

Family



Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 18 Number 10/11

Newsletter

October/November 2015

Celebrate Adoption Awareness Month this November!

Are you an adoptive parent or in the process of adopting? AFFM offers support services to all adoptive families in Maine! Support offered to adoptive families through AFFM include but are not limited to: Statewide support groups; lending library; discount card program; material goods; listening support; annual spring training conference; a referral database for legal matters and mental health support; mentors and much more!

Check out the special events planned throughout Maine to celebrate Adoption Awareness Month on page 6!



Are you prepared for the cold months ahead?

Whether we like it or not winter is coming. Be proactive this year and know what assistance may be available to you. Check out <http://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/energydetails/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program> for information on Low income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP). Local churches and towns offer general assistance as well. Stay warm this winter!

Celebrating Grandparents Day!

On September 13th AFFM celebrated Grandparents Day by hosting pizza parties in Orono, Portland and Bangor for kinship families. A huge thank you is owed to Augusta Pizza Hut, Pat's Pizza in Orono, Uno's in Portland for their amazing hospitality! Also, thank you to Saco Sports and Fitness and South Portland Cinemagic for your generous donations!

AFFM realizes we were unable to reach out to all kinship families due to time and limited funding, however we hope to expand an event next year to include more families.



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10th Annual Festival of Fostering Trees!

Come stroll through our magical enchanted forest of over 200 beautifully decorated Christmas trees for your viewing pleasure, there's truly something for everyone! Proceeds help youth involved in Maine's Foster Care System!

FREE ADMISSION!

Voluntary donations for the York Food Pantry &/or
Toys for Tots accepted at the door!

*25 RAFFLE TICKETS FOR ONLY \$5.00

**Special for Thursday & Friday only:*

Buy 50 raffle tickets & get 25 raffle tickets FREE!!

**LOCATION, DATES & TIMES

FOSTER'S CLAMBAKE - 5 Axholme Road York, ME

Thursday 12/3, Friday 12/4, **Saturday 12/5 & Sunday 12/6 - 10:00am-8:00pm

*****Note-Road Closure from 2:30pm-5pm to ensure the safety of all Parade participants! Parking is available on Woodbridge Road!***

Calls placed to all winners Monday-December 7th 6:00pm-9:00pm

***Pick up of all trees Tuesday-December 8th
8:00am-12:00-noon & 5:00pm-7:00pm***

Food Provided by Foster's Marketplace Café

FMI Call Janalee @ 351-1988 or 423-4281 or Email @ janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com



AFFM's Annual Holiday Parties!

Portland Holiday Party

Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 11-1PM

Location: Portland YMCA (70 Forest Ave, Portland)

Enjoy arts and crafts, pizza and swimming!

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

Bangor Holiday Party

Sunday November 29, 2015 from 1-4PM

Location: Bangor Ramada Inn (357 Odlin Road, Bangor)

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

RSVP: 1-800-833-9786 or info@affm.net

If you plan to bring food please let us know when you RSVP)

Kinship Corner

The editors and editorial board of GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy are proud to release Vol.2, Issue 2 for 2015. The new volume contains research articles and practice insights related to grandparents raising grandchildren. The current issue includes subjects on resilience among African American grandparents raising grandchildren, bullying and victimization among grandchildren, and attitudes toward custodial grandparents by young adults. Ana Beltran, special advisor with Generations United, provides a paper on federal advances to support custodial grandparents. Access the fully online journal at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/grandfamilies/>.

**generations
united**

Because we're stronger together®

GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy is an affiliate of the National Research Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.



Adoption Announcements!



Steven and Nancy Meuse are excited to announce the adoption of their daughters Cloey and Brooklynn Meuse on June 9th. The girls are 5 1/2 and 4 years old. Cloey and Brooklynn are also welcomed by siblings, Angela 31, Travis 29 and Ryan 26.

We have been blessed to have adopted Ireland on July 29th. She was our first foster child and we discovered she was related by marriage. Last year she was christened with many relatives, including her birth parents in attendance.

We have many to thank: from Karen her first driver (the lady who delivered our baby!), her many case workers, especially Wanda, Katy her GAL, Stephanie our adoption case worker, to the beautiful Judge Elaine Hallett. We are so thankful to God for helping us and Ireland find her forever home.

Thank you too!
Joan & Eric Teele, Ann & Austin, and Arianna



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

RSGTL Thank You!

AFFM's Ready Set Go to Learn Backpack Program has come and gone and was once again a huge success! AFFM was able to provide 255 kids in care with a backpack, school supplies and a school outfit. We could not have provided this service without the amazing help from the following businesses and individuals: Meghan Painton, Tracey Peck-Moad, Tammy Cutchen, Amey Leeman, Marie Barbieri, Tim Horton's, Waldoboro Police Department, Waldo County Sheriff's Department, Lewiston DHHS, Gena Rollins of Portland DHHS, Family Dollar in Orono, Dawn Barnes and of course L.L. Bean. AFFM is honored to partner with such incredible people! Here's to a happy and healthy school year!





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 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: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm call Jan Partridge at 207-495-3864.

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

Bangor – Kinship only/CC: 1st and 3rd 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: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 @ J Richard Martin Community Center, 189 Alfred St.

Bridgton – A/F/K: 3rd 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: 4th 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Lewiston – A/F/K/CC: every 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at B Street Community Center 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: 1st Friday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm @ Rose M Gaffney Elementary School, 15 Rose Gaffney Rd

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

Portland– A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:30pm at 901 Washington Ave. Portland.

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—A/F/K/CC: 4th Wednesday of the month from 5:30PM-7:30PM at (333 Lincoln Street, AFFM Saco Office).

Sherman – A/F/K: 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 in the summer.

South Paris – A/F/K/CC: 1st 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 or RSVP to AFFM at 1-800-833-9786.

Save the Dates

Community Care is pleased to offer the following training opportunity at no cost to Therapeutic and Family Level resource families licensed in Maine.

**Saturday, October 24th- Jeff's Catering in Brewer
15 Littlefield Rd, Brewer, ME**

9:00am-2:00pm, Lunch provided

Becoming Brain Friendly & Trauma Informed

About Karen Williams, MSSW

Karen Williams, MSSW, is a writer and speaker known for her ability to explain the latest neuroscience and apply it to real life. Her current focus is on three areas: brain development and behavior; the impact of substances, stress, trauma and traumatic brain injury on development and behavior; and the development readiness of youth to protect themselves. Her presentations and workshops are based on the research of many leaders in the field of brain and youth studies. She is the developer of the brain-based SAMHSA Model Program curriculum to Protecting You/ Protecting Me, and the "brain-friendly and trauma-informed: Positive Behavior in School and Society (PBSS), a joint project of Rainbow Days, Inc. and AT&T.



50 seats available. Register online at <http://comcareme.org/brain> or by calling Community Care's main office at 945-4240



AFFM's annual spring training conference: *"Maine's Children are our Capital Concern"*

April 14th-15th-16th

Augusta Civic Center 76 Community Drive Augusta

Keep an eye out for more information and mark your calendars!



Transitional Planning: The Parent's Role "Let's Think Outside of the Box"

Location: Jeff's Catering 15 Littlefield Rd. Brewer

When: November 14th Time: 8:00am to 4:00pm

RSVP: AFFM

A collaborative one day conference to help educate parents, youth, and professionals about transitions services from high school to employment, college, section 29 and 21 services, guardianship options, and housing options for individuals with disabilities.

Costs: \$10 for parent; \$15 for couple and \$25 for professionals

Hosted by: Maine Parent Federation, Autism Society of Maine, Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine and the Kinship Program, G.E.A.R. Parent Network

OCFS TOWN HALL CALL:



The next town hall call for foster and kinship parents is scheduled for **January 27th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** To participate please use the following number: 1-877-455-0244, code: 2076247957. *Prior to the next call OCFS will be asking for agenda items that you would like to see discussed. Please feel free to share any of these items by emailing FosterParentinfo@maine.gov*

Celebrate Adoption Awareness Month this November!

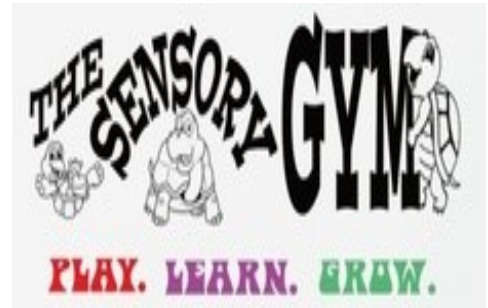
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Plan to attend a support group in your area and describe how adoption has changed your life.	2 Adoption legalizations at the Bangor and Portland Children's Museums Celebration at Augusta Children's Museum	3 Make a family collage	4 Clear out the clutter! Donate to AFFM offices located in Orono and Saco	5 Invite another adoptive family over for dinner	6 Ask your library to feature books on adoption	7 Have a movie night with the family
8 Enjoy the outdoors, take a walk with your family	9 Read your child an adoption related book	10 Hall of Flags Event Hosted by OCFS	11 Call AFFM and ask about how to become a resource parent	12 * Blaine House Tea 2:00pm-3:30pm	13 Become a mentor to an adoptive family	14 Have an adoption get together
15 Visit a place that your family loves and spend the day	16 Help spread the word about adoption!	17 Ask schools to speak about adoption	18 Take a new family photo	19 Write a thank you note to those helped with your adoption	20 Have a family game night	21 National Adoption Day! York County Adoption Legalizations
22 Write a letter to your child letting them know how grateful you are they are a part of your family	23 Like AFFM on Facebook and learn about upcoming trainings and events	24 Create homemade Holiday cards with the family	25 Make a list of things you're thankful for	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27 Cook your family's favorite meal	28 Volunteer with your family
29 Bangor Holiday Party at the Ramada Inn from 1-4pm RSVP: 1-800-833-9786	30 Create a new adoption tradition					

Adoption Events Throughout Maine:

- ◇ **November 2nd:** Adoption legalizations at the Bangor Discovery Museum and Portland Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine. A celebration for adoptive families held at the Augusta Children's Discovery Museum
- ◇ **November 10th:** An adoption celebration hosted by OCFS will be held at the Hall of Flags
- ◇ **November 12th:** AFFM will host the annual tea at the Blaine House in Augusta from 2:00pm-3:30pm.
**This event is invitation only as space is limited*
- ◇ **November 21st:** National Adoption Day! York County adoption legalizations!

New Discount and Donations!

The Sensory Gym LLC
Tyler R Hunt, COTA/L
599 Maine Ave unit #3 Farmingdale, ME 04344
99 Main St unit #1 Waterville, ME 04901
[207-213-7069](tel:207-213-7069) Farmingdale
[207-872-5200](tel:207-872-5200) Waterville
www.thesensorygym.net
info@thesensorygym.net
\$ 2 off/child/visit



AFFM would like to send a special thank you to all of the business who participate in the Discount Card Program. If you have a suggestion for a business or organization that AFFM can approach to participate in the discount card program, please [contact us](#). You can also print off and send a completed [business application form](#) to 34 Main St. Orono, ME 04473. Business application form can be found at <http://www.affm.net/services/discount-card-program/>



A huge thank you to Birth Roots in Portland and Plato's Closet in South Portland. AFFM appreciates your generous donation and looks forward to an exciting partnership to help support resource families of Maine!



Holiday Gift Giving Program Reminder

There is still time to sign up for the Holiday Gift Giving Program! Resource families in need and are otherwise unable to provide gifts are invited to add their children's names, gender, clothing size and age to a wish list for holiday gifts. We ask that you keep requests to under \$50.00 per child.



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.** The sooner we get the information the more likely we are to fulfill the children's wishes.

Meet Mason

Mason is a smart, funny, creative 8 year old. He loves to use his hands, enjoys being outside, and loves to dig holes. He enjoys swimming and wants to learn how to ice skate. He enjoys the beach, farms, and playgrounds. Most importantly, Mason wants a forever home. His forever home needs to be one that is nurturing, structured, and patient as Mason needs extra time to process new and/or difficult situations. He requires good modeling to show the appropriate way to deal with frustration, especially with peers and conflict resolution. He needs a home that will promote positive self-esteem and free play, while providing good boundaries and consistency.



If you are interested in knowing more about Mason, please contact:

Michelle Freeman, DHHS Adoption Social Worker
151 Jetport Blvd
Portland, Maine 04102
207-822-2178

michelle.g.freeman@maine.gov

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

Phone: 1-800-833-9786 or (207) 827-2331
After Hour Emergency Support: (207)745-4159
Fax: (207) 889-6978
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

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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.



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

Locations: 34 Main Street, Orono, 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

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