

# Family



# Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 21 Number 7

Newsletter

July 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, foster, and kinship 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 Meetings

◇ 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](http://www.affm.net)*

# AFFM Resources

***Are you in need of material goods? Do you have Facebook? AFFM has recently created a Closed Facebook Swap Group!***

This SWAP ONLY GROUP is a place for families to communicate available and needed resources. This will allow for more immediate access to resources needed by families living in the same geographic location. AFFM recognizes that families have needs outside of the normal office hours and hoping this will facilitate those needs.

This is strictly for resources that AFFM would accept as donations at the office to provide to other families.

AFFM will monitor this Closed Group and ensure there will be no selling of resources and all members MUST be approved by AFFM Admin.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/affmswap/>

*AFFM will also continue to send notices out via list serve for requested resources as needed. It is our hope, with these avenues your needs are being met more frequently and you feel more prepared when you are opening your homes to children in need.*



***Did you know AFFM's Orono and Saco office have Resource Rooms open to all foster, adoptive, and kinship families in need?***

The resource rooms have clothing in a range of sizes, assorted household items (i.e. throw blankets, sheets, personal care items, etc.) and sometimes more! AFFM's Saco office receives weekly donations of teen clothing (sizes XS-XXL in men's and women's shirts, pants sizes ranging from 00-17 in women's and 29 to 38 waist in men), thanks to Plato's Closet in South Portland.

AFFM relies heavily on donated items to continue to replenish the resource rooms. We will do our best to accommodate your needs and finding the items you are in search of.

The resource rooms are open during normal business hours. Please call ahead of time if you'd like to stop by and we will be happy to assist you!

***If you'd like to donate to either of AFFM's resource rooms please call 827-2331 or email [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net). Thank you!***



# Save the Date!

AFFM is conducting its annual satisfaction survey starting July 16th. Families will receive the survey via email, For those who do not use email, families will be called. Families can also call AFFM to set up a time to complete the survey via phone. Families completing the survey can win a \$50 gift certificate to their favorite restaurant. Your participation is greatly appreciated! Your feedback will help:

1. AFFM evaluate current services
2. AFFM identify what services are needed but not currently offered.
3. Helps AFFM's funders understand the need of families and the families' perception of AFFM's ability in meeting those needs.

## Save The Date

- AFFM's 22nd Annual Spring Conference **Friday April 12th and Saturday April 13th 2019** at the Hilton Garden Inn Bangor!
- Join AFFM **Friday August 3, 2018** for a Family Fun Day at **Mantle Lake Park in Presque Isle** from 3pm-6pm. There will be games and entertainment, a bouncy house, fire trucks and police cars for the kids to explore, and more! RSVP today by calling 827-2331.
- **Celebrate Grandparents Day** with AFFM on **Sunday September 9, 2018**. AFFM plans to host pizza parties in locations across the state. Keep an eye out for more information!



On Saturday August 11, 2018 celebrate the 39th Annual Hampden Children's Day! Families are invited to join the parade with their decorated bikes or scooters. More information can be found at [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

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

**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](http://Wicforme.com)



# New Discounts!

## Kennebec County:

### A Second Life

398 Maine Ave, Farmingdale

[www.facebook.com/aSecondlifeshs](http://www.facebook.com/aSecondlifeshs)

20% off

## Somerset County:

### The Children's Cottage

66 Water Street, Skowhegan

313-0933

20% off



***If you have a suggestion for a business that AFFM can approach to participate in the discount card program, please feel free to contact us [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net) or 1-800-833-9786***

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who attended and made this year's Foster Family Day at the Fort another success! The weather was beautiful and nearly 300 were in attendance. Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for donating their time and resources, making this another great year:

- ◇ Friends of Fort Knox
- ◇ Pony X-Press Zoo
- ◇ Poland Springs
- ◇ Pepsi Beverages Co.
- ◇ Staff and Board of AFFM
- ◇ Spurwink
- ◇ The Fahey Sisters
- ◇ Pat Locke and Tom
- ◇ Bangor K-9 Unit
- ◇ Just Jumpin in Belfast
- ◇ Kidspace
- ◇ Windover Art Center
- ◇ Gloria Flewelling and team from OHI
- ◇ Dennis Paper
- ◇ Community Care
- ◇ Winterport Baptist Church
- ◇ Olivia Legere
- ◇ Jim McCoy



# 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](mailto:sheila@affm.net) or [carey@affm.net](mailto:carey@affm.net).*

## **Ready Set Go to Learn (RSGTL)**

***AFFM will be taking RSGTL request up until July 30th.*** The 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](mailto: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.



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!***



# Adoption Announcement!



The Jones Family is thankful to have legalized the adoptions of Isaac in January and Joel in May!

*Congratulations!*

Celebrate your adoption with a Jockey Being Family backpack!

AFFM, through its partnership with Jockey Being Family, 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.



*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](mailto: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!*

## A Family for ME

You can be the life-changing hero in a child's story. There is an urgent need to find families to parent children who are in foster care. A Family for ME is seeking volunteers to attend community events with staff and raise awareness about this need. Other volunteer opportunities are also available.

A Family for ME is a partnership between with Department of Health and Human Services and Spurwink Services.

Interested? Contact A Family for ME at 1-844-893-6311 or online at [afamilyformemaine.org/#getstarted](http://afamilyformemaine.org/#getstarted).

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

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

**Augusta** – Kinship only/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Magic Years Center (25 Industrial Drive).

**Bangor** – A/F/K/CC 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:00-6:30pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church (540 Essex Street).

**Belfast** – A/F/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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 10:00–Noon at J Richard Martin Community Center (189 Alfred Street).

**Bridgton** – A/F/K/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** – A/F/K: 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Moore Community Center (133 State St.)

**Farmington** – A/F/K/CC: every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.  
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E-Mail: [info@affm.net](mailto: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.

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

*New Resource Families Welcome! You are now receiving the Family Ties newsletter as part of your complimentary membership to AFFM! Learn more about AFFM and services offered by calling 1-800-833-9786 or visit [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)*

**Locations:** 34 Main Street, Orono, Maine  
& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco, Maine

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

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

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

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