

Family



Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 21 Number 5/6

Newsletter

May/June 2018

AFFM's mission is to provide the training, guidance, knowledge and resources needed to handle the complex issues encountered by resource families as they open their hearts and homes to children in need.

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. (AFFM) provides support services for adoptive, foster parents and kinship providers. **The services are for all adoptive and foster families who are licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or have DHHS approval to adopt. AFFM also provides services to kinship families not in the formal system.**

Child welfare is dependent upon a myriad of state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Decisions concerning families and innocent children are rarely easy, and are usually fraught with highly emotional issues. AFFM is dedicated to assisting families to help children find the security they deserve. Every situation in fostering, adoption and kinship is unique. AFFM helps prepare families for the challenges they will face, and is a resource that is easily accessible. AFFM is available 24/7.

AFFM believes that Maine's children have the right to be a permanent member of a stable, healthy family. For adoptive, foster and kinship caregivers to provide the best parenting and in a quality home environment, they need to add to their own strengths through training and the unconditional support of AFFM. AFFM believes that when decisions are made that affect the rest of a child's life, there is no room for politics or personalities. AFFM believes that families who are willing to open their hearts and homes to provide for Maine's children, must have total support. We believe that access to services to enhance their abilities and that help them to develop new skills is imperative.

Services provided by AFFM include but are not limited to:

- ◇ Allegation Support
- ◇ Training
- ◇ C.A.R.E.S. Monthly Support Groups
- ◇ Resource Family Mentor Service
- ◇ Lending Library
- ◇ Direct Support
- ◇ Resources/Material Goods
- ◇ Passes and Discounts
- ◇ Formal and Informal Kinship Support



Learn more about the support services AFFM offers by calling 1-800-833-9786 or visit www.affm.net

Join AFFM's Email List Serve!

AFFM'S LIST SERVE IS THE FASTEST WAY TO RECEIVE UPDATED INFORMATION MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU!

What you may see on the list serve: Monthly newsletter, DHHS updates, legislative updates, donated items, training opportunities, free social events, and more!

The Advantages of Adding your Email: Never miss out on great opportunities, keep informed of new developments important to you, receive consistent support, help AFFM support even more families in need.

For Those Who Don't Have a Computer, you Don't Have to Miss Out! Consider asking a friend or relative to receive emails for you, consider using your local library, use your work email account.

It's Simple to Sign up! Call 1-800-833-9786, email info@affm.net, or go to www.affm.net to register!

Please Note: You may receive multiple emails per day, Even though AFFM does its best to filter content, emails may not always pertain to you. AFFM understands and accepts the responsibility of caring for Resource Families private information. This information will not be shared.



Have You Heard About AFFM's Mentor Service?

The Resource Family Mentor Service provides newly licensed resource families with encouragement, and guidance through a 1 on 1 relationship with an experienced peer. The Resource Parent Mentor is available to support, encourage, and inform new resource families to effectively partner with DHHS. The mentor will inform the family of resources and community linkages intended to strengthen and preserve the family. Mentors will also encourage recruits to take part in continuing education.

AFFM is extremely thankful to current mentors for the important role they play in supporting newer families. Mentors take time from their own families and activities to insure caregivers have an increased understanding of DHHS policy & practices, utilizing non-judgmental listening support. They also serve as a link between DHHS and AFFM.

New caregivers say they appreciate the enriched feedback they receive from people who provide the insider feedback and get them in touch with others who can help. Mentors tell us, they feel valued and take pride in helping a new family learn from their experiences. Mentors say, "I wish I had a mentor when I was first starting out. I felt in the dark. I didn't know who I could go to for quick help or to just to vent my frustrations with without feeling like I was being judged."

Passes and Discounts!

State park passes are available at AFFM! Are you a **licensed foster home** and looking for something to do this summer with your family? Call AFFM, have your foster care license ID number available and a state park pass will be sent your way! This is a great opportunity, but passes are limited so don't miss out.

Other passes available at AFFM: The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine (Portland), Maine Discovery Museum (Bangor), Coastal Children's Museum (Rockland) and the Children's Discovery Museum (Augusta). Also available discounted tickets to York's Wild Kingdom. Call AFFM today for your passes!



Upcoming Training!

Child Passenger Safety - Basic Awareness Training
Presented By: Stephanie Wiken & Tim Swift, DHHS Training Staff

Bangor:
Monday July 16, 2018 9am-Noon
396 Griffin Road. Large Conference Room

Augusta:
Thursday July 26, 2018 9am-Noon
OCFS 2 Anthony Ave.

South Portland:
Thursday September 20, 2018 9am-Noon
[151 Jetport Blvd. Room 139](#) A & B

Description: What type of car seats are there, which one is right for the child(ren) you are transporting, and what is the correct way to install them? This Bureau of Highway Safety endorsed training will answer all of these questions for you. You will also learn about passenger safety restraint systems, injury prevention, and crash dynamics. The training provides for actual hands-on car seat installations in vehicles by all attendees. Participants are encouraged to bring the car seats they are currently using for a safety check and for answers to any questions they may have about the seat. **3 hours of training credit. Limited Seating!**

Register Here: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/setu/ocfs-sponsored-training.shtml>

Registration Guidelines:

The registration form is specifically used by DHHS staff, however DHHS is allowing adoptive and foster families to attend this specific training. Please use the when registering, keep these guidelines in mind:

1. When asking for name, (work) address, and phone number -use your name and contact information.
2. Department/Agency: write in "Foster Parent" or "Adoptive Parent"
3. TAMS Employee ID#: write in "x"
4. Employee status: click " I am not a DHHS employee"
5. For all Non-DHHS Employees, please check the appropriate service area below: choose "Foster Parent" or "Adoptive Parent"
6. Supervisor's name & email: Write in your own name and email address
7. When finished, click "submit the form"

24th Maine Child Welfare Conference: Navigating Pathways for Families in Recovery

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Cross Insurance Center

Bangor, Maine

\$80 Registration Fee Includes Lunch

Keynote Presentation: Supporting Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders

Featuring a Keynote Address By: Nancy K. Young, PHD, MSW

Executive Director, Children and Family Futures



SAVE THE DATE for the 28th Annual Teen Conference!



28th Annual Teen Conference!

A day devoted to Maine's youth in foster care and those who care for them

Thursday June 28, 2018

Central Maine Community College

Visit ylat.org and [Facebook.com/MaineYLAT](https://www.facebook.com/MaineYLAT) for more information.

Have Fun! Meet New People! See Old Friends! Learn New Skills!

Hear Us, See Us, Know Us

Camp Scholarship Opportunity!

AFFM is excited to Partner with Windover Art Center to offer camp scholarships!

Windover Art Center is a unique experience for Maine children. At Windover, art goes way beyond drawing and painting. We have a pottery studio, glass bead torches, a theater, and even an "old-fashioned" darkroom for 35mm photography! Every day, students choose which classes they want from an ever-changing selection for each of the three periods. They might choose theater in the morning, after that, to make a walking stick and then a felt stuffed toy later on. We also have an above ground pool for swimming on those hot days! (Sorry, not available during our "Preview Weeks") Then, on Friday afternoon, we have an art show where students proudly show off their artwork from the whole week. Families and friends are all welcome! Located in rural Newburgh on 160 acres, Windover is sure to bring art and adventure to your child this summer! Windover is offering bus transportation from Bangor and Hampden during the weeks of July 16 and August 6 for an additional \$60 per week.



in a
partnership
with

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

is proud to announce:

**\$100 tuition for Children in Adoptive
or Kinship care at Windover**

For more information email sheila@affm.net
Limited Space is Available

Visit WindoverArtCenter.com or like us on [Facebook.com/WindoverArtCenter](https://www.facebook.com/WindoverArtCenter) Call 234-4503 or email sheila@affm.net for more information.



Interested in sending your child to camp this summer? AFFM would be happy to help in the search for scholarships and donated spots at a camp. If you have a camp in mind for your child and are unsure if they have spaces and scholarships available give AFFM a call at 1-800-833-9786 to assist in the search.

Licensed families, DHHS may have funds available for youth in foster care to attend a week of summer camp. Please check with your caseworker before applying.

Ferry Beach Gathering 2018!

When: Saturday June 30, 2018 (Rain Date: July 14th)

Time: Noon-3PM

Where: Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center (5 Morris Ave, Saco)

(Please Note: This event is not at Ferry Beach State Park)

This is a FREE event for families and friends! Come enjoy give aways,
face painting, beautiful beach, free barbeque and more!

Please RSVP to meagan@affm.net or call 1-800-833-9786



Resource Parent Care Team!

The Resource Parent Care Team is excited to announce that we are now completing assessments with resource parents for in home services. This service is provided by a clinician or bachelor level specialist to mitigate stressors in your home. The in home component of this program allows staff to work with you, as parents, to educate, inform, and support through the challenges and success' of this ever-evolving role. This team can work on providing attachment and trauma education, increasing family engagement and communication, supporting through transitions of children, and addressing behavioral concerns and needs. This service comes free to all resource homes regardless of licensure status. This services continues to be a collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services, Spurwink and Community Health and Counseling Services. Call your local district Liaison for more information or to complete an assessment!

District	Area Covered	Number
1	York County	286-2993
2	Portland	822-2212
3	Lewiston	795-4650
4	Rockland	596-4281
5	Augusta and Skowhegan	624-5246 (Augusta) 474-4849 (Skowhegan)
6	Bangor	561-4242
7	Washington and Hancock Counties	664-1404
8	Caribou and Houlton	493-4182

Adoption Announcement!



Providing kinship care is one of the hardest things to go through but all the highs and lows are worth every minute, and I would not change a thing. We are so excited to announce our adoption of Gavyn on February 7, 2018. Gavyn came to us at 6 months of age in 2013, and has made our family complete.

~The Spinney Family

Have you recently legalized an adoption? Would you like 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.

Did you know that after you've adopted you are still able to access AFFM's support services? Call AFFM today to learn about post adoption support!

Celebrate your adoption with a Jockey Being Family backpack! AFFM continues to offer a backpack embroidered with adopted child's new initials along with a fleece blanket and teddy bear. New adoptive parents will receive a tote with post adoption resources. If you're interested in receiving a backpack contact AFFM or your adoption caseworker.



Kinship



Corner

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. and the Kinship Program, (AFFM) celebrates and applauds grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members who open their hearts and homes to parent their relative's child/ren every day all year long. AFFM offers support groups statewide that welcome all foster, adoptive and kinship families. Additionally, there are two kinship only support groups. They are located in Augusta and Biddeford. See page 7 for more information.

Did you know that AFFM has two dedicated, full-time Kinship Specialists?

Sheila Peakall is located in our Orono office and Carey Cole is in our Saco office. Both Sheila and Carey have personal experience within a kinship family home. This lived experience helps them truly understand how vital the kinship caregiver role is to the children in their care, as well as the many struggles and strains that often impact the dynamics within the family.

AFFM's Kinship Specialists are here to provide listening support and help you navigate the systems you may encounter as you travel this often twisting and sometimes seemingly endless road. The systems you may encounter might include: child protection, education, special education, corrections and the court system. Sheila and Carey can often help with making referrals and obtaining materials goods that your family may be in need of.

We are a statewide non-profit association and our services are free to those who provide kinship care either in the formal or informal system.

You can call Sheila and Carey toll free 1-800-833-9786 or locally 207-827-2331. You can also email Sheila or Carey at: sheila@affm.net or carey@affm.net.

Ready Set Go to Learn (RSGTL)

AFFM is once again gearing up for the Ready Set Go to Learn Back to School Program. RSGTL is a program designed to assist those who would struggle otherwise purchasing back to school items for the children in their care. RSGTL provides a new backpack, grade-appropriate school supplies, personal care items and a new outfit. The program serves children in grades kindergarten (age 5) to senior year of high school.

If you feel you will need assistance this upcoming school year, please call AFFM at 1-800-833-9786 or email meagan@affm.net and we'll be happy to take your request and fill it to the best of our abilities. Please make sure to have clothing sizes and specific needs your child may have.

Please have your requests in no later than July 30, 2018.

Here's to a happy and healthy school year!



Are you interested in helping out with the Ready Set Go to Learn Back to School Program?

Help fill a child's backpack by donating today! School items needed are: notebooks, binders, calculators, rulers, highlighters, folders, pens and pencils. Donations can be dropped off at AFFM's Orono office (34 Main St.) or AFFM's Saco office (333 Lincoln St.)

As always, thank you for all you do!

AFFM Statewide Resource Family Support Groups



At times meetings are cancelled due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances, cancellation notices are sent out via AFFM 's 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= Childcare is available upon request

Augusta – Kinship only/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30 – 8:00 pm at the Buker Community Center (22 Armory Drive) 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 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:00-6:30pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church (540 Essex Street).

Belfast – F/A/K/CC: 2nd Monday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm at Christ The King Church Room 330 (9 Field Street).

Biddeford – Kinship only/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10:00–Noon at J Richard Martin Community Center (189 Alfred Street).

Bridgton – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Monday of the month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Community Center (Behind Reny's) (15 Depot St)

Brunswick – A/F/K/CC: 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30pm at St Paul's Episcopal Church (25 Pleasant St).

Caribou –A/F/K: 4th Monday of the month from 10:00am-noon at Caribou CHCS, 7 Hatch Drive #120. No RSVP needed.

Damariscotta— F/A/K: 1st Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Lincoln County Assembly of God Church (672 Main Street).

Dover-Foxcroft – A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Mayo Regional Hospital, Borestone & Sebec conference room (897 W Main Street).

Ellsworth – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Moore Community Center (133 State St.)

Farmington – A/F/K/CC: every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 pm at the Roberts Learning Center, UMF rooms 101A and 101B

Houlton – A/F/K: 3rd Monday of the month from 10:00am – noon at Houlton CHCS, 2 Water Street. No RSVP needed.

Lewiston/Auburn– A/F/K/CC: 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Opportunity Enterprises, *use the back door* (400 Center St. Auburn)

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

Machias – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ University of Maine Machias Torrey Hall Rooms 228 & 230 (116 Obrien Ave).

Norridgewock— A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at First Congregational Church (36 River Road).

Orono – A/F/K/CC: 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at the Orono United Methodist Church (36 Oak Street).

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

Rockland—A/F/K/CC: 1st Wednesday of the month from 5:30PM-7:00PM @ Grace Bible Fellowship (30 Sherer Lane).

Richmond— A/F/K/CC: 4th Tuesday of the month from 5:30PM-7:00PM at Isaac F. Umberhine Public Library (86 Main St.)

Sanford— A/F/K/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30PM-8PM at Curtis Lake Church (38 Westview Drive)

South Paris— A/F/K/CC: 1st Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30PM at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension (9 Olson Road).

South Portland—A/F/K/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at Eastpoint Church (345 Clarks Pond Pkwy South Portland).

Wells— A/F/K/CC: 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at Wells Congregational Church (1695 Post Road, Wells).

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, FAMILY TIES, AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

NON-PROFIT

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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

Phone: 1-800-833-9786

Email: info@affm.net

Website: www.affm.net

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