

# Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 22 Number 6/7

Newsletter

June/July 2019

***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.

## **Are You Aware of AFFM's Mentor Service?**

The Resource Mentor Service is a support to help newly licensed resource families become accustomed to their new role. New foster and kinship families are matched with a mentor who has been through similar situations, or share similar interests. The resource mentor is there to:

- Support, encourage, and inform new and current resource families of how to partner effectively with DHHS
- Inform the family of resources that will strengthen and preserve the family
- Promote the importance of continuing education
- Provide the direct link to AFFM

If you're interested in being matched with a mentor or would like to know more information give AFFM a call!



***Learn more about the support services AFFM offers by calling 207-827-2331 or visit [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)***

# Fort Knox Thank You!

Thank you to all who attended and made this year's Foster Family Day at the Fort another success! The weather was a bit chilly but all in all it was a great day! Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for donating their time and resources:

- ◇ Machias Savings Bank
- ◇ Pepsi Bottling Co. PBC
- ◇ The Ford Family
- ◇ Tom and Pat Locke
- ◇ Darlings Ice Cream
- ◇ Rusty White for the live entertainment
- ◇ Taylor Rental for providing the bounce house
- ◇ Friends at Fort Knox
- ◇ Bangor PD
- ◇ Pony X-Press Zoo
- ◇ Anah Shrine Funsters
- ◇ KidsPeace
- ◇ Community Care
- ◇ A Family for ME
- ◇ Shaws
- ◇ Winterport Baptist Church



## The Xander Bunny

For every Xander Bunny TM purchased, Lavender Life Company will donate one to a child in foster care through partnered agencies!

"By providing a Xander Bunny TM during a time when so much is taken, those on the front lines of rescue can reinforce that they are there to help & that the child is loved and not alone."

Lavender is known to be calming, to reduce anxiety and to induce sleep - all of which are critical needs of kids in trauma.

Use the code **AFFM-ME** at checkout and a donation of 20 bunnies will be shipped to AFFM for every 20 sold!

<https://lavender-life.com/products/bed-bud-bunny-warm-cool-comfort-therapy-animal>

## AFFM Swap Page

AFFM has a Closed Facebook Swap Group! This SWAP ONLY GROUP is a place for families to swap 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's Saco office was excited to participate in Painting with a Twist. We were able to raise over \$600! The funds will be used towards the Ready Set Go To Learn Program. Thank you to all who participated in this event and thank you to Painting with a Twist for hosting us!





# Adoption ANNOUNCEMENTS!



**Congratulations  
to the Lemay  
family on the  
adoption of their  
son Joseph!**



After 1,498 days in DHHS Custody Hope Hill (now Hope DeForge) was adopted my Kristen DeForge on May 14, 2019!

We want to send a very special thanks out to Biddeford Licensing worker Mary Goody for being our guardian angel and connecting us together. Mary you followed your instincts and knew that my passion has always been for teens in care. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done. It is social workers like you that make a difference in the life of children in care every day.

~Kristen



We adopted Havah Love Nightingale on May 9th after 933 days in foster care. Her big sisters, Jovi Nightingale and Bria Nightingale, are thrilled!

We all love her so much!

# Adoption ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED!



**Congratulations to Sandra Reid on the adoption of RiahLeigh and Myannah Reid!  
The adoption was legalized on May 8th.**

*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!*

## Kinship Corner

Recently, new legislation to help grandfamilies was introduced in the House and Senate, "to provide greater support for grandfamilies and older caretaker relatives." The bill is referred to as The Grandfamilies Act. Generations United worked closely with congressional sponsors on its development and endorses the act.

The legislation includes a broad range of provisions to help grandfamilies by:

- Increasing access to Social Security benefits
- Improving access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families including addressing barriers related to child support enforcement
- Incentivizing states to create temporary guardianship laws for grandparent and other relative caregivers who need to step in quickly to care for a child
- Creating a national technical assistance center on grandfamilies
- The senate bill also provides support for housing, specifically for grandfamilies

For more information regarding this legislation and other supports for grandfamilies visit [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org)



***AFFM would like to extend a huge thank you to The Cubby Thrift Store in Presque Isle. The Cubby Thrift Store is a part of AFFM's discount card program and also gives back to the community. This past month they raised \$1,100 to AFFM to help enhance the services they provide to families!***



# New Discount in Aroostook County!

## Little Daniel's Den, A Unique Children's Consignment Boutique *Cradled in the Peaceful Hills of Northern Maine*

AFFM is excited to announce Little Daniel's Den in Fort Kent is now a member of the Discount Card Program! Show your AFFM discount card and receive 20% off everything in the store!



90 E Main Street Fort Kent, ME 04743  
207-557-9354 <https://www.lildanielsden.com/>

If you have a suggestion for a business or organization that AFFM can approach to participate in the discount card program, please email [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net). You can also print off and send a completed business application form to 34 Main St. Orono, ME 04473. Forms can be found at [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)

## Upcoming Summer Events!



On Saturday August 10, 2019 celebrate the 40th Annual Hampden Children's Day! Families are invited to join the parade with their decorated bikes or scooters. More information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/HampdenChildrensDayMaine/>

## SAVE THE DATE for the 29th Annual Teen Conference!



## Waves of Change - Oceans of Opportunities!

June 26, 2019

Southern Maine Community College So. Portland

Visit [YLAT.ORG](http://YLAT.ORG) and [facebook.com/MaineYLAT](https://facebook.com/MaineYLAT) for more information.

Have Fun! Meet New People! See Old Friends! Learn New Skills!

A day devoted to Maine's Foster Youth and those that support them!

Join AFFM Saturday August 3, 2019 for a Family Fun Day at Mantle Lake Park in Presque Isle from 3pm-5pm. 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

**AFFM is excited to announce families are now able to use the discount card as admissions into the children's museums!**

Your AFFM Discount Card can be used as your pass for up to 6 people for a day's visit.

**It is very important that you call AFFM at 827-2331 with the date you wish to visit a museum as it's still required only one resource family attends per day.**

As always, thank you to the Children's Discovery Museum in Augusta, Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor, Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine in Portland, and the Coastal Children's Museum in Rockland for your continued support!

# Feel Good Stories!

When our 9 year old foster son learned that we were planning to adopt him we were in a therapy session on speaker phone with his GAL. On the ride back to school as he was processing what he had just heard he asked "WAIT! Does this mean I won't have people constantly visiting me?" And I responded "nope, no more visits". He responded "what?!!! so this means I'm going to be a regular ole kid!!!" As a giant smile came across his face and his eyes got wide. I responded, "yup just a regular ole kid" and I smiled from ear to ear as I watched his sweet innocent face in my rear-view mirror light up with hope and his mind light up with positive thoughts of the future. He says after a long-awaited sigh of relief "I can't WAIT to be a regular ole kid" ... I will never forget this conversation. It will be forever imprinted in my memory.

Heather

Many years ago when my children were small I used to have a nightly routine of bath time, a story and lastly a prayer. My son was lying in his bed and said Momma.....can we say the Howard Beaver Prayer tonight? I replied, I'm not sure what the Howard Beaver Prayer is...He said...you know Momma "Our Father Who Art In Heaven, Howard Beaver's Name..." Every time I say or hear the Lord's prayer I think of my 4 year old, at bedtime and smile.

Ann Rioux

**AFFM is looking for "Feel Good Stories" to be featured in the next upcoming newsletter! Do you know someone who has done something kind for another? Did you read something that made you smile? Did your child say or do something that made you laugh out loud?**

**Email your stories to [meagan@affm.net](mailto:meagan@affm.net) and help AFFM spread some happiness!**



## Ready Set Go To Learn (RSGTL)

The RSGTL is a program designed to assist families 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 a backpack to the best of our abilities.

**Please have your request in no later than July 31st**

**\*Please note, AFFM's RSGTL relies heavily on donations to fill the backpacks. You may not receive all the items you requested.**

***Help fill a child's backpack by donating today!***

***School items needed: notebooks, binders, calculators, rulers, highlighters, folders, pens and pencils. Monetary donations are welcome as well. 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!***



# AFFM Statewide 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 PG= Permanency Guardianship CC= Childcare**

**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)

**Augusta**— Kinship only/CC: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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: 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: 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 (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: 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> 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: 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: 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).

**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 6:00 – 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)

**Sherman**— A/F/K: For more information please contact Anita 365-4513 or Gale 463-2880

**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: 4th 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).

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.  
34 Main Street, Orono, ME 04473

Phone: (207) 827-2331  
Fax: (207) 889-6978  
On the Web: [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)  
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

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, 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! 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](mailto:info@affm.net)

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

**Like us on Facebook:**

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

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