

Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 22

Number 8

Newsletter

August 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 Discount Card Program?

AFFM's Discount Card Program allows families to take advantage of the many types of discounts that local businesses offered throughout the state of Maine.

Families with the AFFM discount card enjoy savings on family activities such as bowling, mini-golf, museums, roller skating, consignment stores, free admissions to children's museums, and much more.

If you're interested in taking part in this program, give AFFM a call! Families with discount cards, please try to keep your card from year to year and we will provide you with an updated sticker, at your request.

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. 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



Learn more about the support services AFFM offers by calling 207-827-2331 or visit www.affm.net

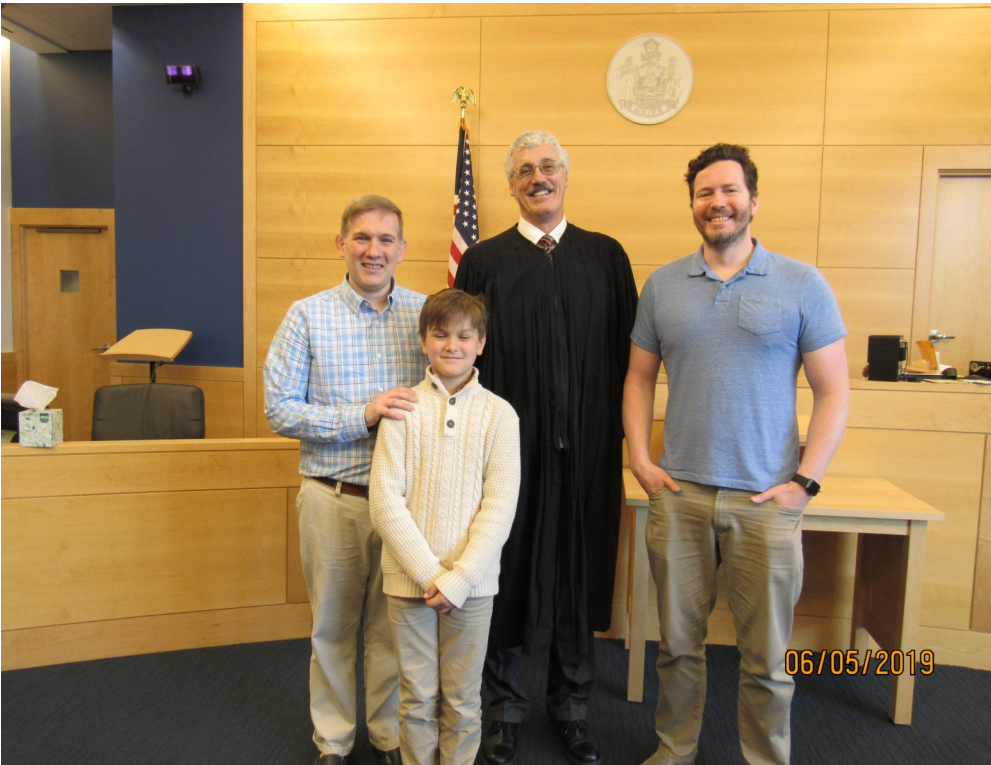
Adoption ANNOUNCEMENTS!



The Jones family is happy to announce the adoption of their son Kellen in May!



Rhonda and Steven Davis are excited to share the adoption of their grandson, Cody on October 4, 2018!



Adam Babbitt and Keith Sheppard of Southwest Harbor, ME finalized the adoption of John Thomas Sheppard on May 5, 2019. We fostered John for 359 days until the adoption became legal. John was in custody for the majority of his young life. We welcome him into our family with warm arms and loving hearts!

Adoption ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED!



Daniel and Melissa Murphy are excited to announce the adoption of their daughter Izabella Rose Murphy. The adoption was legalized on April 23, 2019. Congratulations!



Congratulations!

Randy and Penni Quimby Adopted their grandson Alexander Quimby on March 13, 2019 in Skowhegan Probate Court



Carey and Tony Pierson are excited to announce the adoption of their son Joel Pierson on July 16, 2019, after more than three years living with them through foster care. Joel is welcomed by his three older sisters and three older brothers.

The Pierson's are more than blessed to
← *have Joel in their lives!*

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!

Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment Opportunities

Did you know as a Foster Parent there is a program that provides high-quality and FREE early childhood education for families & children from birth-to-4? Foster Parents are considered to be automatically eligible for any Head Start program! Early Head Start is offered as Center Based or Home Based (space permitting) from birth to age 3. Our Pre-K program serves children ages 3-4. Service locations are Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Northern Cumberland County. We are enrolling for 2019-2020 program year NOW!



CALL TODAY TO APPLY!

800-221-2221

Thank you to Ethna Thompson, Mary Henderson and the Wilhelm Reich Infant Trust for allowing ten families to enjoy a rent free week of vacation at Tamarack Cottage as well as Mary's Cottage this summer. AFFM is grateful to be able to partner with such an incredible group of people each year to offer this amazing opportunity to families! Keep an eye out in the February/March 2020 Family Ties Newsletter to enter for a chance to win a stay in Rangeley!



Come on a HIKE with Summer YLAT!!

Friday, August 23, 2019 10:30am-2:00pm

Hall Dale High School 97 Maple St, Farmingdale, Maine 04344



Connect with other YLAT members, go on a short hike, and have fun together! Please make sure to bring lunch and water with you!

Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwiches will be available to anyone who wants one! We will be hiking so wear proper shoes and clothing to ensure you stay comfortable!

Sunscreen & bug spray and outside activities will be provided.

If you are interested in coming to this event or if you need transportation, contact:

Loretta Larrabee, Transition Worker: 207-795-4687

Check YLAT out on the web: www.ylat.org or www.facebook.com/MaineYLAT

Ferry Beach Thank You!

AFFM's Saco office would like to thank Ferry Beach Park Association for once again allowing our families to celebrate a "Family Fun Day" and enjoy the beautiful surroundings on Saturday June 29th. A huge thank you to Josh from Sparks Ark, who captivated the children (and adults!) with his stories and many creatures!

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for donating their time and resources to this event:

- ♦ Poland Spring Water
- ♦ BJs Wholesale
- ♦ Shield's Meats
- ♦ Shain's of Maine
- ♦ Sam's Club
- ♦ Rana O'Connor
- ♦ Volunteers of United Way
- ♦ The Incredible staff at Ferry Beach Park Association
- ♦ Jessica Anderson



Mark your calendars for AFFM's 23rd Annual Spring Conference Friday April 17th and Saturday April 18, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Portland!

Kinship Corner

Celebrate Grandparents Day with AFFM's Saco office at the Desert of Maine in Freeport!

Sunday, September 8th from 10-noon

Families will be able to go on a walking tour of the natural phenomenon of sand dunes, play on the new natural playground and create a craft. Families are encouraged to pack a lunch and stay for a picnic!

This is a FREE event open to all Kinship families, including Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, etc., who are raising a family member's child or children.

RSVP by calling: 827-2331 or email Carey at carey@affm.net

Celebrate Grandparents Day with AFFM's Orono office at Camp G. Peirce Webber in Hampden!

Sunday, September 8th from noon-3pm

250 Emerson Mill Rd. Hampden, Me 0444

The YMCA will allow families to have access to in-ground pool, zip line, hiking trails, sports field, and playground! AFFM will provide a picnic/potluck, games and prizes for all! Please bring a side dish if you're able, (watermelon, baked bean, etc.)

This is a FREE event open to all Kinship families, including Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, etc., who are raising a family member's child or children.

RSVP by calling: 827-2331 or email Bette at bette@affm.net

On September 8th The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray is offering Free admission to Grandparents accompanied by their grandchildren; regular entrance fees for all other family members.

Feel Good Stories!

When my daughter was 4 I was feeling very stressed about work. When I realized that I had been short with her, due to the stress, I apologized to her and said that I had been stressed out about silly things. She agreed, stating that she was no longer going to be bothered by silly things either, especially silly chickens. I've always wondered what a silly chicken looks like.

Submitted By: Laurie Sivonen



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 and help AFFM spread some happiness!

Holiday Gift Giving Program!

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 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 starting September 3rd until November 21st.

New Discount in Cumberland County!

Desert of Maine
95 Desert Road
Freeport, ME 04032
(207) 850-3025
www.desertofmaine.com

Free tour, walk the dunes, and play on the natural playground!
(Regularly \$10/person)

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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 or organization that AFFM can approach to participate in the discount card program, please email 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

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 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: 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: 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).

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: 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.
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Phone: (207) 827-2331
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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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**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

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!