

Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 19 Number 5

Newsletter

May 2016

May is Foster Care Awareness Month!

State of Maine



WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support is the foundation of our communities and our State; and

WHEREAS, in Maine there are approximately 2,000 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurturance of a Resource (foster) family; and

WHEREAS, resource families who open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role helping children and their families heal and reconnect and assist in launching children into successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, dedicated resource families frequently adopt one or more of their foster children, resulting in a greater need for more families; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care; and

WHEREAS, the foster care system is only as good as those who choose to be a part of it.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May, 2016 as

FOSTER CARE MONTH

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my
hand at Augusta this Eleventh
day of April Two Thousand Sixteen



Paul R. LePage
Paul R. LePage
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY

AFFM Annual Spring Conference

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who helped make this year's conference a success!



- * Augusta Civic Center
- * Eshale Williams
- * Ed Ford
- * Representative Bobbi Beavers
- * Linda Brissette
- * Kristi Poole
- * AFFM Board Members: Meghan Painton, Tammy Cutchen, Barbara Ford, Denise Card, Pat Locke, Mary Ellen Roma, Shawn Yardley
- * Debbie Irish
- * Commissioner Mary Mayhew
- * Jim Martin, Director of OCFS
- * Saco Cinemagic
- * Sea Salt Lobster Restaurant in Saco
- * Orono Pat's Pizza
- * Diane's Country Crafts
- * DeGrasse Jewelers
- * Cyr Northeast Tours
- * Walmart
- * Orono Subway
- * Sweet Frog
- * Old Town Dairy Queen
- * Bed Bath & Beyond - Bangor
- * Michelle Barker Portraits
- * Employees of Yankee Candle - Bangor Mall
- * JC Penney Portrait Studio - Bangor Mall
- * Quality Jewelers
- * Judy Blanchard
- * Melissa Blanchard
- * Cindy Downey and Cenpatico

- * The Workstore - Glenburn
- * You Dirty Dog- S. Portland
- * Linda Matthews
- * Ryan Gilbert
- * Rose Ahgamoosa
- * Jessica Henderson
- * Justine Dunphy
- * My stuff Bags
- * Jockey Being Family
- * Janalee Moquin
- * Panelists: Jim Hatch, Sandra Snow, Brittany Godfrey, Joe Hoxie JR
- * Pam Senate and Maureen O'Brien
- * Acadia Healthcare
- * A Family For ME
- * Community Care
- * Community Health and Counseling
- * F.A.C.T.
- * Juuva
- * KidsPeace
- * MAS Community Health
- * Opportunity Alliance
- * Spurwink
- * Sweetser
- * SMART
- * Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- * Woodfords
- * Jenni Smith
- * Kelly Bowden
- * Bette Hoxie
- * Bette Freedson



See You All Next Year!

Acronyms and Terms in Child Protection: What do They Stand For?

- ⇒ **C-2: Jeopardy Hearing** is a hearing held on the child protection petition. In it, the court decides if the child is in jeopardy (put in danger). The child is then placed in full custody of the Department of Health and Human Services by a District Court. At the C-2 hearing the judge may also decide that the child is not unsafe and can go home.
- ⇒ **Cease Reunification:** A court decision based on the fact that the biological parents did not do what was required of them to make it safe for the child to return home. The Department is no longer required to provide reunification services for the purpose of the child returning to the biological parent's home.
- ⇒ **C-3: Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)** the court has terminated the rights of the child's parents. The child is free for adoption.

Child Welfare Voluntary Statuses

- ⇒ **V-2** Children are placed in the Department's care. This is through a voluntary agreement between the birth parents and the Department and the parent's retain custody. This is not a common practice.
- ⇒ **V-9** Young adults between the ages of 18-21 agree to be in DHHS extended care program. They are provided services to continue their education.
- ⇒ **Appeals:** Someone asks a different court to change the court's decision because they believe the court made a mistake. It is nearly always based on a legal technicality or shortcoming. Most courts are subject to appeals. The process can take several months to resolve.
- ⇒ **Disposition:** This is the decision about where the youth should live (such as in state custody or with a relative caretaker) It also states what the parents; DHHS must do to resolve the issues.
- ⇒ **Guardian Ad Litem (GAL):** A lawyer or a trained adult volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate CASA). They are appointed by the court to independently study, represent and protect the best interest of a child/ children youth, in child protection cases and make recommendations to the court.
- ⇒ **Judicial Review:** A court review that looks at the progress of the parents and the youth. This helps decide the safest place for the child to live. There must be a judicial review at least every 6 months. At least every 12 months the judicial review must identify the permanent plan.

Other Commonly Used Acronyms:

<p>ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act</p> <p>ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</p> <p>AFFM: Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. and the Kinship Program</p> <p>APS: Adult Protective Services</p> <p>ASD: Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>ASM: Autism Society of Maine</p> <p>BHP: Behavioral Health Professional</p> <p>CBH: Children's behavioral Health</p> <p>CCS: Clinical Care Specialist</p> <p>CDS: Child Development Services</p> <p>CPS: Child Protective Services</p> <p>COT: Council on Transition</p> <p>CSHN: Children with Special Health Needs</p> <p>DAB: Drug Affected Baby</p>	<p>MAFO: Maine Alliance of Family Organizations</p> <p>MC: Maine Care</p> <p>MEJ: Maine Equal Justice</p> <p>MPF: Maine Parent Federation</p> <p>NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Health Issues</p> <p>OCD: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder</p> <p>OCFS: Office of Child and Family Services</p> <p>ODD: Oppositional Defiant Disorder</p> <p>OMS: Office of Medical Services (Maine Care)</p> <p>OSA: Office of Substance Abuse</p> <p>OT: Occupational Therapy</p> <p>PA: Prior Authorization</p> <p>PCP: Person Centered Plan</p> <p>JCCO: Juvenile Community Correctional Officer</p>
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<p>DD: Developmental Delay</p> <p>DHHS: Department of Health and Human Services</p> <p>DOC: Department of Corrections</p> <p>DOE: Department of Education</p> <p>DRC: Developmental Rights Center</p> <p>DSM: Diagnostic & Statistical manual</p> <p>EPSDT: Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Testing</p> <p>FAPE: Free and Appropriate Public Education</p> <p>FFT: Functional Family Therapy</p> <p>FH: Foster Home</p> <p>FIS: Family Information Specialist</p> <p>GA: General Assistance</p> <p>G.E.A.R: Gaining Employment Allows Results (Parent Network)</p> <p>HCT: Home and Community Based Treatment</p> <p>ID: Intellectual Disability</p> <p>IDEA: Individuals with Disability Education act</p> <p>IEP: Individual Education Plan</p> <p>IFSP: Individual Family Service Plan</p> <p>YLAT: Youth Leadership Advisory Team</p> <p>YDC: Youth Development Center</p>	<p>JJAG: Juvenile Justice Advisory Group</p> <p>KMCC: Keeping Maine’s Children Connected</p> <p>LCSW: Licensed Clinical Social Worker</p> <p>LD: legislative Document</p> <p>LOC: Level of Care</p> <p>PDD: Pervasive Developmental Disorder</p> <p>PNMI: Private Non-Medical Institutions</p> <p>PT: Physical Therapy</p> <p>PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</p> <p>RFP: Request for Proposal</p> <p>SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</p> <p>SB: School -based</p> <p>SED: Severe Emotional</p> <p>SFY: State Fiscal year (July 1-June 30)</p> <p>SIDS: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome</p> <p>SSI: Supplemental Social Security</p> <p>SOC: System of Care</p> <p>TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</p> <p>TFCBT: Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy</p> <p>VR: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</p>
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Avoiding Mealtime Meltdowns

Is mealtime difficult at your house? Does your child say “no” to most new foods? You are not alone. Many parents and caregivers say their children are picky eaters. WIC staff knows it can be hard to get kids to eat new foods and it’s tempting to simply give kids the food they like.

WIC encourages the use of something known as the Division of Responsibilities, developed by Ellyn Satter. Parents and caregivers are responsible for the job of the “what, when and where” of feeding, while the children are responsible for the job of “how much and whether” to eat the food.

Your job in feeding your child is to give a variety of healthy foods (the what) at scheduled, regular meal and snack times throughout the day (the when) in a safe, pleasant setting (the where). Establishing scheduled meal and snack times allows children to trust that food will consistently be provided.

A child’s task is to decide if he or she wants to eat at all during that scheduled meal or snack time (the whether) and how much of each food to eat (the how much). If your child does not want to eat what’s been provided, teach him or her to remain sitting with the family until mealtime is done. Do not react to the child’s decision not to eat. This teaches the child that a lack of eating does not result in extra attention. Avoid making a snack or meal that is different from what everyone else is eating. Children will eat the amounts they need and learn to enjoy the foods provided to all other family members.

If the child you are caring for has a medical condition or growth concerns, discuss feeding practices with your child’s doctor.

For more information about WIC, visit WICforME.com or call 1-800-437-9300. For more on the Division of Responsibilities, please visit <http://www.ellynsatterinstitute.org/>

OCFS Levels of Care

As of April 1 2016, Goold Health Systems (GHS) will be taking over the OCFS Levels of Care assessment process for non-therapeutic foster care placements. Therapeutic agencies will continue to complete LOC assessments for children placed in foster homes affiliated with their agencies.

Please note that someone from Goold Health Systems will be contacting regular family foster parents who are caring for a placed child to schedule a call to complete the foster parent survey.

Adoption Announcements!

We are thrilled to announce the adoption of Cash Letourneau! This amazing boy has brought so much love into our home since the day he was placed with us as his foster parents! Over 30 friends and family traveled to Rockland from Southern Maine to celebrate his adoption.

~The Letourneau family



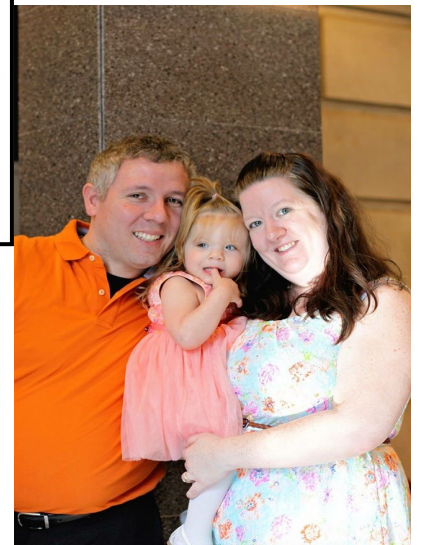
Marc and Robin Bates are happy to announce the adoption of their son Itzhak M. Bates! He came into their hearts on September 7, 2012 and 1286 days later he took their name!

Itzhak was adopted on March 16, 2016. The extended family is overjoyed and happy to welcome him into their FOREVER family!



"We are so happy to announce the adoption of our daughter, Emma Jean. We first met Emma at 4 days old at the hospital and brought her home shortly after. She is such a blessing in our lives and we couldn't be happier."

~James and Deb Robson



Phyllis and Tom Wolf are delighted to announce the adoption of Jade on Friday March 18, 2016!



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!

Parents of Children Receiving Services from Child Development Services...



...Your Voice is Needed!

The Maine Interagency Coordinating Council is looking for parent representatives.

The Council advises and assists Child Development Services. They work together on ideas, information, resources and concerns about services for young children with disabilities.

They meet 4 times a year in Augusta. Mileage reimbursement available. For more information contact Wendy Taggart – parent representative wendyicchair@yahoo.com

Kinship Corner

Bill Giasson Memorial Music Camp Scholarship Bill Giasson touched the lives of many families and children throughout his life. He gave freely of his time, his energy and his love. He was a teacher, family man, musician, and a friend to many. This music camp scholarship was established by members of a support group which Bill facilitated for nearly 10 years. Its members, made up of kinship providers, wanted to honor this gentle man who loved children and music and to ensure that his generous spirit would continue to have life.

Applications for the Bill Giasson Music Camp Scholarship are now available and may be obtained by contacting a member of the Kinship Support Group: Donna Lufkin 582-6583, Jan Partridge 495-3864, or Jan Strout 582-5784. Awards will be sent directly to the camp, once the applicant has been enrolled at the music camp of his or her choice.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship must meet the following criteria for eligibility

1. Maine Residency **2.** Financial Need **3.** Demonstrated Musical Interest **4.** Applicant must participate in the musical enrichment program at the camp of their choice **5.** Applicant accepts responsibility for writing thank you notes to the sponsoring organizations

Priority will be given to applicants living in kinship homes



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: Last 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 200 Main Street 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-7:00PM 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).

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

Partnering With: Department of Health and Human Services

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COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMIY 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

Locations: 34 Main Street, Orono, Maine

& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco, Maine

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