

# Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 21 Number 9

Newsletter

September 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 and kinship families. This includes kinship families in the informal system (not working in conjunction with DHHS).

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. AFFM understands every situation in fostering, adoption and kinship care is unique and families will face challenges. AFFM strives to continue to be a resource for families and is available 24/7.

AFFM believes that Maine's children have the right to be a member of a healthy, safe and stable family.

AFFM believes that all adoptive, foster and kinship families deserve to have unconditional support to help build on their strengths and to provide the best quality home environment possible.

AFFM believes that access to services to enhance families abilities and develop new skills is imperative.

AFFM believes all families who open their homes to Maine's children deserve unbiased support.

**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 207-827-2331 or visit [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)***



# 13th Annual Festival of “Fostering” Trees!

The *Festival of “Fostering” Trees* is back for another year continuing our *mission* of raising awareness and funds to support Maine youth involved in the foster care system, while joining the *entire* community together by providing a beautiful festival of decorated Christmas Trees for you to enjoy and hopefully win!

## Where & When is the Festival of “Fostering” Trees (FOFT)?

**Where:** Foster’s Clambake 5 Axholme Road York, ME

**When:** Thursday November 29th, Friday November 30th, Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday December 2nd open daily from 9:00am – 8:00pm. Calls to all winners will be placed on Monday December 3rd from 6:00pm-9:00pm

Pick-up of **ALL** trees is Tuesday, December 4th 8:00am-12:00pm – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Tree Set-up Days & Times:** Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am-6:00pm **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Admission is “FREE”:** Voluntary donations accepted for the York Food Pantry and Toys for Tots! Come and enjoy the amazing “Spirit of the Season” without spending a penny - *purchasing raffle tickets is optional.*

**Raffle Tickets:** 25 raffle tickets for only \$5.00, available to purchase at the Festival.

**How can I participate?** Donate a decorated artificial Christmas tree, any size, style or fashion, traditional or non-traditional, (be creative) using any type of materials and the tree will be raffled off at the end of the festival. All trees will be set-up and decorated by the participants. **Please write your Confirmation # on your tree box. Extension cords are provided.**

**Can I donate something else instead of a tree?** Monetary donations & gift certificates are great ways to participate & **ALL** items will be used appropriately.

**Who receives the proceeds?** The Festival of “Fostering” Trees (FOFT) serves as the signature fundraising event for **A Place Called H.O.M.E. – Having Opportunities Means Everything**, which exists to serve the multifaceted and critical needs of older youth (16-26) who are aging out or have aged out of Maine’s foster care system and find themselves in need of a support system.

**How can I enter a tree?** Email your **COMPLETED** Entry Form to [janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com](mailto:janaleemoquin8@yahoo.com) or mail it to P.O. Box 72 York, ME 03909 by **Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>** call/text 423-4281 FMI.

**All Entries must include a tree (or be in the shape of a tree), in excellent condition, with lights, a tree topper, tree skirt & decorated on all sides!!!**



# 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 at 207-827-2331 or email: [sheila@affm.net](mailto:sheila@affm.net) or [carey@affm.net](mailto:carey@affm.net).*

## **A Tribute to Leon**

AFFM was sad to hear of the passing of a dear friend, Leon Seymour, Executive Director of the Friends of Fort Knox.

Every once in a while a person reaches out to AFFM in a special way and a friendship is made that endures the tests of time. Such was the experience with Leon. He intuitively understood the need for children in care to learn from their environment, the local history and to have experiences similar to their peers.

Drawing on Barbara Ford's idea to have a special recognition day at Fort Knox State Park and Historical Site, a "Foster Day at the Fort" was created. Leon was always there to get us the permission required by the Friends of the Fort. He encouraged us to sign up early each year and loved to hear of the upcoming plans.

He additionally added creative suggestions of his own that enhanced the special day each year. Just this past year, on the day of the event, as he was being life flighted to Boston hospital for emergency treatment for cancer, he insisted that a call be made to the Fort to be sure all was in readiness for AFFM's annual event.

He will be sadly missed and most fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him. Rest in Peace Leon. You will always be a hero in the eyes of AFFM. Thank you for your years of dedication to the Fort and to AFFM.





# Holiday Gift Giving Program 2018

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine and the Kinship Program is gearing up for the Holiday Gift Giving Program! Resource families are invited to add their children's names, gender, clothing size and age to a wish list for holiday gifts. Once again, the amazing people from the Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Committee will work to provide holiday presents to kids in AFFM programs.

Give the office a call at 207-827-2331 and have your child's information and gift wish ready. We ask that you keep requests to under \$50.00 per child.

The sooner AFFM has the information the more likely we are to fulfill the children's wishes.

**AFFM will take requests up until November 21st.**



## Adoption Announcements!



*Dawn Lambert is thankful to have legalized the adoption of her nephew Cam in June. Cam joins the family of Dawn, boyfriend Wayne Flood along with their puppy Maggie. Cam also becomes a brother of sorts (as he is their cousin also) to Dawn's adult children, Shannon Pekas, Shelly Jenkins and Seth Jenkins.*

*The family couldn't be happier!*



*Our daughter Zariah was born mid November and we brought her home (Brunswick) from Arizona in early December. Proud first time parents!!!*

*Congratulations to Liza and Neil Thurlow!*



*The Judd's are excited to share the adoption of the newest member of their family Noah Allen Judd. Noah's adoption was legalized on June 26, 2018. Noah joins siblings DJ, Alyssa, Miguel, Erika, and Karson.*

# Adoption Announcements Continued!

*Lisa Sawyer and Roger Albert are thrilled to announce the adoption of Ryder age 5 and Nathan age 2 on August 14<sup>th</sup>! Ryder and Nathan join Lisa's biological children, Nicole and Alison as well as Roger's biological children Emma and Dakota. The blended family with an assortment of last names calls themselves the Patchwork Family.*

*Congratulations to your 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](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!*

## FFTA Blurb

Maine Family Focused Treatment Agency (FFTA) is a collaboration of behavioral health agencies in support of positive outcomes for children and youth served in family-based treatment settings, particularly treatment foster care. This is accomplished by partnering with families, communities, child welfare and other child-focused entities to promote best practices in treatment foster care.

**Who can be a treatment foster parent?** Interested candidates must be at least 21 years of age, and may own or rent their home. They may be single, married, or partnered, and agree to abide by the rules and standards for licensed foster homes. Candidates need to have at least six months of verifiable work experience with children with emotional and/or behavioral needs or one year as a licensed foster parent.

**What's the difference between treatment foster care and regular foster care?** Children and youth referred to treatment foster care agencies typically have higher needs due to behavioral health issues and/or developmental delays. As a result, they often have special education services, therapy needs, and medication management. They require foster parents with specialized skills and training in managing children's behaviors. Treatment foster care agencies provide casework support, support workers, training, support groups, and clinical consultation.

**How do I get more information?** You can contact any of the member agencies in your area. **Here are eight treatment foster care agencies throughout the state:**



Aroostook Mental Health Center  
(207)498-6431



[www.comcareme.org](http://www.comcareme.org)  
1-888-236-2273



1-800-924-0366



(207) 941-2347



207-771-5700



(207)893-0386



(207) 871-1200



(207) 878-9663



# Thank You!



*A special thank you to 5 year old Lyric Rain for raising more than \$200 from your lemonade stand to support other kids who are unable to be with their families.*

*Thank you Lyric!*

*AFFM would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for taking part in the Family Fun Day in Presque Isle on August 3<sup>rd</sup>:*

- ⇒ TAMC
- ⇒ CHCS
- ⇒ Northern Maine Light House
- ⇒ Aroostook Mental Health
- ⇒ A Family for ME
- ⇒ Sarah and Blake Hatt
- ⇒ Kayla and Taylor Cote
- ⇒ Presque Isle Police Department
- ⇒ April Belyea
- ⇒ Subway
- ⇒ SAM'S Club
- ⇒ Walmart
- ⇒ Coca-Cola
- ⇒ Country Kitchen
- ⇒ Bombshell Hair Salon in Presque Isle
- ⇒ 5K Tent and Event
- ⇒ Percy's Auto Sales



*AFFM would like to thank the Raiders MC Motorcycle group for hosting a motorcycle ride on Saturday July 28th to raise awareness and funds for youth in care. The ride successfully raised \$1,000! Thank you for all your support!*



## Support AFFM by Purchasing a Reusable Community Bag!

We are elated to announce that AFFM has been selected to be a part of the exciting and innovative Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program, which is specially designed to support local non-profits like us.

For every reusable Community Bag purchased at the Hannaford in Old Town during the month of September, \$1 is donated to our cause in order to help us fulfill our mission.

We continually appreciate all the support you give, which has allowed AFFM to maintain the work we do in our community. The Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program is a simple and fun way to continue this support!

Please visit the Hannaford store located in Old Town during the month of September and buy the specially designed Community Bag.

Thank you so much for your continued support of AFFM!



## AFFM Statewide Resource Family Support Groups

# C.A.R.E.S.

Connecting. Advice. Resources. Education. Support

*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 @ 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5:00-6:30pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church (540 Essex Street).

**Belfast** – A/F/K/CC: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30pm at St Paul's Episcopal Church (25 Pleasant St).

**Caribou** – A/F/K: 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Gwilym R. Roberts Learning Center (by the administration office), UMF rooms 001 and 003

**Houlton** – A/F/K: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 6:00–7:30PM at the Community Evangel Temple (124 River Road).

**Machias** – A/F/K/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Wesleyan Church (387 Centerline Road.).

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

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

**Sanford** – A/F/K/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:00PM-8PM at Curtis Lake Church (38 Westview Drive)

**South Paris** – A/F/K/CC: 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at Eastpoint Church (345 Clarks Pond Pkwy South Portland).

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

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

**Locations:** 34 Main Street, Orono, Maine

& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco. Maine

**Phone:** 207-827-2331

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

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

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**Save a tree, sign up for the E-Newsletter!**