

# Family



# Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 18 Number 9

Newsletter

September 2015

## AFFM: DID YOU KNOW...

AFFM has clothing for kids in a variety of sizes, all are at no cost to resource families (foster, adoptive and kinship).

Are you aware that AFFM has a lending library? AFFM has Books and DVD's on a variety of topics relevant to the care you are providing. The lending library can help you gain knowledge on topics such as; ADHD, ADD, RAD, Adoption, special needs, fostering, FASD, DAB, aging out and much more. Call ([1-800-833-9786](tel:1-800-833-9786)) or e-mail ([info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net)) to find out how you can utilize the library to receive re-licensing credit hours. To view the library listings you may search our web site ([www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)) or call and request a typed version to be mailed to you. Once you've made a selection simply call the AFFM office and our staff will be happy to take your requests. For families local to or in the area of Orono please feel free to stop into the office to make your selections.

Have you adopted a child in the past year? If so, please let us help you celebrate by inviting you to one or more adoption month activities. If appropriate we'd also love to share your exciting news in the Family Ties Newsletter.

AFFM staff has recently expanded. We hope this helps to serve you in a more expeditious and respectful manner. We understand that in matters of family, it is difficult to have to wait to get answers to serious concerns. Our staff has someone available 24/7 for emergencies and from 8-4:30 Monday through Friday for routine issues.

AFFM staff are also available to attend Family Team meetings with you if you are feeling the need for some support.

Have you received a letter from DHHS indicating an allegation or licensing violation has been made towards you or a member of your household? Our Allegation Team will assist you in understanding the process and the time frames associated with an allegation.

Do you need someone to help you understand an issue regarding kinship care, foster care or adoption? Our staff is well trained to respond to your questions and concerns. When a question is posed that we are unsure of it will be researched and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

AFFM has disposable diapers. Donations are requested of \$2.00 per dozen.

Has your daughter (sizes 4-6-8) had a Mary Lake dress? They are perfect for back to school! Mary plans to make more for the holidays as well.

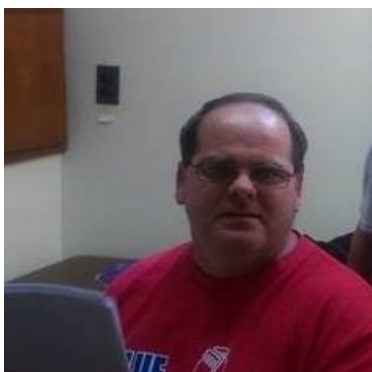
Have you attended a support group? Check out page 5 for a support group near you! If you do not see a group close to you and would like to start one, call AFFM. We will do our best to develop groups as long as we have 3 or more families seeking the same general location. Child care is provided at nearly every support group. Some groups are exclusive for adoption and or foster care and or kinship care most groups are comprised of individuals who serve in multiple roles.

This Month's Family Ties:	
Meet the Staff of AFFM	2
Free Training Event	3
CFS Alumni Scholarship	4
Support Group Listings	5
Holiday Gift Program	6
Adoption Announcements	7
Kinship Corner	

In September we are planning a few kinship specific events. Watch your email and or mail for more information about the proposed events. Our new kinship specialist in Southern Maine is Sandra Snow and she is busy planning a pizza party event and our Kinship Specialist at the Orono office is working on similar events to take place in Augusta and Orono.

*For more information about AFFM check out [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net), give us a call 1-800-833-9786 or like us on Facebook!*

## Meet the New Staff of AFFM!



AFFM is excited to introduce Paul Leonard to the Orono office! Paul began as an intern with AFFM last year and continued to volunteer after his internship was done. Paul completed his studies in social services, and is continuing his education this coming fall. Paul has brought back his great sense of humor and kind and generous manner. Paul works part time at AFFM and full time with Community Health and Counseling. When you speak to Paul on the phone, welcome him back. It is dedicated people like Paul that helps make AFFM shine!

AFFM is thrilled to welcome Courtney Leeman to the Saco office! Courtney grew up as a child of a very large family that includes both foster and adopted siblings. Witnessing and participating in the many dynamics of the relationships involved in foster care and adoption has provided her with much insight and experience, both of which she hopes to bring to her work with AFFM. Courtney will begin attending the University of New England in the fall to earn her Masters in Social Work and hopes to continue to expand her skills and knowledge in order to best support the families AFFM serves.



AFFM is excited to introduce Sandra Snow as the Kinship Specialist for the Saco office. Sandra is a mother of three amazing children. Two biological children and one special needs kin that has since been adopted. Sandra and her husband have been involved in foster care (adult and children) for ten years. Sandra has been a school based Behavioral Health Professional with 10 years experience in assistant teaching in a public classroom environment. Her kinship knowledge is first hand. Sandra understand the challenges of the kinship caregiver and how it effects the whole family.

## Reminder Regarding Children Museums

AFFM is pleased to see so many families taking advantage of the Children's Museums in Rockland, Bangor, Portland and Augusta. As a friendly reminder, the museums only allow one family per day to use the pass, so please contact AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 to reserve your day at the Museums. Thank you and enjoy!

Thank you to the children's museums for their continued partnership with AFFM!



### Caring & Responding to Children Who Have Experienced Complex Trauma

#### **FREE 2 Day Training**

#### **For Foster, Kinship, and Adoptive Families**

*\* Contact Hour Certificates provided \**

Children who have been exposed to violence and trauma and have been separated from their biological parents often view and experience the world from a different perspective. Parenting these children can present a unique set of challenges and rewards.

#### **Dates**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015 & Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

*\*Different training content each day*

#### **Time**

9:00 am—2:30 pm both days

Registration begins at 8:30am.

Lunch is on your own.

#### **Location**

**The Hutchinson Center**  
80 Belmont Ave. (Route #3)  
Belfast, ME

*\*See directions on the back*

#### **To Register and For More Information**

Contact: **Crystal Peaslee**

Phone: **624-7918**

Email: **crystal.peaslee@maine.gov**

Brought to you by:



**Space is limited so register now!**



**If you're a verifiable alumnus of Casey Family Services Foster Care in:**

**Connecticut  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
Rhode Island  
Vermont**

- Between the ages of 16 and 49 (at the time of your application) and you're
- Thinking about, starting, or currently attending college or university in pursuit of a certificate, associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree, or a professional degree including law or medicine (*but not a Ph.D.*), or
- Thinking about, starting or currently attending a technical or vocational school in pursuit of a certificate or certification, then

**You may be eligible for the Casey Family Services (CFS) Alumni Scholarship.**

- Up to \$10,000 in total over the course of your education, to be utilized within 10 years of your application date
- Funds may be used for tuition or other expenses directly related to educational pursuits (for example, required books, student activity fees, registration fees, dormitory room and board, or living expenses while enrolled as a student)
- Family-like support is offered to every CFS Alumni Scholar:
  - Internship opportunities
  - Academic/career coaching and mentoring
  - Care packages
  - Personal support 24/7/365 as needed through the dedicated Scholarship Team

**For more information and to apply, please call 800-950-4673 and ask for Tina Raheem, or email [scholarsupport@fc2success.org](mailto:scholarsupport@fc2success.org). There is no deadline, and all applications are reviewed to confirm eligibility.**





# **Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine, Inc. & The Kinship Program**

## **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 and Facebook. Families are urged to call or email [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net) to be added to this service. For more Information and to RSVP for the support groups please call AFFM @ 1-800-833-9786 or 827-2331. AFFM asks families to RSVP 3-4 days in advance so the facilitator and childcare provide can plan accordingly.

**Key:** A= Adoptive, F=Foster, K= Kinship, CC= Child care is available upon request

**Augusta** – Kinship only: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm call Jan Partridge at 207-495-3864.

**Augusta** – A/F/K/CC: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Magic Years Center (25 Industrial Drive).

**Bangor** – Kinship only/CC: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6—8 pm.304 Hancock St. Suite 2B. 1-866-298-0896.

**Belfast**—A/F/K/CC: 2nd Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30PM @ Parish House St. Margaret's Episcopal Church (95 Court St.)

**Biddeford** – Kinship only/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 @ J Richard Martin Community Center, 189 Alfred St.

**Bridgton** – A/F/K: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Community Care (Behind Reny's) 15 Depot St. RSVP Vanessa Jones 647-2317

**Brunswick** – A/F/K/CC: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:00 pm at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 25 Pleasant St. Meetings are not held during Summer, will continue in September.

**Caribou** – A/F/K: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 5:30 at Caribou Adult Education Building on Bennett Drive in between Caribou

**Dover-Foxcroft** – A/F/K/CC: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Mayo Regional Hospital, Borestone & Sebec rm.

**Ellsworth** – A/F/K/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Ellsworth Elementary Middle School, 20 Forest Ave.

**Farmington** – A/F/K/CC: every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 pm @ Roberts Learning Center (room 201 & 205), UMF.

**Houlton** – A/F/K/CC: every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Houlton CHCS, 2 Water Street.

**Lewiston** – A/F/K/CC: every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at CMHC (12 High Street entrance) in Lewiston.

**Lincoln** – A/F/K/CC: 1st Thursday of the month from 6:00–7:30PM at the Community Evangel Temple, 124 River Rd. .

**Machias** – A/F/K/CC: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm @ Rose M Gaffney Elementary School, 15 Rose Gaffney Rd

**Orono** – A/F/K/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at AFFM (34 Main Street Orono).

**Presque Isle** – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Wesleyan Church (387 Centerline Rd.)

**Rockland**—A/F/K/CC: 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00PM-7:30PM at the Knox Center-Pen Bay Healthcare (6 White Street)

**Saco**— Kinship only. Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:30PM (333 Lincoln Street, AFFM Saco Office).

**Saco**—A/F/K/CC: 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:30PM-7:00PM at (333 Lincoln Street, AFFM Saco Office).

**Sherman** – A/F/K: 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 in the summer.

**South Paris** – A/F/K/CC: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the Paris Public Library, 37 Market Square.

**Waterboro** – A/F: every 4 Thursday of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Waterboro Town Hall, 24 Townhouse Road, East Waterboro. Please contact Brigid at [brigid.maaffsg@gmail.com](mailto:brigid.maaffsg@gmail.com).

# Holiday Gift Giving Program

It's hard to believe but it's that time of year again, Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine and the Kinship Program is gearing up for the Holiday Gift Giving Program! Resource families are invited to add their children's names, gender, clothing size and age to a wish list for holiday gifts.

Once again, the amazing people from the Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Project will work to provide holiday presents to kids in AFFM programs. Give the office a call at 1-800-833-9786 and have your child's information and gift wish ready. We ask that you keep requests to under \$50.00 per child. The sooner we get the information the more likely we are to fulfill the children's wishes.



## Save the Date

### SAVE THE DATE



### ➤➤ Substance Use and Pregnancy: Prevention and Intervention Opportunities

**Who should attend:** primary care providers, pediatricians, psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational and physical therapists, speech pathologists, social workers, case managers, home visitors, child welfare professionals, drug/alcohol counselors, and other providers working with pregnant women or people with prenatal substance exposure.

**Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015**  
**8:00am - 4:00 pm**  
**Portland, Maine**

More details coming soon.

FMI:  
Nikki Busmanis  
207-287-2816  
[nikki.busmanis@maine.gov](mailto:nikki.busmanis@maine.gov)

[Maine.gov/FAS](http://Maine.gov/FAS)

## Adoption Announcements!

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Corey and Jennifer Ginn were proud to announce the adoption of their daughter Lanah. The Ginn's write, "We adopted the sweetest, smartest, independent and loving little girl. Lanah has been with us for a little over three years. The day this little seven-week old baby came into our home she had our hearts. We are very happy to make it official today. However, we have added more than an amazing little girl to our family. We have also gained another family. Lanah's birth family is now a part of ours too. Lanah is very loved as she is welcomed by her siblings Tyler, Josh, Ethan, Madison, Eric, Sophie and Noah!"



Dennis and Deidre Farnham along with their Children Dennis III, Dylan and Dominick are excited to announce the adoption of Alexis, Jacob, Wyatt and Cameron Farnham. Congratulations!

My family is please to announce the adoption of our son Zachariah Charles Burke on August 10th 2015. We cannot begin to express all our thanks to our social worker Jennifer Brann, case aide Jane Perry & our adoption worker Nicole Farley, with their continued hard work and dedication we were pleased to celebrate this special day with them by our side.

Zachariah was born 9/13/13 and came into our care 3 days later. He has brought our family so much joy, love and complete happiness. Zachariah welcomed a little brother Tucker Burke on 11/18/14. We are forever thankful and blessed for our family.



Jessica and Justin Dyer of North Yarmouth would like to announce the adoption of Tanner Joseph Dyer. It was love at first sight on March 14, 2014 and forever legalized on August 19, 2015.

Have you recently legalized an adoption? Want to share the exciting news with others? AFFM would love to create an adoption announcement in our Family Ties newsletter. Send a write up and photo (if you wish) to [meagan@affm.net](mailto:meagan@affm.net) or call the office at 827-2331. AFFM looks forward to hearing from you!

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.  
34 Main Street, Orono, ME 04473

Phone: 1-800-833-9786 or (207) 827-2331  
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Fax: (207) 889-6978  
On the Web: [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)  
E-Mail: [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net)

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The North American Council on Adoptable Children  
National Foster Parent Association  
Generations United

Partnering With: Department of Health and Human Services

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COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMILY TIES, AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

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OLD TOWN, ME

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**Adoptive & Foster  
Families of Maine, Inc.**  
& The Kinship Program

***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](http://www.affm.net)***

**Locations:** 34 Main Street, Orono, Maine

& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco, Maine

**Phone:** 1-800-833-9786

**Email:** [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net)

**After Hour Emergency Support:** 207-745-4159

**Website:** [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)

Scan to sign up for our email

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