



Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 21 Number 10

Newsletter

October 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



AFFM Resources

Are you in need of material goods? Do you have Facebook? AFFM has 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. To join the group visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/affmswap/>

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 relies heavily on donated items to continue to replenish the resource rooms. We will do our best to accommodate your needs and find the items you are in search of. The resource rooms are open during normal business hours. Please give us a call ahead of time if you'd like to stop by and we'll be happy to assist you!



ALL ITEMS IN THE RESOURCE ROOMS ARE FREE!

If you'd like to donate to either of AFFM's

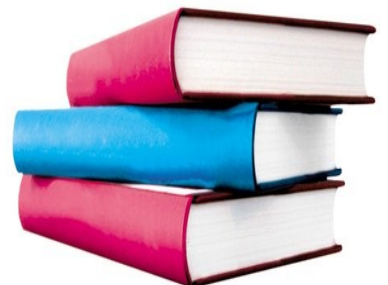
resource rooms please call 827-2331 or email

info@affm.net. Thank you!

AFFM's Lending Library is a great way to receive training hours and additional information that can help you better manage the issues that may arise when caring for children who experienced difficult situations.

Resource families can find a list of books & DVD's online at www.affm.net

AFFM will mail the book or DVD free of charge! AFFM lends books out for 3 weeks and 2 weeks for a DVD. If more time is needed to complete the material, please call the office and ask for an extension. Once done with the material, we ask for you to write a brief explanation about the information gained. Once AFFM receives the materials and the write up, a certificate of training can be sent out.



Celebrate Halloween at One of These Events*:

Curtis Lake Church (Trunk or Treat)
38 Westview Dr
Sanford, ME
Wednesday October 31

West Buxton Baptist Church (Trunk or Treat)
62 Parker Farm Rd
Buxton, ME
Wednesday, October 31st

Leap'n'Learn- Saco (Trunk or Treat)
50 Beach St.
Saco, Maine
Friday, October 26

Elite Cheer Gym (Trunk or Treat)
73 Bradley Dr
Westbrook, ME
Sunday, October 28 4:00-6:00 PM

Norway Main St. (Trunk or Treat)
Main St.
Norway, ME
Saturday, October 27 4:00-6:00 PM

Gardiner Downtown (Trunk or Treat)
Water St.
Gardiner, ME
Friday, October 27 4:00-6:00 PM

Hollis Center Church (Trunk or Treat)
388 Hollis Rd
Hollis Center, ME
Wednesday October 31st

Maine Discovery Museum Discover Halloween
Wednesday October 31 10AM-6:30PM
All day Halloween activities, free with museum admission

Crosspoint Church (Trunk or Treat)
1476 Broadway
Bangor, ME
Saturday October 27 12-2PM

Bangor Drive-In (Trunk or Treat)
1674 Hammond St
Hermon, ME
Saturday October 13th at 3PM

Downtown Bangor Trick or Treat Event
Saturday October 27th
Downtown Bangor businesses participate in handing out candy and decorating their stores in spooky Halloween decorations.

Anah Shriner (Trunk or Treat)
Friday October 26 6PM-8PM
1404 Broadway, Bangor, ME

UCP of Maine's 16th Annual Pumpkins in the Park Presented By: Van Syckle Kia
Sunday October 21st from noon-5PM
1404 Broadway, Bangor, ME

This year's theme is "Heroes Unite"; patches and attendees are encouraged to come in a costume that represents their favorite super-hero, movie, comic etc.

Event Admission: \$3 person, \$10 family
All proceeds will benefit UCP of Maine in supporting the needs of children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities in the community.

***AFFM is aware this list does not highlight all the events across the state. If you don't see an event close to you, please check with your local churches or towns to see what may be scheduled.**

AFFM would love to add to this list for next year, please let us know of events near you!

Statewide Calendar 2018-2019

Aroostook-Houlton (3rd Thursday 3:30-5:30 pm)

September 27* • October 18 • November 15
December 20* • January 17 • February 21
March 21 • April 18 • May 16*

All meetings are @ Houlton DHHS at 11 High Street



The Youth Leadership Advisory Team

YLAT is a youth & adult partnership committed to improving the short-term experiences and long-term outcomes for youth who are currently in foster care or have been in care.

Get connected!

With youth, former youth, and adult partners who want to improve the child welfare system.

Be heard!

We know you've heard it before...but we get asked for input all the time. Your voice is valuable!

Have fun!

Have good food, great friends, and amazing conversations.

Make a difference!

Your story about your experiences in foster care could impact other youth in care.

Challenge yourself and others!

YLAT challenges us all to keep learning about what it means to grow up in foster care ... and about how we all can contribute to the solutions.

Rockland (2nd Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm)

September 26* • October 10 • November 14
December 12* • January 9 • February 13 • March 13
• April 10 • May 8 • June 12

All meetings are @ Pope Memorial Humane Society at 25 Buttermilk Lane, Thomaston

Southern Maine (3rd Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm)

September 20* (Thursday) • October 17 • November 21
December 19* • January 16 • February 20 • March 20 • April 17 • May 15*

All meetings are @ USM Gorham at 37 College Ave

Waterville (3rd Wednesday, 3:30-5:30 pm)

September 26* • October 17 • November 21
December 19* • January 16 • February 20 • March 20
• April 17 • May 15*

All meetings are @ Pleasant Street United Methodist Church at 61 Pleasant Street

Lewiston (2nd Wednesday, 3:45-5:45 pm)

September 20* (Thursday) • October 10 • November 14
December 12* • January 9 • February 13 • March 13 • April 10 • May 8

All meetings are @ Lewiston DHHS at 200 Main Street

Visit www.ylat.org or www.facebook.com/MaineYLAT for updates or changes to the calendar throughout the year!

Angels in Adoption Award!

Congratulations to Donna and Leon Warren for being chosen to receive the Angels in Adoption Award! Donna and Leon have been fostering for over 25 years and have recently adopted their 8th child! The Warren's accepted the award in Washington D.C. on September 26th.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) Angels in Adoption® Program honors a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations making extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency and child welfare. Each year, the Angels in Adoption® awardees travel to Washington, D.C., to both celebrate their hard work and dedication to the issues and participate in special events designed to engage them in using their personal experience to effect change on behalf of children in need of families.

When asked many years ago what was her proudest accomplishment; Donna quickly stated without hesitation...“my children... all of my children.” Both Donna and Leon are extremely proud to have all of their children graduate from high school; with just three left to go! One has even graduated from college and is currently working on her Master’s degree. “We are proud of all of our kiddos and have been blessed to be a part of their lives, said Donna when interviewed. Donna and Leon Warren take their foster parenting seriously and are excellent advocates for all children around them. No matter what kind of situation might arise, they are able to rally, identify the needed resources, and get the job done. The Warrens have continued to be active foster parents and seem to live with the philosophy that there will always be room for more in their home and in their lives. Donna indicated that all of her kiddos are at various stages of overcoming trauma from their pasts and she and Leon are right there to support them with every single piece of the recovery process. “We are the Warren Warriors”, said Donna with a big smile on her face!

~Bobbi Gagnon Family Resource Specialist, KidsPeace



Meet the Staff of AFFM!



Brigid recently joined the AFFM team in the Saco office as the Resource Family Specialist. Brigid is the mother of four children, two biological and two adopted after parenting them through foster care for two and half years. She became familiar with AFFM as a resource parent nearly 10 years ago and is excited to be working with them to help other resource families! If you're calling into AFFM, Brigid will be one of the friendly voices on the other end.

Welcome Brigid! AFFM is excited to have you on our team!

Adoption Announcements!

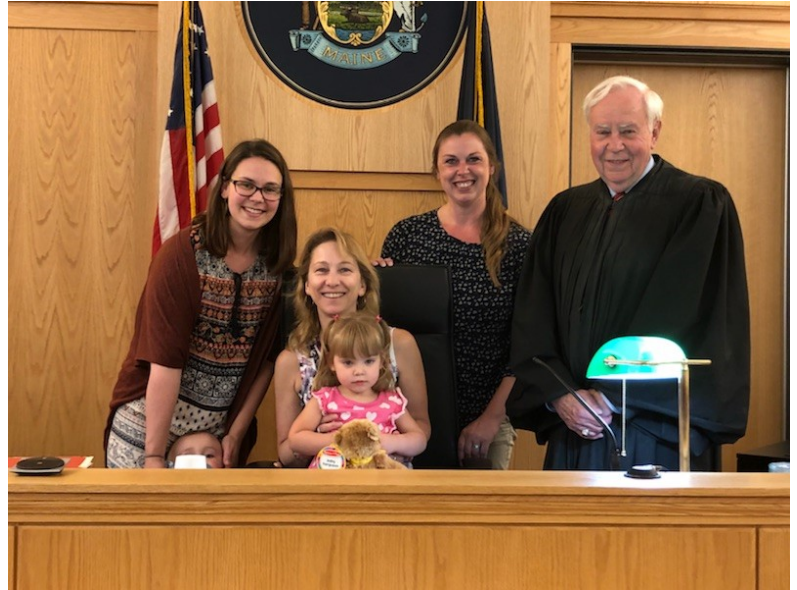


Congratulations to the Goodson family as they quickly approach their fourth year as adoptive parents!

The Goodson's legalized their adoptions on November 19, 2014.

Featured in the photo: Rashonda, Hunter, Jamey, Travis. Bonnie and her husband Jim

Cheryl Palmer is thrilled to announce the adoption of her granddaughter Jayda Palmer on June 26, 2018



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!

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 service 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

Kinship Corner

AFFM is a non-profit organization that partners with DHHS to provide support, training, education, listening support, referrals and materials goods to resource parents (foster, adoptive and kinship). The services are also available to families who are not involved with DHHS.

If you or someone you know is parenting one or more of a relative's children, AFFM has special resources to help you meet the needs of the children. The people you talk to when you call have "walked the walk and talked the talk". Our trained staff is sensitive to the complexities of families who have members that struggle and have found parenting overwhelming and need the support of extended family members to aid them until they are able to handle whatever keeps them from successfully providing for their children.

Parenting a second and or third generation of children requires more of everything from the caregiver. AFFM can help you navigate the systems you may encounter as you travel this often twisting and sometimes seemingly endless road. The systems you may encounter may include: child protection, education, special education, corrections and the court system.

Additional Resources available for kinship families: www.grandfamilies.org , www.mainecenteronaging.org, The Kinship Parenting Toolbox (A book found in AFFM's Lending Library) The Grandfamily Guidebook: Wisdom and Support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (Soon to be in AFFM's Lending Library).

AFFM'S Discount Card Program

Did you know ALL adoptive, foster, and kinship families are eligible to receive the discount card?

The Discount Card Program allows you to take advantage of the many types of discounts that local businesses offer.

**A
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M**

Adoptive and Foster Families
of Maine
Discount Card

Is Eligible for Discounts Through
the AFFM Liaison Program
1-800-833-9786

Remember to call every year for your updated sticker!

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 at

info@affm.net or 207-827-2331

Holiday Gift Giving Program 2018

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine and the Kinship Program is continuing to take requests 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.

Please give the office a call at 207-827-2331 and have your child's information ready. ***Please try and have specific gifts in mind when placing a request.*** This helps the sponsors who are shopping for the child. 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.



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 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: 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 – 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: 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— A/F/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 Thursday 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 Gwilym R. Roberts Learning Center (by the administration office), UMF rooms 001 and 003

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 6:00 – 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.)

Saco— A/F/K/CC: 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30PM at Saco AFFM (333 Lincoln St.)

Sanford— A/F/K/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00PM-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).

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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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ABOVE.

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ORONO, 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 or visiting www.affm.net

Locations: 34 Main Street, Orono, Maine

& 333 Lincoln Street, Saco. Maine

Phone: 207-827-2331

Email: info@affm.net

Website: www.affm.net

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List serve**



[Save a tree, sign up for the E-Newsletter!](#)