

Happy New Year!

Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 22 Number 1

Newsletter

January 2019

AFFM's 22nd Annual Spring Conference

Trauma and the Aftermath:

Recognizing the Issues, Working Towards Solutions

Friday April 12, 2019 and Saturday April 13, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn

250 Haskell Road Bangor, Maine

Keynote Speakers: Bill Cummings (Friday) and Judith Josiah-Martin, MSW, ACSW, CADC (Saturday)

The theme of this year's conference is greatly influenced by the opioid epidemic, much like the lives of many in the child welfare community. It is apparent that the co-existence of substance abuse and trauma weighs heavily on the lives of families and children. It is our hope that when we come together, we will be able to increase support, communication, and knowledge among resource families and professionals.

Attending the conference will allow you to expand your networking opportunities with peers and experts from around the state and help create a collaborative community that can work together to provide a safe and stable environment for young people in care.

We look forward to learning with you!

Registration and conference brochure coming soon!

Holiday Gift Giving Program Thank You!!

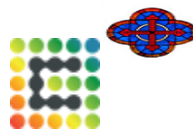
AFFM's annual Holiday Gift Giving Program has come and gone and it once again proved to be a busy holiday season. The program was able to serve over 1,000 children statewide! As you can imagine this is never an easy task and AFFM could not have done it without the incredible support of businesses, individuals and organizations. AFFM can not thank **the Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Committee** enough for supporting 600 children! The efforts the committee puts forth are beyond generous. Each year, AFFM is in awe of the gifts provided. It is apparent the sponsors take the time to make sure children's wish lists are filled. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for everything you do to make the holiday season a little more special for the resource families AFFM services. Below is a list of more sponsors who supported the Holiday Gift Giving Program. You are all heroes in AFFM's eyes!

Thank you to all the pick up locations: Caribou DHHS, Ellsworth DHHS, Machias DHHS, Houlton DHHS, Lewiston DHHS, Rockland DHHS, Maine Parent Federation, Community Care, Mary Ellen Roma, and Waldo County Sheriff's Department in Belfast.

- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 434
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 1477
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 1549
- ◆ Adam and Jessica Landry
- ◆ Wanda Plummer's Dance School
- ◆ Kids Count Learning Center
- ◆ Louise Hatch
- ◆ Harvest Moon
- ◆ Francie Criner
- ◆ Ron from A-Copi
- ◆ Williston Immanuel Church
- ◆ Brewer Youth Hockey
- ◆ Individuals at Tyler Technologies
- ◆ David, Rhonda , Wynter
- ◆ DaRosa Home Team

- ◆ Gardner Family
- ◆ Whalen Family
- ◆ Mary Morrill Photography and Morrill Tech.
- ◆ Duncan Family
- ◆ Sophia Pereira and Elizabeth Emery
- ◆ The Sampson Family
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 1140
- ◆ Cyr Bus
- ◆ Erica Page at St. Peter's Creation
- ◆ St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- ◆ Bull Moose Music
- ◆ Morgan Stanley
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 862
- ◆ Bangor International Airport

- ◆ Kelly Nickerson at Bangor Christmas Tree Shop
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 99
- ◆ Girl Scout Troop 1161
- ◆ Cirrus Systems Inc.
- ◆ Landry/French Construction
- ◆ Geishaker Family
- ◆ Haley's Metal Shop, Inc.
- ◆ Kristi Male and the staff at Pink
- ◆ FES Girl Scout Troop 572
- ◆ St. Charles Borromeo Church
- ◆ Mary Lake
- ◆ Seaside United Church of Christ
- ◆ St. Paul the Apostle Parish
- ◆ Toys for Tots



St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Holiday Gift Giving Program Thank You Continued!!

Thank you WPOR for the amazing donation and for supporting 75 children in care!



Thank you Lots of Tots Child Care in Princeton for going above and beyond supporting 31 children in care!



Thank you to Kelly Buzzell and the team at The Neighborhood Early Childhood Center for donating to the Holiday Gift Giving Program and supporting children in care this holiday season!

New Addition to the Discount Card Program!

Bell Imaging & Design, LLC

890 Coldbrook Rd, Hermon

Bellphotostudio.com

207-356-2353

20% off any photography or graphic design service

(excludes events and weddings, or already discounted sessions)



**A
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F
M**

Adoptive and Foster Families
of Maine
Discount Card

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

If you have a suggestion for a business to participate in the Discount Card Program Please Contact AFFM: info@affm.net or 207-827-2331

Adoption Announcements!

Donnamarie and Bill Libby are excited to announce the adoption of Zoey Judithann Libby on November 28, 2018



On National Adoption Day November 16th, in Brockton, MA. Richard and Karen Yocum adopted their grandson Paul Yocum!

Paul has been living with the Yocum's since November of 2016. After the judge greeted all our family members she looked at Paul and asked him, "What do you think?" Paul looked at the judge and said, "Good morning Judge". Well that just said it all.

We are proud Paul chose us as his parents.



Shirley Regan is happy to announce the adoption of her son Isaiah on December 11, 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!

Kinship Corner

I believe that grief is not something you should stand upon, but something you should learn how to manage, while taking something that is sad, and have some positivity taken from it. I believe this is because of a support group called Pathfinders. Pathfinders is a support group for children and adults who have lost a loved one. Last year, on April 16, 2017, my father passed away. He had a severe case of alcoholism and also smoked. These two things don't go well together if one is used more than the other. His name was Adam (Shorty) Douglas Laird. He passed away unexpectedly. Whenever he was not drinking, he was an awesome father! However, when he was drinking, I didn't get to spend time with him much, knowing his condition.

One day, before the 16th of April, he wanted to go to his friend's house to clean. Every time he went to his friend's house, he would always drink. His friend's name is Todd. Todd was a drinker too. I don't know why Daddy would go to his house, but he chose to anyways; knowing that Mama and Papa let him go there. I did not like him going over there, not one bit not knowing what he would do. During the time he was at Todd's, he had gotten drunk. A few days passed and he requested to see Mama at the Brewer Walmart where she works. He had gotten there, decided to take a nap in the woods, and never woke up. The police say that his body was too cold to survive any longer.

While my mom (grandmother), my cousin, and I were at church for their Easter service, the police had showed up at our house. They told my dad (grandfather), that Daddy had passed away and was found in the woods, behind the Brewer Walmart by a lady that had been walking her dog that morning. The police knew it was him as a result of having a hospital bracelet on. When we got home from church, Mama told me to change. While I was changing, I suddenly heard her crying. I didn't know why she was. I thought it had something to do with Daddy, but she wouldn't tell me what was wrong. Later that same day, Mama said that she was going to take a walk. I didn't know that she was going towards my uncle Phillip's house, but Phillip and his wife saw her and picked her up. She had told them why she was crying and then soon arrived back home.

That day, a bunch of our family members got invited to have an Easter barbecue at our house followed by an Easter egg hunt for kids and adults, if they wanted to join too. After we hunted for Easter eggs, Mama told us to stay in the house while she talked to the rest of the family outside on the porch. I did not know what was happening, but I knew she would tell me; sooner or later.

After the family had left, Mama wanted me to sit on the couch with Papa and her. I sat there for a while and she said to me, "You know what alcohol can do to you, right?" "Yeah," I acknowledged. "Well,..." She stopped in the middle of her sentence. "Did Daddy die?" I asked with a soft voice. "Yes hunny," She answered. I knew that alcohol could damage you, but I didn't know that it could essentially kill you sooner in life than need be. I cried, but we then talked about how Daddy used to take me to Playland Adventures, or the pool a lot, and how acceptable of a dad he was to me. I loved that he was always there; mostly, if he needed me and I was so lucky to be in his life; mainly to his daughter and the love of his life. That made me feel special inside. I believe in God, Christianity, and that Daddy is not suffering anymore, he is with the angels, with Aunt Tamara, my aunt, Lucky; our old cat, Corkie; my grandfather's dog, my uncle and many others. He is in a place where there is no pain and everyone is young and happy again.

Many months had passed and Mama wanted to call Linda Boyle; who is the head leader of Pathfinders, to ask for a meeting about Pathfinders. The meeting was scheduled, and we went one Saturday afternoon. The three of us had talked, and the first day of Pathfinders was a few months later, on a Monday night. The groups in Pathfinders go from the littles to the adults. I was in the Teen 1 group. The facilitators were Stacey and Katelyn. Both of them are two amazing women. This group helped me in so many different ways. It has changed my life, to be able to know that everyone goes through grief, but not everyone's story is the same.

I believe that grief is not something that should hurt you, especially if it has occurred in your lifetime before. If you let it hurt you, you will miss out on the wonderful help that you could be getting to get your life back on track, but also not having to worry about grief being the main part of your life; instead of knowing the other things in your life that matter the most.

Article Written By: Ashley Smith Grade 7

This article share's a young girl's experience with death, loss of a parent and what it has taken to move forward. Her grandmother and AFFM are thankful to all kinship caregivers who are helping their relative's child/children grieve and move towards a healthier future.

AFFM Heroes!

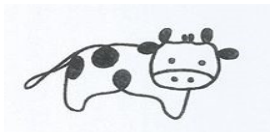
A big thank you to **Socks From Kevin** a non-profit organization!

Marlene Cullity, the founder, provided AFFM with 300 new socks for children in care. Donations were given at the Orono office and a lot of families received them just in time for the holiday! Below is the story about how Socks From Kevin came to be.

In May of 2017 my son Kevin Trudeau passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. After his passing I heard several stories from everyone that knew him about how he inspired them in so many ways; he was loved by so many. Throughout his life Kevin had a passion for helping others; from collecting food for the area food bank or serving in the homeless shelter he was always looking out for those less fortunate than him. I want to keep helping others in Kevin's name; one of his favorite things was new socks! Socks also happen to be one of the top items that are needed in the homeless shelters. I'm asking for your help in gathering new pairs socks that I plan on donating to shelters in Kevin's name.

If you have new socks to donate to this heart warming cause you may contact Marlene or send donations to:
122 Waverly street in Pittsfield, ME 04967

SOCKS FROM KEVIN is on Facebook and has the below logo please like and share this page to spread the word!



AFFM would like to extend a huge thank you to Acadia Lane of Warren. In order to earn a badge from her girl scout troop, Acadia took the time and put together backpacks for kids in care and with the assistance of AFFM and Pat Tavernakis, delivered them.

Acadia went above and beyond and made sure each item in the backpacks were age appropriate and something a child could use or would want. Along with this project, Acadia also worked with other students at her school collecting gifts for children at Barbara Bush Children's Hospital.

Thank you Acadia for all your efforts and for advocating for positive change in your community as well as supporting children in need.



Thank You!

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 @ 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

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)

Augusta – Kinship only/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30 – 8:00 pm at the Augusta Elks Lodge (397 Civic Center Dr.) call Jan Partridge at 207-495-3864. A potluck is provided at this group.

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 Wednesday 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.

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).

Old Orchard Beach— A/F/K/CC: 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:45pm at the Edith Belle Libby Memorial Library (27 Staple Street).

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.)

Rumford— A/F/K/CC: COMING SOON!

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

Skowhegan— A/F/K/CC: 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at the Federate Church in the Sunday school and nursery rooms (13 Island Ave.)

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

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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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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FAMILY TIES THE NEWSLETTER OF ADOPTIVE & FOSTER FAMILIES OF MAINE, INC
PUBLISHED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES. PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMIY TIES, 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! Below are all the ways you can connect with AFFM and learn more about services offered.

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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