.

AFFM continues its work with Maine Steps and to enhance the Family Partner Program. Thank you, to Carolyn Sawyer, Shirley Ross, Tammy Cutchen and Joan Jewett for their time and dedication to this very important work! Sadly, we anticipate this program will end in June as the contract winds to an end. This has been an awesome opportunity to expand services to include birth parents and all who have participated in the one on one service of the four Family Partners have had nothing but positive things to say about their experience.

The Family Ties newsletter has grown under the direction of Resource Development Coordinator, Meagan Stearns. Meagan has also met the challenge of assisting in the coordination and delivery of the AFFM conference, and the events celebrated during National Adoption Awareness Month and a delightful adoption tea at the Blaine House. Meagan is active on several foster care related committees and represents AFFM on the New England Foster Care Association (NEFCA).

Cindy Lilley our administrative specialist *and an unpaid delivery master*, keeps our books and records straight and keeps us aware of the need to be frugal in our spending. I jokingly called her our *delivery master* as she often uses her own time to make deliveries of furniture to families in obscure locations across the state. Cindy is strong and not afraid to lift and shuffle to insure that families making requests of AFFM do not go without. Cindy answers the phone with a sincere and welcoming voice and never seems the least bit bothered when four lines ring at once!

Debbie Irish continues to be steadfast in her support and contributions of handmade wares and so much more! As always thank you never seems quite adequate for all the blessings that are provided. Our dear friend, Mary Lake has retired her treadle sewing machine and is now writing stories. A celebration was held in honor of her having made and donated a total of 1000 dresses to children in care. A legislative sentiment was delivered along with long stemmed red roses and a gift certificate to her favorite restaurant as a small thank you in appreciation of her wonderful service to AFFM and children in care. Additionally groups of parents and children across the state participated in launching bouquets of balloons in her honor on Dec. 13 at ten in the morning at the exact time she was receiving the legislative sentiment. AFFM acknowledges that 1000 balloons is probably not the most environmentally safe way to recognize a person however, it was the choice of many little girls, symbolic of childhood memories for many decades.

Our Program and Research Specialist, Jim Hatch has been busy on numerous committees throughout the year. Jim has developed an expanded Mentor Service and along with Training Coordinator, Margaret Warman will launch the first round of training for the Mentors in January. It is hoped that mentors will be available to all licensed resource families within the year and the program will be expanded to include all licensed and non-licensed homes by 2015. If you are in need of a mentor or interested in becoming a mentor please call and speak with Jim.

Kinship Specialist, Sheila Peakall has worked with 79 new unlicensed kinship families and a total of 92 new families since last year at this time. This is an amazing increase and we are fortunate to have Sheila conscientiously and tirelessly working to answer questions on a myriad of topics and to respond to the needs of families for material goods, opportunities to network and socialize with others who provide kinship care across the state. Many of these families have additionally been assisted by other members of the staff and the numbers indicate only those that spoke specifically with Sheila at time of their initial call.

Jim, Sheila and Meagan have all been diligent in their efforts to expand support groups all over the state of Maine. They have partnered with some existent groups and or begun new groups where none previously existed. Child care is available upon request to insure that those who want to take advantage of the support groups can do so without worry about the care of their children while in attendance.

Margaret Warman has partnered with DHHS licensing staff to provide the Fundamental training to newly recruited resource parents as well as kinship providers. Margaret has 3 staff that assists her in the delivery of trainings. The trainers are, Joy Young of Dixfield, Shirley Ross of Starks and Gail Neher of Cary Plantation.

AFFM is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and gifted staff that has a wide range of skills and expertise from both personal and educational enrichment.

Executive Director, Bette Hoxie continues to provide supervision to the expanding staff, participates in a number of committees significant to resource families and child welfare, provides training, and upon request provides individual support to resource parents.

Bette and Meagan attended the National Foster Parent Association Conference in California in June and Sheila and Bette attended the North American Council on Adoptable Children in Toronto, Canada in August. At the NACAC conference AFFM was presented with the Parent Support Group Award. This award is a credit to all who have worked and continue to work tirelessly to insure that resource parents in Maine have peer to peer supports, a place to vent and to learn. In May, Jim attended the Citizen Review Panel (CRP) conference in Wyoming and came home with lots of renewed enthusiasm and hopes for the future of citizen involvement in child protection and support for resource families.

In October AFFM received the Maine Children's Alliance's Giraffe Award for those who are willing to stick their neck out for children. It was a real honor to be added to the distinguished list of both former and new recipients of the Giraffe awards.

Thank you to all who have assisted in so very many ways throughout this past year. We at AFFM look forward to continuing to grow with you as we work together to improve the quality of life for Maine's children and their families.

Have a happy, safe and love filled New Year!



# AFFM HEROES OF 2013

**AFFM would like to take a moment and thank all those who made 2013 the successful year that it was. We couldn't do what we do without your support!**

Ogunquit Spirit of Giving  
 Holy Family Parish Thrift Store in Old Town  
 Toys for Tots  
 Amber & Skip Young  
 Bangor Home Depot  
 Augusta, Bangor, Topsham Bed Bath and Beyond  
 Freeport Cricket Hunt Day Care  
 Brunswick St. Paul's Church  
 Marie Barbieri of Brunswick  
 Brunswick St. Charles Church  
 Nancy Call of Durham  
 Tracey Peck-Moad of Brunswick  
 Lori Hodell of Brunswick  
 Dr. Block and Dr. Gratwick's Staff  
 Janalee Moquin, Festival of Fostering Trees  
 Mary Lake of Belgrade  
 State Police  
 In Memory of Norberta Butler  
 Tom & Shirley Ross  
 Mike Warman  
 Bangor International Airport  
 Fore Street Distributors- Portland  
 DHHS—Rockland, Biddeford, Lewiston, Skowhegan, Caribou, Houlton, Ellsworth and Machias

Bangor Books-A-Million  
 Erin Clark and Family  
 Threads for Teens  
 Santa and Mrs. Claus  
 Brewer Playland Adventures  
 Portland YMCA  
 Portland Dominoes Pizza  
 Bangor & Augusta Sam's Club  
 Coats for Kids  
 Broadway Bangor Hannaford's  
 Friends of Fort Knox, Prospect  
 Rebecca Irving  
 Judge Emery  
 Maine Parent Federation  
 GEAR  
 Allie Doughty  
 Aids for Kids  
 JMG Old Town High School  
 The United Church of Christ of NE Harbor & Seal Harbor  
 NOE  
 Laura Bell  
 Mary Ellen Roma

Darlings' Ice Cream Truck  
 Kristina Gefert, Maine Judicial Branch  
 Debbie Irish of Sherman  
 Marilyn Hoxie of Old Town  
 Travis Bryant & Cassy Worster  
 Old Town Dollar Tree  
 Bernard Plourde  
 Lauren Fitzgerald  
 Penthea Burns  
 YLAT  
 Alex Lynds  
 Autism Society of Maine  
 Jim Crotteau  
 Bangor & Augusta Pizza Hut  
 Vanessa Ellis of New Balance  
 Deanna Miles  
 Orono/Old Town Police & Fire  
 Penobscot Regional Dispatch Center  
 Morgan Stanley  
 Ramada Inn  
 Augusta Maine Parent Federation  
 To those who provided trainings throughout the year



## Announcements

### WOODFORDS FAMILY SERVICES RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

Woodfords Family Services has received a grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, a national nonprofit whose mission is to find forever families for children in foster care. This grant funds a child-focused adoption recruiter for Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Woodfords Family Services has hired adoption recruiter Mindy Williams who is working to match the longest-waiting children in foster care with loving adoptive families. Dedicated to the needs of Maine's waiting children, Williams is excited to be a part of this special program, the only one of its kind in Maine.

To learn more about The Wendy's Wonderful Kids program or how to adopt from foster care, contact WWK recruiter Mindy Williams at [mwilliams@woodfords.org](mailto:mwilliams@woodfords.org), (207) 878-9663 x4154, or [woodfords.org](http://woodfords.org), or [davethomasfoundation.org](http://davethomasfoundation.org).

**On December 13th AFFM celebrated Mary Lake for making her 1,000 dress for little girls in care. Mary was presented with a legislative sentiment and across the state balloons were released in her honor!**

**Thank you Mary for all you've done for little girls in Maine's care!**



## Resource Family Support Groups Throughout Maine

**Bangor:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets from 6:00-8:00pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at 26 Downeast Circle (between Davis Road and Mt. Dessert Drive), Bangor. For more information please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 Please RSVP.

**Belfast:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets the 4th Friday of the month at the Calvary Chapel Church in Belfast 147 Waldo Ave. in the Wentworth Building. Contact BraveFamilies@gmail.com to RSVP.

**Biddeford:** Foster/Adoptive Support. Meets from 9:30-11:00 am the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. For more information please contact Meredith Crain at 283-4314. Please call before you come.

**Caribou:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship parent support. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30PM at Caribou Adult Education Building on Bennett Drive in between Caribou Rec and the gas station. Childcare is provided. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP and to reserve a spot for childcare.

**Dover-Foxcroft:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6PM-7:30PM at Mayo Regional Hospital, Borestone and Sebec conference room. Childcare is provided. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP and to reserve a spot for childcare.

**Ellsworth:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:00pm at Ellsworth Elementary/Middle School 20 Forest Ave. in Ellsworth. Child care is provided. Please contact Mindy Kane, Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS), at 263-2014 or email MKane@chcs-me.org to reserve a spot for childcare. *Thanks to a local grant awarded to CHCS, AFFM is able to provide mileage reimbursement for families traveling more than 30 miles from home.*

**Sherman:** Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7 Cow Team Road in Sherman. Please contact Debbie Irish at 365-7133 for more information. This group does not meet during the summer.

**Houlton:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets every 2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Houlton CHCS 2 Water Street. Childcare is provided. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP and to reserve a spot for childcare.

**Lewiston:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month 7:00pm-9:00pm at B Street Community Center 57 Birch Street Lewiston, ME. Call Deb Hallowell at 783-3291 or 344-5101 or Lisa Cates at 336-3760.

**Machias:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 1st Friday of the month 5:30PM-7:00PM at Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School 15 Rose Gaffney Road, Machias. Childcare is provided. Please contact Mindy Kane, Community Health and Counseling Services, at 263-2014 or email MKane@chcs-me.org to reserve a spot for childcare. *Thanks to a local grant awarded to CHCS, AFFM is able to provide mileage more than 30 miles from home.*

**Rockland:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 3rd Monday of the month 5:30PM-7:00PM at Knox Center (Pen Bay Healthcare) 6 White Street, Rockland. Childcare is provided. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP and to reserve a spot for childcare.

**Skowhegan:** The group meets 5:30-8:00PM every second Wednesday of the month located at Skowhegan Federated Church 13 Island Avenue in Skowhegan. Childcare is provided. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP and to reserve a spot for childcare.

**South Paris:** Kinship Support. Meets 9:00AM-10:00AM every second Saturday of the month, unless noted. Meets at Deering Memorial Church, 39 Main Street, South Paris. Please RSVP to Shelley Newcomb at comb2599@roadrunner.com

**South Portland:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets at 5:30PM-7:30PM at 62 Darling Ave, South Portland. This group will meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please contact Meagan Stearns at meagan@affm.net or call (207) 478-8025 to RSVP and reserve childcare.

**Turner/Hartford:** NEW Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every second Friday of the month 5:30-7:30PM at "A Bend in the Road" 235 Berry Road, Hartford. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP.

**Westbrook:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets 10:00AM-12PM at the Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church at 810 Main Street. Meets every 1st Wednesday of the month. Childcare is provided. Please contact Meagan Stearns at meagan@affm.net or call (207) 478-8025 to RSVP and reserve childcare.

**York:** Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. This group will meet every 2nd Thursday of the month 5:30PM-6:30PM at York Hospital. Please use the Hancock Entrance, group will be held in Ellis Conference Room (on your immediate left). Please RSVP to Meagan Stearns at meagan@affm.net or call (207) 478-8025.

# What Have the Support Groups Been Up To?

## What have the support groups been up to?

AFFM thought it would be helpful to let adoptive, foster, and kinship families know what has been happening over the last year with the support groups state-wide. At the request of attendees, group participants have received training on a variety of topic areas including: the role of the guardian ad litem, the value of kinship connections, impact on drug affected children, probate court issues (adoption, and legal guardianship), the special education system, brain injuries, autism spectrum disorders, parenting skills, Indian welfare system, and many more. Some of the support groups invited DHHS staff for a question and answer session to help clarify DHHS policy and Procedures. In addition to training, families have learned about available resources through the opportunity to talking with other families. For complex, and time consuming issues, group facilitators often provided individual support to families or referred the family to AFFM so we could provide support that went beyond the scope of the meeting format. Many of the areas offered free on-site childcare and food as well. AFFM would be remiss if we did not thank all those who helped to provide this service. AFFM was able to provide administrative and financial support to the support groups due to a vital contract with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. The credit also goes to the many of our collaborating partners who directly helped to facilitate some of the support groups meetings. AFFM also thanks Maine Kids-Kin (Families and Children Together) for posting the support group meetings on the Maine Kids-Kin website page.

*"It's worth the (long) trip, I have always come a way having heard something that helped or enlightened (me)"-Veronica M-Foster parent.*

*Great way to get information from outside resources and meet with other parents who are sharing the journey."- Jessica H., Adoptive and Foster Parent.*

*Learned about resources and received training I was unaware of"-Cindy N., Kinship family*

AFFM wants to thank the following people for working with AFFM to pull off this needed service for adoptive, foster, and kinship families.

- \*Mindy Kane & Jen Johnson, Art Grant, and Peter Crovo- Community Health and Counseling Services
- \*Members of the Tri-County Adoptive, Foster, and Kinship Association
- \*Meredith Crain
- \*Brave Families
- \*A Bend in the Road
- \*Debbie Irish
- \*Shelley Newcomb

If interested in attending a support group meeting, please call AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or the contact number for the group in your area for more information.

And if there isn't currently a support group in your area, call AFFM to see how AFFM can accommodate your need.

## Support Group for Teens!

Many of you have been looking for a support group for your teenager. Though the Youth Leadership Advisory Team (YLAT) is not a support per se, many teens will say YLAT is a support to them. YLAT is a program provided to Maine's youth or former youth in care, by The Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the Muskie School at University of Southern Maine. YLAT's primary purpose is to improve the short-term and long-term outcomes for youth in foster care. The youth draw on their personal stories and experiences in an effort to improve the system. Why do many think of this as a support group? Teens are able to share their stories with other youth who have walked in their shoes. They feel safe in sharing their story and know that they not only will receive validation and support to help them in their current situation, but they also know they are a part of improving the experiences of others who enter the system. Many youth come away from the YLAT meetings and events with an increased sense of self-esteem, confidence, and pride that they have not experienced before. Any teenager who is 14 or older and is currently in, or had been in foster care can join. YLAT has been instrumental in partnering with AFFM to host the Community Conversation events. YLAT also meets frequently with top DHHS administrators to identify and find solutions to improve overall experience of youth have while in care. YLAT groups are held in Saco, Augusta, Skowhegan, Lewiston, Rockland, Bangor, Ellsworth, and Houlton.

For more information about YLAT and their work, please visit [www.ylat.org](http://www.ylat.org) or call your local DHHS District office



## Frequently Asked Questions



*Have you had a question about adoption, foster care, kinship care, guardianship, financial supports, working with the department, etc. that you would like to know the answer to? You're in luck! Each month the Family Ties Newsletter will feature a FAQ section. Send your questions to [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net) and we'll answer them the best we can!*

### **Clarification on Mileage Reimbursement**

**When resource parents attend trainings will they be able to put in for mileage reimbursement? Some trainings aren't always offered in local areas and families have to travel quite a distance to attend. Would families be able to be reimbursed for those miles?**

**If my child's psychologist recommends for my child to participate on a sports team or an organized team to encourage appropriate social behavior, learn to follow adult direction, peer relations, build self-esteem, etc. would we be able to submit for mileage reimbursement?**

The OCFS transportation policy provides guidance that resource parents are reimbursed for transportation that is related to the case plan-services related to placement, visits with bio family, health care appointments, therapy, evaluations, and attendance at court. Transportation of the child for shopping, recreational or extracurricular activities is the responsibility of the resource parent to fund as part of their daily rate. The transportation policy does not require the Department to reimburse for resource parents' travel to training. This is the responsibility of the resource parent. Resource families involved with therapeutic agencies are reimbursed through the agencies.



# Community Conversations

### **Save the Dates: Mark your calendars for the upcoming Community Conversations for the year 2014!**

Community Conversations brings together a panel of youth, foster, adoptive and kinship parents. Stories will be shared about what has worked and what has not in achieving permanency for youth in foster care. As participants you will be given the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas on what permanency means to you. We all want youth to have someone to call on to share and help celebrate their joys as well as to help decrease their challenges and sorrows. Your input matters.

The Community Conversations we hope will lead to an on-going dialogue about this important topic. We hope the dialogue will improve and increase the numbers of youth who achieve permanency. Resource families are encouraged to attend. Your voices are so important. You are with the youth every day and night. You understand the messages they share and many that they don't. Please join in and help Maine move more kids into permanency.

- March 4, 2014 - Augusta (Snow Date March 13, 2014)
- March 17, 2014 - Machias (Snow Date March 27, 2014)
  - April 4, 2014 - Rockland
  - April 30, 2014 - Lewiston
  - May 7, 2014 - Bangor
  - May 20, 2014 - Ellsworth
  - June 10, 2014 - Portland
  - June 17, 2014 - Biddeford

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

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OLD TOWN, ME  
PERMIT NO. 65

FAMILY TIES THE NEWSLETTER OF ADOPTIVE & FOSTER FAMILIES OF MAINE, INC PUBLISHED WITH  
SUPPORT FROM THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. PLEASE DIRECT  
COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMIY TIES, AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

## Glass Half Full?

Are you a person who can give youth encouragement and extra support to make better decisions? We are looking for interested and dedicated people living within a 30 mile drive from Dover-Foxcroft to provide 6-9 months of care to help get a teen back on track. If this is you, call Community Health and Counseling Services now!



**Call Melodie at 213-2164**

