

Family



Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 18 Number 1

Newsletter

January 2015

AFFM Year in Review

Over the last few weeks AFFM has completed a state-wide gift giving campaign that began in late August and was completed on December 23, 2014. Nearly, 1000 children were the recipients of toys and clothing, gift cards and so much more! The office has been a buzz of activity related to the holidays for months. Every day for weeks, one or more of the staff have accommodated families in their quest for the perfect gift and/or the much needed winter clothing. Thank you so much to all who made light work of a heavy job! 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 10 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 secured sponsors for nearly 400 additional children.

Thank you to all who shared your time, facilities, and talents to help make children's wishes come true. A few people were able to see and hear first-hand the gratitude and words of appreciation shared when gifts were received; however many of those who supported this effort did not. If your child/children received a gift as a result of this amazing campaign and you would like to extend your words of thanks, please send your cards, letters, and pictures to AFFM and we will forward them to the right people.

In addition to the holiday gifts program, AFFM held holiday pool parties in Bangor and Portland. We expanded the space this year in Bangor and we were still crowded with over 140 family members attending. Thank you Santa and Mrs. Claus for handing out an age appropriate book to every child along with candy canes and a stuffed toy. AFFM also thanks the volunteers with helping the Children create lovely hand-made decorations and crafts at the events. In addition to AFFM holiday pool parties, AFFM was honored to partner with the DHHS offices in Augusta, Skowhegan and Rockland and provided books and toys to hand out to children at their holiday events as well.

The numbers of kinship families AFFM assists continues to grow. The office serves over 1200 unlicensed kinship homes and nearly as many that are licensed. AFFM strives 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 and play together the opportunities for positive permanency outcomes are increased.

AFFM assisted behind the scenes with an event provided by DHHS at the Hall of Flags which jump started the Adoption Awareness activities observed across the State. On the following week, AFFM organized and hosted the annual Blaine House Tea on Nov. 6th. Newly adoptive families, private and public adoption workers, DHHS adoption staff, and state legislators enjoyed tea, light snacks and each other's company before listening to the inspiring words of appreciation from distinguished speakers. Thank you, First Lady Anne LePage for reading the Governor's Adoption Awareness Month Proclamation, and to Commissioner Mayhew for sharing your thanks and appreciation to all involved in helping children to find their permanent home this year. Thank you to Senator Collins offices for the special recognition of Reba and Bob Parsons of Old Town. The Parsons were recipients of the annual Angels in Adoption award. The national recognition event was held in Washington DC., however Reba and Bob were unable to attend due to family commitments; AFFM was honored to have this additional and unique opportunity to recognize one of its 'own at the adoption tea. Reba and Bob are volunteers who go above and beyond in assisting the families served by AFFM. Thank you Senator Burns for sharing a bit of your personal journey as an adoptive parent and for extending words of praise and thanks to the families who have added to by adopting. We also want to thank Barbara and Ed Ford's daughter, for sharing how blessed she is to have been adopted recently as an adult by the Ford's. It is a poignant reminder that the on-going connection with former youth in care can lead to permanency.

To help increase public awareness, displays were provided in libraries across the state. AFFM created Posters and the libraries displayed adoption specific books for the public to read. Maine continues to make getting youth to permanency a priority and it is never more obvious than during Adoption Awareness Month. Also in September AFFM coordinated a statewide letter writing effort to assist the general public in a greater awareness of the strengths and challenges of raising a relative's child. Most of the relatives are grandparent caregivers hence we chose the month of September as it is also the month when grandparents are specifically recognized. In August AFFM participated in the Second Annual, 5k Run at the New Balance outlet in Skowhegan. This event was collaboration between AFFM and DHHS of Skowhegan and Augusta. Funds collected from the run assisted the Skowhegan office in providing the annual holiday party for youth and resource parents in that district.

During June, July and August six families were able to use the wonderful Tamarack Cottage in Rangeley over the summer. Thank you so much to Mary Higgins and Mary Henderson for making cottage available for the 16th straight year! The heartwarming stories and the memories built there each year are now historical and cherished!

Over 45 youth were supported to attend summer camps as a result of donations to AFFM and the efforts of Chelsea, our Seasonal Activities Coordinator, and Sheila, the AFFM Kinship Specialist. Over 150 tickets to fairs and other family events were provided to resource families throughout the state also as a result of the aforementioned duo.

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 10th annual picnic and family day. Nearly 300 individuals attended the event on an incredibly rainy and cool day. Spirits were not dampened however and everyone had a blast and walked away with gifts, prizes, filled tummies and more fondly made memories. Thank you to The Friends of Fort Knox who are so open to helping us continue this annual event. Thank you also to Board members who do so much to help get items to and from the Fort, and keep games, entertainment, giveaways, etc. moving! Thanks to our spirited team of volunteers who so lovingly shop and cook and serve the food in rain or sun, you are appreciated! Watch your newsletter for plans for this year's Foster Day at the Fort.

In June Meagan Sprague, Tammy Cutchen and Meghan Panton planned, coordinated and supervised the annual Fairy Island Adventure Day on Mackworth Island. As was true at Fort Knox the weather was not great but many families found ways to enjoy the festivities in spite of rain and clouds. Make plans to attend the event this coming June. We will all be praying for sunnier springtime weather this year!

On the same day in June as the Fairy Island Adventure Bette was fortunate to be invited to a Biker's Rally to fundraise for AFFM. The event was set in motion by Brandy Bowles, a resource parent in Waterville, and her biker friends in the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Maine Chapter 3. The event brought in money that supported us buying bikes for several children in care. One such bike as well as a scooter was presented to two delighted youth at the event. The Red Knights under Brandy's guidance will provide a similar ride in July 2015 which will be held at the Unity Park and will be a picnic and Resource Family Day event. Thank you Brandy, Chris, Brandy's Mother, the Red Knights and all who helped make the first event a success. Watch the Family Ties and affm.net for news of this exciting upcoming event.

In April AFFM held an amazing conference in Bangor. Keynote speakers, Judge Britt Hammond of GA., and former youth from care and now national speaker, Helen Ramaglia both moved, inspired and informed the crowd of nearly 250 participants. Many other amazing presenters all from Maine rounded out the exciting and informative two-day training event. At the luncheon on Friday of the conference, AFFM and DHHS honored numerous case workers, a legislator, resource parents, and other child welfare advocates for their exemplary work on behalf of children and families in Maine. Prepare now for Conference 2015, Seasons of Change; A Cohesive Approach to Transitions, to be held in Portland April 24 & 25, 2015. It is not too soon to set up child care etc. so you can be among the first to register when the brochures arrive in mid-February.

In March, April, May and June, AFFM co-partnered with Penhea Burns, Marty Zanghi, and other staff from the Muskie School of Public Service as well as the Youth Leadership Advisory Team to co-present Community Conversations. The conversations were an opportunity to hear first-hand from a panel of youth and their parent/support person who have gone through the foster care system and what were the strengths of relationships built and what were the challenges and how they feel their voices can best be heard in planning for their future. The ultimate goal of Community Conversations is to insure that every youth leaving the foster care system is connected with at least one adult who is willing to provide unconditional love and support to the youth for a lifetime.

In February AFFM partnered with District 6 to provide the annual roller skating party at Great Skates in Bangor. This is a fun opportunity to during the Feb. school vacation. This year's event is fast approaching.

Our Family Steps Program ended in June of 2014. We miss that aspect of our work but maintain contact with individuals who worked so well to make that a very remarkable resource to families.

Throughout the year AFFM is honored to have student interns who volunteer their time to AFFM while adding to their educational background. They learn as they assist in the day to day projects and conversations, trainings etc. Both Travis and Chelsea began as interns and are now both employed here. Travis has a real gift for thinking outside the box and has made us all more mindful to not limit the possibilities for resources for the families we serve. He has made substantial gains in the training programs offered by this small office. Travis Bryant has partnered with DHHS licensing staff to provide the Fundamental training to newly recruited resource parents as well as kinship providers. Travis has 3 staff that assists him in the delivery of trainings. The trainers are, Joy Young of Dixfield, Shirley Ross of Starks and Gail Neher of Cary Plantation.

Chelsea also has much strength, among them a strong organizational quality that has made her a perfect assistant for Jim as he researches the many aspects of our work. Chelsea is also adept at meeting people's needs over the phone, taking notes and making sense of what at times seems like utter chaos. Chelsea's newest task is searching the state for family friendly events and posting them on Facebook. Both of these individuals are kind and motivated to make the world a better place.

Another wonderful and gifted student intern is Paul Leonard. Paul has just completed his studies in social services and will begin to seek employment in the New Year. His internship was completed in late Nov. but he offered to continue to volunteer here until after the holidays. His sense of humor and kind and generous manner has been a real gift to this office and he will be missed as he moves forward to pursue his career goals.

Bette, Meagan and Sheila assist in 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.

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 500 licensed foster families. AFFM provided nearly 800 reduced entrance passes to the Wild Life Park in Gray. If you have made a request in the past AFFM hopes you will do so again, if not, consider planning a trip to include one or more of these wholesome family activities in 2015. If you have suggestions for other family entertainment that AFFM might contact to expand the resource, 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, Bed Bath and Beyond, Home Depot, Admiral's Inn in Ogunquit, The Seafarer in Ogunquit, and especially to especially families who have donated items this past year. In October AFFM met with a group of students under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Middleton at the School of Social Work at UMO. The students will research barriers to accessing resources unlicensed kinship providers. This project is a collaborative between AFFM and the U Maine Center on Aging and will culminate with an extensive report in April.

In December AFFM moved from our second location in Biddeford to a new location at 333 Lincoln St. in Saco. The new space will allow us to store donated items and give families to talk with Meagan about the services and supports AFFM provides. Meagan Sprague, Community Resource Development Coordinator is the go to person in Saco. We are all pleased to have such a great location to better serve families in Southern Maine.

AFFM is so fortunate to have active Board members who help out with the mission of AFFM in so many ways. We at the AFFM office extend a very special thank you to our Board of Directors; without their expertise and careful planning this association would not exist. A few examples of how Board members assist are for example; John Skula located the rental space in Saco and additionally moved nearly every item from Biddeford to Saco; Deb Nagle has added her expertise to two separate committees promoting mental health for children in out of home placements as well as representing the kinship perspective on a research project the AFFM has spearheaded. Our Board President, Barbara Ford is our legislative guru and also provides an excellent guidance in directing us with our DHHS contract issues, Pat Locke is available when legal matters are concerning families and although does not provide legal counsel she does guide us in understanding the law and implications for families generally. Denise Card is our treasurer and always at our beckon call to add her signature to checks as well as assist in making lots of deliveries and/or connections across the state. Holly Shafer is researching grants and other funding sources for AFFM. Mary Ellen Roma has opened her home up as the distribution site for holiday gifts for the greater Portland area for the second year in a row and has made and donated a beautiful quilt to our annual silent auction for the past several years. Those are just a few examples of the many ways AFFM is supported by its Board. Each member brings special gifts and I don't have space to acknowledge each. But no one is less important than another and AFFM is truly fortunate to have them.

The Family Ties newsletter continues to grow under the direction of Community Resource Development Coordinator, Meagan Sprague. Meagan was also instrumental in the success of events celebrated during National Adoption Awareness Month and the very delightful adoption tea at the Blaine House. Meagan represents AFFM on several foster care related committees and represents AFFM to the New England Foster Care Association (NEFCA). Meagan attends Family Team Meetings and is available to assist with all aspects of Resource family Care (foster, adoptive and kinship) in Southern Maine including Districts, 1, 2 and 3.

Cindy Lilley is the cheery and efficient voice most will hear first when they call the AFFM offices. Cindy is our administrative specialist and keeps our books and records straight. She helps keep the staff and me mindful of the need to be thrifty in our spending and is aware of which pockets of money we can use to support families which either come from donations or contracted funds with the state. For the sake of clarifying to our readers, contracted funds are used for salaries, rent, utilities, office supplies, support groups, mileage, and training almost exclusively. To help reader's understand, donated funds pay for such things as summer camps, fuel assistance, utilities for folks in need, auto repairs, gift cards etc. When AFFM provides assistance it is a one-time opportunity and can only be provided when all other assistance has been exhausted. The amount AFFM provides is totally dependent on what has been provided by donors and is formally requested and approved.

Debbie Irish continues to be steadfast in her support and contributions of handmade wares and so much more! Debbie as always thank you never seems quite adequate for all the blessings that you provide. Debbie never asks for anything in return and always has a dozen projects going at once but is never without a smile! Debbie is also a support group leader in Sherman and that group like Debbie is very supportive of families with children in need. Annually they provide food baskets and holiday gifts to nearly a dozen area families.

Our dear friend, Mary Lake had contemplated retiring her treadle sewing machine but just couldn't break an old and faithful habit. Mary provided dresses both in the spring and the fall of this past year. She also made numerous other donations of new clothing to AFFM.

Our Program and Research Specialist, Jim Hatch has been busy on numerous committees throughout the year. Jim takes an active role in all aspects of the AFFM office responsibilities. Jim has developed an expanded the Mentor Service. The service matches less experienced resource families with a more experienced peer. A mentor's role is to help families navigate the system, provide a listening ear, and help families identify other supports. The service, in partnership with DHHS resource family licensing, took a while to take hold but is now successfully implemented in all the DHHS Districts with the exception of one district which has had a shortage of both licensing supervision and staffing. Jim, with assistance of Meagan and Travis, began the Mentor Training in January and provided them state wide throughout the past year. A second round of Mentor and Leadership Training will be provided beginning in February. It is hoped that mentors will be available to all licensed resource families and will be expanded to include all licensed and non-licensed homes by 2016. 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 countless kinship families. There is an amazing increase in the number of kinship families in our program and we are fortunate to have Sheila conscientiously and tirelessly working to answer questions on a myriad of topics. Sheila also responds to the needs of families for material goods, provides opportunities to network and socialize with others providing kinship care across the state.

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. Thank you to all the support group leaders. AFFM is happy to assist with starting and maintaining support groups in an area near you.

AFFM is fortunate to have such knowledgeable and gifted staffs that have 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 regularly, provides individual support to resource parents.

Jim Hatch attended the National Foster Parent Association Conference in June. Jim was fortunate while at the conference to hear Dr. John DaGarmo speak and to recruit him to present at the AFFM spring conference. Barbara Ford and Bette attended the North American Council on Adoptable Children in Kansas City, MO, in August. They were also able to recruit an excellent speaker for the 2015 spring conference. Sue Badeau will join us in Portland this coming April. While at the NACAC conference Bette and Barbara were informed that AFFM was being considered as a partner in a collaborative called Advocates for Families First. Ultimately AFFM along with Beverly Daniels at Families and Children Together, Michael Augustine at Maine DHHS in Bangor and kinship provider/expert, Wendy Taggart were selected and are now collaborating with 4 other states in an initiative to move forward aspects of a newly enacted federal legislation HR 4980 The Strengthening Families Act. Watch for more details as the process unfolds.

This highlights some of the ways AFFM serves resource parents within its partnership with DHHS. Thank you to all who have assisted in so 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 resource families, the children in their care and all Maine families.

Have a happy, safe and love filled New Year!

Training Opportunity

Bullying Training brought to you by the Southern Maine Foster Family Recruitment Team

During this interactive workshop we will take a closer look at what bullying is and isn't. We will provide tips to help prevent bullying, discuss what happens when we encounter bullying, and identify some of the outcomes from bullying. Parents, educators, and people working with children are welcome to come and discuss this very concerning topic, and share their experiences and solutions.

Presented By: Maine Parent Federation www.startingpointsforme.org

This is a FREE Training!

2 Credit Hours Available

Location: 50 Lydia Lane South Portland, Maine (Opportunity Alliance) The Timbers

Date: Wednesday January 21, 2015

10:00am-12:00pm

RSVP: Meagan Sprague at 1-800-833-9786 or email: meagan@affm.net

AFFM recognizes the need of the family voice. AFFM cannot effectively evaluate services & support without hearing from families. Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine (AFFM) is seeking feedback from all post-adoptive, foster, and kinship families who receive the Family Ties Newsletter to:

1. Help AFFM evaluate current services
2. Identify what supports & services are needed- but not yet offered or available.
3. Help current and future funding sources understand the needs of families and to understand the families' perceptions of AFFM in helping them to meet those needs.

This short 11 question survey can be completed at your convenience and on any computer. The survey will be conducted January 15, 2015 through February 28th. Families will be sent the survey via email or you can type in the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/affmsurvey>

Save the Date: AFFM's Annual Spring Conference, "Seasons of Change; A Cohesive Approach to Transitions" April 24th-25th find out more info. at www.affm.net

Kinship Corner

Did you know Advocates for Families First has FREE webinars?

Check out the webinar: *It's Time to Take Better Care of Ourselves!*

A webinar about YOU. Child advocates; kin, foster and adoptive caregivers leaders; child welfare staff; and youth advocates—all share the same characteristic, we are always taking care of other people— without always taking care of ourselves.

For this webinar and others visit: <http://advocatesforfamiliesfirst.org/capacity-building/webinars-for-group-leaders/>

The mission of **Advocates for Families First** is to build a unified national movement in support of kinship, foster, and adoptive families who care for children and youth, promote their healing, and help them thrive. We envision a world where children and youth who need out of home care have a family – kinship, foster, or adoptive – who can most effectively help them thrive, meet their needs and assist them in becoming successful adults.

State-Wide Resource Family Support Groups



State-Wide Resource Family Support Groups

At times meetings are cancelled due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances, cancellation notices are sent out via the AFFM email list serve. Families are urged to call or email info@affm.net to be added to this service.

The email list serve also provides information about available donated goods, social family activities, training events, DHHS and legislative updates, and more.

Augusta – Kinship only: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, The Buker Community Center, 22 Armory Drive, Augusta. Free on-site childcare available. For more information, please call Jan Partridge at 207-495-3864.

Augusta– Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:00PM-7:30PM at St. Michael Parish (24 Washington St.). Onsite childcare is available with advanced notice. Please call 1-800-833-9786 or email: Jim (jim@affm.net) or Sheila (sheila@affm.net) to RSVP. (3-4 days in advance).

Bangor –Kinship only: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Families And Children Together, 304 Hancock Street, Suite 2B. Free on-site childcare available. For more information, please call Maine Kids-Kin at 207-941-2347 or 1-866-298-0896.

Belfast- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. A faith based support group that meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at the Calvary Chapel Church in Belfast 147 Waldo Ave. in the rear entrance of the Wentworth Building. Contact: BraveFamilies@gmail.com to RSVP and visit www.facebook.com/bravefamilies for more information. 10:00 AM prayer & Devotion (optional), 10:30 AM coffee/social, 10:45-12 PM support group. Sorry child care is not available at this time.

Biddeford- Kinship. Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10:00AM-11:30AM at the J Richard Martin Community Center, 189 Alfred Street Biddeford. Onsite child care is available with advanced notice. Please contact Diane Loranger at 423-2543 or call 1-800-833-9786 or email Meagan at meagan@affm.net to RSVP. Please RSVP before you come.

Bridgton- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30PM-8:00PM at the Community Center (Behind Reny's), 15 Depot Street Bridgton. Childcare is not provided at this time. Please RSVP to Vanessa at 647-2317 or AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 before you come.

Brunswick- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:30PM-7:00PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (25 Pleasant Street, Brunswick). Onsite child care is available with advanced notice. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to RSVP.

Caribou- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship parent support. Meets every 1st Thursday of the month at 5:30PM at Caribou Adult Education Building on Bennett Drive in between Caribou Rec and the gas station. Child care is not provided at this time. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or email: info@affm.net to RSVP.

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. Onsite child care available with advanced notice. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or email: info@affm.net to RSVP. Please call before you come.

Ellsworth- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Ellsworth Elementary/Middle School 20 Forest Ave. in Ellsworth. Onsite Child care available with advanced notice. Please contact Mindy Kane, Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS), at 263-2014 or 461-8878 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.

Farmington- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Roberts Learning Center (Rooms 201 & 205), University of Maine at Farmington. No childcare available at this time. Please call 1-800-833-9786, or email: Jim (jim@affm.net), or Sheila (sheila@affm.net), to RSVP. Please RSVP 3-4 days in advance.

Houlton- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets every every 2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Houlton CHCS 2 Water Street. Onsite Child care available with advanced notice. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or email: info@affm.net to RSVP. Please call before you come.

Lewiston- The Tri-County Adoptive Foster & Kinship Assoc. meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month 6pm-8pm at the B Street Community Center 57 Birch Street Lewiston. The group offers training, as well as local support & resources. On-site childcare is provided with advanced notice. Call Denise Gove at 782-1138 or email her at drrove@aol.com or contact David Nielson at 409-3609 to RSVP.

Machias- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 1st Friday of the month 5:30PM-7:30PM at Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School 15 Rose Gaffney Road, Machias. Onsite Child care available with advanced notice. Please contact Mindy Kane, Community Health and Counseling Services, at 263-2014 or 461-8878 or email MKane@chcs-me.org to RSVP. Thanks to a local grant awarded to CHCS, AFFM is able to provide mileage reimbursement for families traveling more than 30 miles from home.

Old Town- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets from 6:00-8:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of every month at 294 Center Street, Old Town. Onsite Child care available with advanced notice. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or email: info@affm.net to RSVP. Please call before you come.

Portland- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets 5:30PM-7:30PM. This group will meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please contact Meagan at meagan@affm.net or call 1-800-833-9786 or email: info@affm.net to RSVP and for location information. Please call before you come.

Sherman- Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets the 1st 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.

Skowhegan- The group meets 5:30-8:00PM every second Wednesday of the month located at Skowhegan Federated Church 13 Island Avenue in Skowhegan. Onsite Child care available with advanced notice. Please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or email: info@affm.net to RSVP. Please call before you come.

South Paris- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship support. Meets every 1st Thursday of the month from 6:00PM-7:30PM at the Paris Public Library, 37 Market Square, South Paris. Sorry, no childcare available at this time. Please call 1-800-833-9786 or email: Jim (jim@affm.net) or Sheila (sheila@affm.net) to RSVP. (3-4 days in advance).

Waterboro- Massabesic area foster and adoptive support group. Meets every 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Meets at Waterboro Town Hall 24 Townhouse Road, East Waterboro. Please contact Brigid at Brigid.MAAFFSG@gmail.com.

Wiscasset- Foster/Adoptive/Kinship. Meets every 4th Monday of the month from 6:00pm – 7:30pm at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 12 Hodge Street. No childcare available at this time. Please call 1-800-833-9786 or email: Jim (jim@affm.net), or Sheila (sheila@affm.net), to RSVP. Please RSVP 3-4 days in advance.

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
After Hour Emergency Support: (207)745-4159
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
Generations United

Partnering With: Department of Health and Human Services

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



New Resource Families Welcome! You are now receiving the Family Ties newsletter as part of your complimentary membership to AFFM! Learn more about AFFM and services offered by calling 1-800-833-9786 or visit www.affm.net

Locations: 294 Center Street, Suite 1 Old Town, Maine
& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco. Maine

Phone: 1-800-833-9786

Email: info@affm.net

After Hour Emergency Support: 207-745-4159

Website: www.affm.net

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Adoptive-and-Foster-Families-of-Maine-Inc/>