

Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 19 Number 2

Newsletter

February 2016

AFFM Presents the 19th Annual Spring Training Conference:

Children are our Capital Concern!

April 15th to April 16th

Augusta Civic Center

Keynote Speaker: Eshele Williams, Doctor of Psychology in Organizational Management and Consulting and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Workshops Include: The Impact of Fostering and Adopting on Birth Children; Creating Supportive Relationships for LGBTQ Young People; Working with and Valuing Birth Family Connections; Whole Brain Parenting and many more!

Conference Information Inside! Register Today!

Maine Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program

is a supplemental nutrition program helping Maine kids to grow up strong and healthy. The WIC Program's primary goal is to promote and maintain the health and well being of nutritionally at risk eligible women, infants and children.

What does WIC provide?

Services	Foods such as....	Referrals.....
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks for healthy foods • Health Screening • Individual nutrition advice • Support families making changes for better health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bread • Cereal • Milk • Eggs • Cheese • Juice • Peanut Butter • Beans • Fresh Fruits and vegetables • Infant Formula • Baby Foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Oral Healthcare • Home visiting programs • Head Start • Immunizations and Lead tests • Food Assistance

If a child under 5 years of age is in your care they may be eligible to receive WIC benefits!

Please give WIC a call to set up an appointment to get your child enrolled today!

1-800-437-9300 or 207-287-3991 or visit us online at: Wicforme.com

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National Foster Care Youth Alumni Policy Council

I am a twenty-four year old senior at the University of Maine in Orono for social work, and I am a former foster youth. Over the years, the title of foster youth has not hindered me from trying to succeed and make a difference in this world. My goal is to improve the child welfare system for all youth and families. This past summer I had the opportunity to pursue this effort on a national level. I am now the region one (New England) representative for the National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council (NFCYAPC).

NFCYAPC is a non-profit group of about 20 youth from across the nation that work with Foster Club and Casey Family Programs to provide federal stakeholders with relevant and timely information as policies and procedures are created that will affect children and families throughout the country. The group provides experience-based priorities on aging out, higher education, mental health, normalcy, vulnerability, and well-being. The group meets periodically in Washington DC to plan, develop, and finalize ideas that it has identified and researched as barriers to youth, and ideas to rectify those barriers.

Participation as an active member of this group is an amazing experience. It is educating me on the step - by - step process of turning an idea into something that can create change. Going into this group, I thought I would talk about issues which I have observed, slap it down on paper, and Boom! Legislation. Little did I know that the process for success is more complex, but can result in big rewards.

The group is divided into two sub committees. One committee works on issues related to juvenile justice (JJ) with a focus on youth who entered foster care through the JJ process or youth who entered the JJ system while in foster care. The term for this is called "Crossover youth." The other committee is researching homelessness. The goals of both groups is to create priorities to inform and educate the public on these topics. The group I participate on is researching homelessness. Our group's main goal is to decrease youth homelessness in America. This giant task initially, seemed too big to tackle, but our group developed a process to gain knowledge on the topic and combine it with national data. We researched statistics of youth homelessness so we could see patterns. We also provide our own data by creating a survey. Creating the survey was a several month long process, and included developing a definition of homelessness.

The group ultimately "...defined a homeless youth as an unaccompanied young person, between the ages of 12 and 24, without consistent family support who is living in shelters, on the streets, in cars or vacant buildings, or who is "couch surfing", or living in other unstable circumstances. (National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council [NFCYAPC] 2015)"

From the collected data, we began drafting priorities from what we have learned. That was another few months of late night weekly calls, brainstorming and documentation. Finally, after much work, the committee completed the report on its priorities concerning homelessness. The information is fact based, well thought out, concise, and inclusive of what youth wanted change.

The feeling of creating something that will be used to shape the future, and knowing that all the effort and planning is going to make positive changes is an incredible feeling. Every time I think of the process, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride for the group and myself towards all that we have accomplished. The accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. We have met with HUD (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development) and are hoping to have a working relationship to create change that will affect our nation.

I never expected that I would have this big of an impact on change. I always thought that any change I did would help my small community, and hopefully the State of Maine. To know that I am an active member of state change, and now growing into national change is mind blowing. Who would have thought? The little foster care girl who was once heartbroken from lost has come so far!

If you are interested to learn more about the homelessness priorities or the other priorities that this council has created please visit our website at:

<http://nfyapc.drupalgardens.com/content/policy-priorities#>

Written and submitted by:

Jessica Henderson

National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council. (October 2015). Preventing homelessness among young adults from foster care. *National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council*. Retrieved from: <http://nfyapc.drupalgardens.com/sites/g/files/g773666/f/201511/Homelessness%20Priorities.pdf>

ACES Survey

A group of graduate students in the School of Social Work at the University of Maine has partnered with Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine and the Maine Resilience Building Network (MRBN) to examine the knowledge foster parents have about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). MRBN is focused on providing education to individuals on ACES, and how ACES can affect children and their development.

AFFM will be sending an e-mail to foster parents in Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in February requesting you to complete a survey. The survey will be used to better assist the research group and MRBN with future trainings that may be helpful to foster parents. Please know that this is an anonymous survey and the research team will not have access to your name or e-mail address. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Thank You!

- ◆ Machias Savings Bank for providing Tickets to the Nutcracker
- ◆ Food and Medicine in Brewer for providing Thanksgiving baskets
- ◆ Hannaford's Reusable Bags in Old Town and Brunswick
- ◆ St Paul's in Brunswick
- ◆ St. Charles in Brunswick
- ◆ God Parent Home
- ◆ South West Harbor Church
- ◆ Orono Thrift Store
- ◆ Northeast Occupational Exchange in Bangor
- ◆ Laura Bell
- ◆ Jacob Hoxie and Ashley Comeau
- ◆ Francie Criner and helpers
- ◆ Student Interns Hannah, Kendra Jessica and Brittany
- ◆ Ramada Inn in Bangor and the Portland YMCA and the Winthrop VFW Hall for hosting the holiday parties
- ◆ The Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Committee
- ◆ Diane Baron from University of Maine Orono
- ◆ Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum in Portland
- ◆ Orono's Family Dollar
- ◆ Toys for Tots in Bangor and Saco
- ◆ Karen and Bill Labombarde
- ◆ Tammy Cutchen
- ◆ Marie Barberi
- ◆ Meghan Painton
- ◆ Jockey Being Family
- ◆ Waterville Home Depot
- ◆ Reny's in Newcastle
- ◆ Hollis Baptist Church for providing Thanksgiving baskets
- ◆ Merry Mittens
- ◆ Tots to Teens in Gorham
- ◆ Plato's Closet in South Portland
- ◆ Maine Parent Federation
- ◆ Mary Ellen Roma
- ◆ Community Care in Skowhegan
- ◆ DHHS offices in Caribou, Ellsworth, Houlton, Machias, Lewiston and Rockland for acting as a drop off site for the Holiday Gift Giving Program
- ◆ Shirley Ross
- ◆ Waterville VFW and Conference Center

AFFM greatly appreciates each and every one of you! Thank you for your amazing continued support in assisting AFFM in providing services to resource families and Maine's youth in care.

Join AFFM at Great Skates!

February 17, 2016

11am-1pm

82 Sylvan Road Bangor.

Included: Admission and skate rental, 1 slice of pizza/drink per child

To register call AFFM @ 1-800-833-9786



2016 Conference Nominations

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine would like to recognize the hard work, dedication, and collaboration child welfare workers exhibit across the state by honoring the individuals who go above and beyond for their efforts to include all team members in a determination to help provide a safe and permanent home for children. The Categories in which AFFM will be honoring are:

Child Welfare Advocate of The Year

Adoption Social Worker of The Year - Licensing Worker of The Year

Program Administrator/Assistant PA of The Year - Private Agency Worker of The Year

Guardian Ad litem of The Year - Collaborative Resource Family of The Year (one family per district)

Kinship Worker of The Year - Child Protective Social Worker of The Year - Permanency Social Worker of The Year

AFFM would also like to recognize a person from the Legislation or Senate who have collaborated well with agencies and family's in efforts to create a safe, permanent, and thriving environment for youth in Maine.

Please send all nominations to:

Travis Bryant, AFFM Training Coordinator
travis@affm.net

*** Please have all nominations in by February 29, 2016**

Enter to win a week's stay at Tamarack!

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

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

Tamarack is a large, charming, 3 bedroom, 1 bath cabin with a comfortable interior. Tamarack has a complete kitchen with a full size refrigerator and gas stove, and a beautiful living room with a stone fireplace. The camp does not have a phone but is now equipped with a television. Families need to provide their own food and bedding.

Eligibility Requirements: You must not own or have access to a summer camp, time-share, or RV. Also, if you have been a Tamarack winner in 2014 and 2015, we ask that you not apply. Many families want to utilize Tamarack. It is necessary that any winners who cannot attend please notify AFFM at least one week in advance. It is important to have time to find an alternate family and give them time to prepare for their vacation, so this beautiful cabin can be enjoyed throughout the hear to of the summer.



"2016 Weeklong Summer Vacation at Tamarack Entry Form"

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ # of Children: _____

Please circle the weeks below that your family would be able to attend:

May 28-June 4 June 5-11 June 12-18 June 19-25 June 26-July 2 July 3-9

Mail Entries to: Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine 34 Main Street, Orono, ME 04473

Entries must be received by March 30, 2016. The drawing will be held April 4, 2016 and winners will be notified by phone or email by April 11, 2016.

Kinship Corner

LD 1518: An Act To Ensure Children in the Care of Caretaker Relatives Can Access Fundamentals Services

This bill, which is based on Montana law, allows the caretaker relative, including a grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister and cousin, of a minor voluntarily left by the minor's parent with the caretaker relative to exercise limited authority to make medical and educational decisions for the minor in place of the parent. It provides for authorization of the caretaker relative by a notarized affidavit and sets out the content and form of the affidavit. It provides immunity from criminal and civil liability and professional discipline for persons, including health care providers and school officials, relying on the affidavit in the absence of the person's knowing facts contrary to the affidavit or knowing that the parent has made a decision that supersedes the caretaker relative's decision.

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 get together the opportunities for positive permanency outcomes increase. At the request of members, AFFM has been involved in legislation that is kinship specific. LD 1518 and LD 1017 the latter is related to the Defacto Guardianship Law currently in Maine Law.

LD 1518 and LD 1017 can be tracked at: <http://legislature.maine.gov/>

Upcoming Training!

The Southern Maine Foster Family Recruitment Team Presents:

Autism and Strategies

Presented By: Erin Dimbleby from Autism Society of Maine

Join us for a dynamic introduction to working with children on the Autism Spectrum. This presentation provides participants with a basic understanding of autism along with general strategies they can employ to support behavioral, social, communication, sensory and educational deficits that may be exhibited by children with autism. A segment on safety addresses concerns parents have about keeping children with autism safe.

Erin Dimbleby is a Special Education teacher and the mother of three young children. The Autism Society of Maine is a statewide autism information and referral service. They also run several statewide programs including a Summer Camp and Family Retreat.

This is a **FREE** training! 2 Credit Hours Available

Location: Woodfords Family Services Training Center 100 Larrabee Road Suite 160 Westbrook

Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 **Time:** 10:00-12:00PM

Children are our Capital Concern!

AFFM's 19th Annual Spring Conference

When: April 15th & 16th (registration opens at 7:30am on April 15th)

Where: Augusta Civic Center (76 Community Dr, Augusta, ME 04330)

Lodging: The Best Western Plus Augusta Civic Center Inn (110 Community Dr., Augusta, ME 04330)
Phone: 207-622-4751 or book online at <http://www.bestwestern.com/> (\$79 rate for conference participants)

For More Information see pages 5-9 or call AFFM (1-800-833-9786) To view the full conference brochure please visit: <http://www.affm.net/2014/10/affm-spring-conference/> or call AFFM and they will mail one to you. **Online registration is available through the website listed above.**

Introducing the Keynote Speaker

Eshele Williams

Eshele Williams is a Dr. of Psychology in Organizational Management and Consulting and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has dedicated her career to supporting children and families in multiple capacities. Her work in the child welfare field includes experience as a researcher, writer, parenting program coordinator, health team coordinator for children with the chronic illness (Sickle Cell disease), public speaker, trainer and adoption support program project coordinator.

Eshele has served as the Clinical Coordinator of a Transition Age Youth program at Hillside in Pasadena, Project Coordinator of Adoption Promotion and Support Services at Children's Bureau in Los Angeles and as the Project Coordinator of Project Fatherhood at D'Veal Family and Youth Services in Pasadena. She is experienced as a therapist, providing direct services to children, families, and patients in in-patient drug and alcohol rehabilitation. She also supervised and trained staff who provided specialized education services for foster and adoptive parents along the foster care to adoption continuum.

She possesses extensive knowledge and skill in conducting interviews with children, families, and professionals. She is trained in implementing the Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) PRIDE Model of Practice and the New Generation PRIDE Model of Practice to develop and support resource parents as team members in child protection, and in the CWLA Kinship Care – Traditions of Caring and Collaborating Model of Practice. She has trained Kinship caregivers in the Kinship Education Partnership and Support program (KEPS) in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services Kinship Division.

Eshele Williams has conducted extensive research, has written and trains on the Impact of Fostering on Birth Children of Foster and Adoptive Parents. Her personal history, research and studies have informed the body of information that is known about the impact of fostering and adoption on birth children. In addition, she has written children's books that help parents initiate and explore conversations with their birth children in preparation of the families' foster care and adoption experience. She is a dedicated and passionate advocate for children and families and through her work she creates lasting impact that encourages people to look at the pertinent issues that face children and families impacted by foster care and adoption.

Additional Conference Information

- The annual silent auction will take place throughout the conference. Bid on a basket filled with goodies, including handmade quilts, gift certificates, toys, baby items, and much more! Winners of auctioned items will be announced during Saturday's lunch.
- Also at the conference, all attendees can take part in a chance to win a door prize and the 50/50 raffle! Winners will also be announced during Saturday's lunch.
- Recognition to Foster Parents, Kinship providers, Social Workers, GAL's, and much more.
- AFFM will also pay a special thanks to those individuals that provide mentoring services.
- Licensed homes, please check with your Program Administrator or Licensing Supervisor as a potential funding source.
- For more up to date information check out the website @ www.affm.net , on Facebook, or on twitter @affmconference

Conference Workshops

Friday, April 15th Morning Workshops (10:00 am— 12:00 pm)

A. Reasonable and Prudent Parenting

Presented by Jenni Smith & Linda Brissette

"In this training, participants will learn about the reasonable and prudent parent standards and how these standards empower foster parents to approve or disapprove activities based on their own assessment using a "reasonable and prudent parent standard" without prior approval of the child's social worker, the licensing or approval agency, or the juvenile court, and how the use of these standards increase normalcy for Youth in care. "

B. Period of P.U.R.P.L.E. Cry & The Effects of Brain Trauma on Infants

This presentation is designed to provide education on the normal crying curve and the dangers of reacting to an infant's crying in frustration. Learn about how to prevent Infant brain trauma and the effects brain trauma has on an infant.

C. Team Work: "When We Work Together it Works Well"

Facilitated by Bette Hoxie

During this presentation you will hear compelling information from a birth parent, resource parent, youth, and support staff on how their efforts of working together provided outcomes that were in the best interest of the child.

Friday, April 15th Afternoon Workshops (2:00 pm— 4:00 pm)

D. Traditions of Caring and Collaborating: A Model of Practice to Achieve Child Safety, Well-being, and Permanency for Kinship Care.

Presented by Eshel Williams

This workshop shares an evidence-based approach to collaborate with kinship caregivers regarding their ability, resources, and willingness to provide care for their younger family members. Issues for discussion include legal, financial, child behavior, family relationships, fair and equal treatment, access to community supports, and more.

E. Identity, Connections & Empowerment: Understanding the Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care

Presented by Y.L.A.T.

This workshop will focus on how we can support LGBTQ youth in foster care in embracing their identity and becoming who they want to be in the world. Members of YLAT will participate on a panel that will discuss some of the issues confronting LGBTQ youth and identify ways that resource families and others working with LGBTQ youth in foster care can best support them.

F. Whole Brain Parenting

Presented by Stan Waddell & Cindy Downey

Participants will be able to understand basic brain functioning, Explore the links between brain functioning and attachment. Explore the role of reflective parenting to repair attachment. Understand and improve left brain—right brain integration, learn strategies to help youth integrate thoughts, actions and feelings and thereby operate from a whole brain perspective.

Saturday, April 16th Morning Work Shops (10:00 am— 12:00 pm)

G. Reaching Them While They Dream

Presented by Bette Freedson

Using both didactics and experiential exercises, this workshop will explore ways in which increasing the ability to manage stress and to reason clearly in difficult situations can lower children's anxiety, develop readiness for learning, and increasing self regulation efficacy and pro-social skills .

H. Working With and Valuing Birth Family Connections

Presented by Barbara Ford

The workshop has an emphasis on finding commonalities that will encourage care providers to be strength based in their approach. This workshop will also provide the opportunity to explore many options for being creative and positive about your children's contact and visitation and how all resource families can be a mentor and an important part in the success of these relationships.

I. Allegation Prevention & Protocol

Presented by Bette Hoxie & Janet Wheaton

This work shop will assist families in asking "the right questions" prior to placement, provide helpful hints on what and when to document events, provide creative ways to prioritize and/or reduce conflicts between adults and children, provide a basic understanding of confidentiality rules, and the respecting and valuing of privacy.

Saturday, April 16th Afternoon Work Shops(1:30 pm-3:30 pm)

J. The Impact of Fostering and Adopting on Birth Children

Presented by Eshel Williams

This workshop addresses the impact of fostering and adopting on birth children of foster and adoptive parents. It provides insight into the challenges that birth children experience as other children come and go, and as their family dynamics change. A major focus is how to assess and ensure supports for birth children as their families engage in fostering and adopting.

K. Human Trafficking & Exploitation

Presented by Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

This CSEC training module includes information about the prevalence, dynamics, vulnerabilities, and indicators involved with human trafficking and exploitation. Participants will leave the training informed and educated on how to respond to these difficult situations

L. Providing Culturally Affirming Care

Presented by Stan Waddell & Cindy Downey

After completing this training participants will be able to define culture and identify cultural errors , Identify Youth Culture, understand identity development in foster youth, understand the cultural needs of undocumented children in foster care, Identify strategies for caregivers to help children in care improve cultural connections

2016 Spring Conference Registration Form

Registrant 1 Name.	Registrant 2 Name.
Address.	Address.
Phone.	Phone.
Email.	Email.

Please Check All That Apply:

Foster:	Adoptive: <input type="checkbox"/>	Kinship: <input type="checkbox"/>	Single (\$70): <input type="checkbox"/>	Couple (\$135): <input type="checkbox"/>	Child Welfare Professionals (\$85): <input type="checkbox"/>
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Registrant 1 Workshop Choices		Registrant 2 Workshop Choices	
Friday, April 15th	Saturday, April 16th	Friday, April 15th	Saturday, April 16th
A <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input type="checkbox"/>
B <input type="checkbox"/>	H <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	H <input type="checkbox"/>
C <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>	I <input type="checkbox"/>
D <input type="checkbox"/>	J <input type="checkbox"/>	D <input type="checkbox"/>	J <input type="checkbox"/>
E <input type="checkbox"/>	K <input type="checkbox"/>	E <input type="checkbox"/>	K <input type="checkbox"/>
F <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>

Payment Method:	Bill Agency: _____
Check Enclosed: <input type="checkbox"/>	Please Make Checks Payable to: AFFM

Please Check off Meals you will Attend:	Friday Lunch (12:15pm-1:45pm) <input type="checkbox"/>
Friday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> (6pm)	Saturday Lunch (12:15am-1:15pm) <input type="checkbox"/>
Special Accommodations, allergies etc., Please Specify: _____	

Please mail registration forms to: Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. 34 Main St. Orono, Maine St. 04473 Or fax to 207-889-6978 or email info@affm.net . You can also Register online @ <http://www.affm.net/2014/10/affm-spring-conference/>

Note. Conference cost includes both days, all meals, and all materials provided

Attention Vendors

AFFM would like to help you get the word out about your organization and have the opportunity to meet foster, adoptive, and kinship families along with other child welfare advocates and providers. This years conference will be held at The Augusta Civic Center on April 15th, and 16th.

- Set up will start at 6:30am on Friday April, 15th .
- Conference Registrations begins at 7:30am
- Break down and clean up by 4:00pm on April, 16th
- Non-Profit tables (no selling, Informational only) \$25.00
- For Profit tables \$35.00

Name of Organization _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fees include both days of the conference and a 6' table to set up on and chairs



Children Are Our Capital Concern!

Payment Information

Please return your Organization's information and payment to Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. 34 Main St. Orono, Maine. 04473

Name On Card _____

Billing Address _____

Type of card (check one) Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number _____ EXP Date: _____

Three digit security code (last 3 digits on the back of the card) _____

Amount to Charge \$ _____

Signature _____

(All payments need to be made out to Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.)

Paying by Check: yes No

Check number _____

Check Amount _____

Adoption Announcements!



The Cross family is pleased to announce the adoption of their beautiful daughter, Rita-Elizabeth Naomi Cross on October 21, 2015! Our family was blessed in June 2014 when Rita-Elizabeth came into our lives. Since then, she has brought so much love and happiness to our family. She has grown so much over the past year and has taught us just as much as we have taught her. We are very lucky that all went smoothly throughout the process and want to thank Rita-Elizabeth's caseworker Wanda Gamage-Wyman. The adoption day was amazing as we were surrounded by family and friends and of course Wanda and Big Sister Joan Jackson and dear friend Shirley Turner. We couldn't be happier to have Rita-Elizabeth join our family. The Cross' would like to thank all their family and friends for all their love and support along the way.



Melissa Mallett and Andrew Johnston of Dover-Foxcroft would like to announce their adoption of Charles Archer Johnston, age 5, on 12/22/15 after being their foster son for 643 days. Charlie brings joy to all he meets. Charlie is welcomed home by 5 older siblings; Jordan, Edward, Jaida, Caleb and Benjamin.

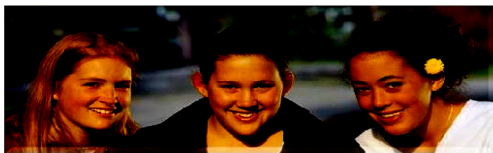


Have you recently legalized an adoption? Want to share the exciting news with others? AFFM would love to create an adoption announcement in the Family Ties newsletter. Send a write up and photo (if you wish) to meagan@affm.net AFFM looks forward to hearing from you!

Glass Half Full?

Are you a person who can give youth encouragement and extra support to make better decisions? Call Community Health and Counseling Services now!

We are looking for dedicated people to provide 6-9 months of care to help get a teen back on track.



Training support/\$525 weekly.

Resource families must live within a 60 minute drive from Augusta.



Call Melodie at 213-2164

Jockey Being Family

AFFM is very excited to partner with Jockey Being Family to provide newly adoptive families with backpacks and totes!

The backpacks are embroidered with the child's new family initials, and the backpack is complete with a comforting Jockey Being Family® fleece blanket and cuddly teddy bear. Every adoptive family also receives a parent tote filled with post-adoption resources.

For future youth being legalized, please send the family's name and contact information, the name, age and gender of the child and AFFM will complete the requests and get them delivered.

Thank you notes can be sent to AFFM and will be forwarded to Jockey Being Family.





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 provider 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 5:30 – 8:00 pm at the Buker Community Center (22 Armory Drive Augusta) 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 Rec and the gas station.

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: 4th Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 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.

Skowhegan— A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at New Horizon Church (31 East Madison Road).

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.

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

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National Foster Parent Association
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& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco, Maine

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