



Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 22 Number 3

Newsletter

March 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 current opioid epidemic. The opioid epidemic is affecting many lives 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.

Register Today! For More Information Visit:

<https://www.affm.net/event/annual-spring-conference/>

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Putting the FUN in FUNdraiser! Join us for Painting with a Purpose at the Saco Painting with a Twist studio! \$35/person AFFM will receive 50% of the evenings earnings.

Sunday May 19, 2019

2:00 PM to 4:00PM

4 Scamman Street #32 Saco, ME

You can [RSVP online](#) using the password A&FFOM

<http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/saco/>
<https://www.facebook.com/pwatsacoME>



Foster Family Day at the Fort!

Come and enjoy a cookout, games, prizes, giveaways, entertainment, and much more!

Saturday May 18, 2019

11:00AM to 3:00PM

740 Fort Knox Rd. Prospect, ME

RSVP by calling 827-2331 or email info@affm.net

Join AFFM again this Summer for "Foster Family Day at Ferry Beach!"

Enjoy a cookout, games, prizes, giveaways, entertainment, and more!

Saturday June 29, 2019

Noon to 3:00PM

5 Morris Ave, Saco

RSVP by calling 827-2331 or email info@affm.net



A Tribute to Mary Higgins



AFFM was sad to hear of the passing of our good friend Mary Higgins on January 8, 2019. Mary was a cheerleader for the former Maine Foster Parent Assoc. and this continued for the past 21 years with Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine Inc. and the Kinship Program. Together with Mary Henderson, the two women worked tirelessly to honor the request of Wilhelm Reich, that his summer home would be used for children. AFFM remains grateful for the wonderful partnership with Reich Children's Trust Fund. Hence at least six foster, adoptive or kinship families have enjoyed a rent free week of vacation at Tamarack Cottage each year. Any family who has had the privilege of using Tamarack Cottage in Rangeley have both women to thank. AFFM will miss this remarkable woman whom we consider a dear friend. Our sympathies to all who knew and loved her.

Enter to Win a Rangeley Getaway!

Mary Higgins Memorial at Tamarack; A Camping Experience for Resource Families

The Wilhelm Reich Museum is owned and operated by the Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust. This trust was established by world renowned scientist, Wilhelm Reich, in his last will and testament. The trust maintains the property at Orgonon under the name and style of the Wilhelm Reich Museum. On this land is his cabin, Tamarack. Mr. Reich's will also stated that Tamarack be used as a "summer home for children." The trust has chosen a way to fulfill this final wish by making Tamarack available for adoptive, foster, and kinship families in the summer! This opportunity is available to those that might not have another means of this type of vacation. Mary Higgins, trustee, worked with AFFM on this opportunity annually.

Tamarack is located on the grounds of Orgonon, formerly the home, laboratory, and research center of Wilhelm Reich. Orgonon is located just off of the Dodge Pond Road in Rangeley. Tamarack is about 75 yards away from Dodge Pond. The pond is a natural nesting place for loons, therefore, power boats, jet skis, and recreational vehicles (i.e. four wheelers) are all strictly prohibited. Rowboats and canoes are permitted. At the foot of the path leading to the pond is a floating platform, a great spot for shore fishing, sunbathing, and jumping in the water. The water is deep and the area is quite rocky. Children will require careful supervision and non-swimmers will require life jackets. Tamarack is a large, charming, 3 bedroom, 1 bath cabin with a comfortable interior. Tamarack has a complete kitchen with a full size refrigerator and gas stove, and a beautiful living room with a stone fireplace. The camp does not have a phone but is now equipped with a television. Families need to provide their own food and bedding.

Along with Tamarack this year, AFFM has also been offered to utilize Mary Higgins' home for five weeks. AFFM is extremely grateful to extend this additional opportunity to the families we serve. Mary's home was built in the year 2000 with two bedrooms, one with two double beds and one with a single bed. The home looks out onto a large field where many critters such as deer, rabbits, porcupine and coyotes have been spotted! (Not to worry, there is a fenced in area for dogs).

Eligibility Requirements: You must not own or have access to a summer camp, time-share, or RV. **If you have been a Tamarack winner in 2017 and 2018, we ask that you not apply.**

Many families want to utilize Tamarack. It is necessary that any winners who cannot attend please notify AFFM at least one week in advance. It is important to have time to find an alternate family and give them time to prepare for their vacation, so this beautiful cabin can be enjoyed throughout the summer.





What to Send with a Child You Have Fostered When They Leave Your Care

Whether the child in your care is returning home, moving in with a relative, or being welcomed by a new foster or adoptive home, it's a major transition for the child. You've probably moved a few times in your own life and remember how much it impacted you. For children in care, the stakes are often much higher. Kids in care have experienced trauma due to their initial removal and now they are about to go down a similar road as they move to a new home. As foster parents, we want to be thoughtful about what we send with them as they take this next step of their journey.

Different states and agencies have different policies, so **be sure to check with your worker**. That said, we can think about the obvious things first, as follows, for what to send with the child:

- Clothing and shoes that fit (and those that don't if they were a special gift)
- Toys or personal possessions that they brought with them, or received while in your home
- The child's life book; or perhaps a copy of it. Some children have lost their life books along the journey, so it's good for you or a social worker to keep the original or a copy on file, whether it's a paper or digital version.
- Health records, report cards, notes from teachers, and any other records that are relevant and approved by your agency.



Let's also think about the less obvious items. Did the child produce school artwork or science projects while in your home? We all sometimes feel overwhelmed by the number of items kids pull from their backpacks. A few of these creations preserved for the future may be cherished by the child later in life. Of course we want to be mindful of the storage requirements of these mementos. What about furniture or large outside play equipment that was obtained while the child resided in your home? These are items probably best left behind.

It's good to also be mindful of *what* you're sending the child's items in. New or reused cardboard boxes, Rubbermaid containers, or anything sturdy and dignified will go a long way toward preserving and honoring a child's possessions as they move on.

Lastly, send a photo, gift, or piece of memorabilia to remember your family by. You are now a part of this child's history and he or she may want to look back and be able to connect to memories. One foster mom, Peg, sends a new copy of Dr. Seuss' "Oh the Places You'll Go" with a note telling the child how special they are to the family and encouraging them to go live their dreams.

Article From: Coalition for Children, Youth & Families coalitionforcyf.org

Would You Like to Contribute an Article to the Family Ties Newsletter?

AFFM would love to hear from you! Do you have an upcoming event or activity that you'd like to share? Are you a professional that is interested in sharing information pertaining to the child welfare system? Please send all submissions to meagan@affm.net and you may be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Adoption ANNOUNCEMENTS!



The Qualey family of Limington is excited to announce the adoption of their 6th kiddo! Logan Qualey was adopted on December 18th. After his original adoption date had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with our lawyer; the courts bumped his adoption up early to give us all the best Christmas present ever!

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!

AFFM IS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONS TO THE DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM IN YORK COUNTY!

Do you have a favorite hair dresser, massage therapist, mechanic, carpenter, or other professionals that do quality work? Can you think of a second hand clothing store or a furniture store, a museum, children's activity center or a favorite restaurant you'd like to see on the Discount Card? If any of these ideas bring a business to mind, please share the form below and have the business submit it to AFFM.

**Businesses can submit the form
by email (meagan@affm.net) or mail:
333 Lincoln Street Saco, ME 04072**

As always, thank you for all your support!



Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: _____

Website: _____

Email: _____

What type of Discount would you like to offer? (e.g. 20% off, \$10 off, etc.) _____

Questions/Comments: _____

Thank you for your contribution in support of Resource Families of Maine.



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 PG= Permanency Guardianship CC= Childcare

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).

Augusta-- A/PG/CC: 2nd Friday of the month from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Buker Community Center (22 Armory Street).

Bangor— A/PG/CC: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM at the 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: 2nd 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 (27 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 O'Brien 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: 3rd Thursday of the month from 6-7:30PM at the Rumford Public Library (56 Rumford Ave.)

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).

Windham—A/PG/CC: 4th Thursday of the month from 6-7:30pm at the Windham Assembly of God (1050 Roosevelt Trail).

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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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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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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Adoptive-and-Foster-Families-of-Maine-Inc/>

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