

# Family Ties



Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 24

Number 5

August 2021

*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 vulnerable children are rarely easy, and are usually fraught with highly emotional issues. AFFM is dedicated to assisting families in helping 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 being a resource for families and is available 24/7. AFFM believes that Maine's children have the right to be a members of healthy, safe, and stable family. AFFM believes that all adoptive, foster and kinship families deserve to have unconditional support in helping build on their strengths and provide the best quality home environment possible.

AFFM believes that access to services that enhance families abilities and develop new skills is imperative. AFFM believes all families who open their homes to Maine's children deserve unbiased support.

## Do You Know About AFFM's Discount Card Program?

Businesses throughout the state of Maine have joined AFFM in their commitment to support Resource Families by offering many types of discounts through AFFM's Discount Card Program.

Families with AFFM's discount card enjoy savings on activities such as bowling, mini-golf, access to museums, thrift store discounts and much more!

Below is a picture of the discount card Resource Families will present to each participating business.

Please try to keep your card from year to year and remember to request a new sticker each year. **Updated stickers are not automatically mailed out.**

AFFM is always looking to expand the Discount Card Program. If you have any suggestions of places to approach for a discount, please contact AFFM via email at [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net) or by calling the office.



# Feel Good Stories!



AFFM's Saco office would like to extend a thank you to Erin McDonald and the UMaine Cooperative Extension in York County. As one of Erin's colleagues in Aroostook County recently partnered with Partners in the Arts to deliver STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) kits to foster kids around Aroostook County, she wanted to do something similar in York County! AFFM is excited to provide these kits to kids in York County!

**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!**

## Thank You!

***AFFM is thankful for the following businesses and individuals who donated to the Back to School Program as well as supporting other programs throughout the year.***

*Bangor Staples' manager, Aaron, for donating school supplies*

*An Anonymous local to the Penobscot area that went out of their way to purchase high school themed backpacks and gift cards*

*Emily Williams and the Flying Pond Variety in Mount Vernon Maine.*

*The Maine Auxiliary for donating school supplies*

*Ticket to Dream and Kayla White for their incredible partnership. Ticket to Dream provided AFFM with new clothing, masks, backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming school year*

*Tenesgrity Health & Aesthetics in Bangor and Alise Crawford for starting a back to school campaign to collect school supplies*

*Machias Savings Bank in Machias for an amazing donation of \$2,500 dollars*

*The City of Saco for their continued support with AFFM's Saco office and families in southern Maine*



# Adoption Announcements!

*Charlotte Evelyn Manchester was officially adopted into our family on June 4, 2021 - just 11 days shy of her first birthday! Her adoption was via Zoom and was concluded by joyful tears, cheers and many hugs and kisses given by her mom, dad, 6 grandparents, 3 uncles and very special great grandfather, "Grampa -Grampa." We are so blessed to call this perfect girl, "ours."*

*Submitted By: Laura Manchester*



***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!***

## Holiday Gift Giving Program!

*AFFM is gearing up for the Holiday Gift Giving Program! Resource Families are invited to add their childrens' 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's program. 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 childrens' wishes.*

***Requests will be filled to the best of our ability and that of our sponsors.***

***AFFM will begin taking requests on Tuesday, September 7th until Friday, November 19th.***

***Please mark your calendars with these dates.***

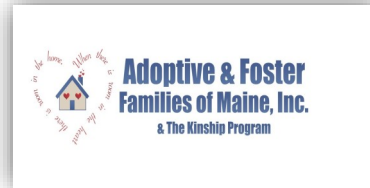
# Kinship



# Corner

AFFM has partnered with the University of Maine to help survey families who receive support from AFFM. Please keep an eye out for survey mailings (by mail or e-mail) from the University.

**Surveys will arrive about 3 months after your first call or service from AFFM.** This will help AFFM document the impact of our work with families and identify areas for improvement. Thank you for helping AFFM with this important effort!



## ***Celebrate Grandparents Day Sunday, September 12th!***

*Sunday, September, 12th, AFFM's Saco office will be celebrating Grandparents Day at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester!*

*Saturday, September, 11th, AFFM's Bangor office has set up a tour of the Cole Land Transportation Museum in Bangor!*

*Sunday September 12th an event will be held at Camp G. Peirce Webber YMCA!*



*Keep an eye out on AFFM's listserv and Facebook page for more information to come!*

### **Have a Question or Concern Related to Kinship Care? Reach Out to Your Local Kinship Specialist!**

**Kinship Supervisor Bette Hoxie** [bette@affm.net](mailto:bette@affm.net) (District: 4, 5 & 6 Counties: Knox, Waldo, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Somerset, Penobscot, & Piscataquis)

**Kinship Specialist Carey Pierson** [carey@affm.net](mailto:carey@affm.net) (District: 1 & 2 Counties: York & Cumberland)

**Kinship Specialist Jessica Richards** [jessica@affm.net](mailto:jessica@affm.net) (District: 3 Counties: Franklin, Oxford, & Androscoggin)

**Kinship Specialist Mindy Kane** [mindy@affm.net](mailto:mindy@affm.net) (District: 7 & 8 Counties: Hancock, Washington, & Aroostook)

# HEAD START

## **FREE ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **PRENATAL TO AGE FIVE**

## **APPLY TODAY!**

Enrolled families can expect:

- High quality education
- Individualized support for you and your family
- Parenting resources for pregnancy and child development
- Health, dental and nutritional support
- Healthy meals and snacks
- Connect with other Head Start families
- AND MORE!



- Pre-School ages 3-5
- Public Pre-K collaboration classrooms in four locations



- Home Based Services for:  
Prenatal to 3 years
- Center Based Services:  
6 weeks to 3 years

**CALL 1-800-221-2221**

**or Scan here**



Serving Lincoln, Sagadahoc and Northern Cumberland County  
**CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!**



[www.facebook.com/mmcoheadstartearlyheadstart/](http://www.facebook.com/mmcoheadstartearlyheadstart/)

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### **What do you want to see in the newsletter?**

AFFM is dedicated to sharing information/events/announcements pertinent to you!

Please let us know what you'd like featured in the next newsletter.

Email [meagan@affm.net](mailto:meagan@affm.net) with feedback.

# Online Training Opportunities!

Resource Families looking to complete training hours for re-licensing can now sign up through [FosterParentCollege.com](http://FosterParentCollege.com) for free! These trainings are done on your own time! See the instructions below to request an account today!



## FOSTERPARENTCOLLEGE.COM®

### Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine Inc. and FosterParentCollege.com®

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine Inc. (AFFM) is providing parents with free access to FosterParentCollege.com (FPC) online training! FPC's interactive online courses explore practical parenting strategies, behavior problems, and emotional disorders in children. Parents can complete courses on FPC to receive credit towards their annual training requirements.

To gain access to your own individual training account, please follow the instructions below:

1. Click on the following link: [Maine Registration](#).
2. Select your county from drop down menu.
3. Click on **Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine**.
4. Select **Request Registration**.

**Note:** Your registration request will be emailed to AFFM staff. Once registered, you will receive a welcome email with your log in information.

5. Click the following link to log in: [FPC Login](#).
6. Enter in your email address and password.

### AFFM Contact

If you have any questions about using FPC or have any issues with registration, please contact:

**Monica Bushey** – Training Coordinator  
email: [Monica@affm.net](mailto:Monica@affm.net) | phone: (207) 827-2331

# C.A.R.E.S.

Connect . Advice. Resources. Education. Support

## AFFM C.A.R.E.S. Meetings Offered Online During the Month of August!

*(C.A.R.E.S. Meetings will resume normal meeting dates and times tentatively in October. Some groups are beginning to meet in person this month, following CDC guidelines)*

*AFFM is aware if you receive the printed version of the newsletter some dates listed below may have passed. Please know that the groups will continue to meet on a rotating schedule. Notices regarding C.A.R.E.S. Meetings are sent out via AFFM's email listserv. Please make sure you are signed up to receive emails from AFFM. RSVPs are required to obtain login information.*

**\*STATEWIDE C.A.R.E.S. MEETING: Tuesday August 10th from 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

**Friday With Friends, Friday August 27th from 6:00 A.M.- 700 A.M .**

### Southern Maine C.A.R.E.S. Meetings:

**District 1 (York County):** Wednesday, August 21st, 6:30PM-8:00PM and Tuesday, August 24th, 10:00AM-11:30AM

**\*Kinship Only:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 from 10:00-12:00 P.M. at the J. Richard Martin Community Center (189 Alfred St Biddeford.) Meeting led by Carolyn Sawyer, AFFM Facilitator. Masks required unless vaccinated per city building guidelines.

**District 2 (Cumberland/Sagadahoc County):** Tuesday August 10th 7:00PM-8:30PM, Thursday August 26th Noon-1:30PM  
(For Permanency Guardianship/Adoptive families), Tuesday August 3rd 10:00AM-11:30AM

**District 3 (Androscoggin/Franklin/Oxford County):** Thursday, August 19th, 10:00-11:30AM and Thursday, August 26th, 7:00-8:30PM

*Please email [brigid@affm.net](mailto:brigid@affm.net) with questions regarding C.A.R.E.S. Meetings in District 1, 2, & 3*

### Northern Maine C.A.R.E.S. Meetings:

**District 4 Rockland- F/A/K:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Salvage Church (formerly Grace Bible Fellowship), 30 Sherer Lane, Rockland. On-site childcare is available with advance notice. RSVP IS REQUIRED. Meeting led by Pat Tavernakis, AFFM Trainer.

**Damariscotta - F/A/K:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Lincoln County Assembly Of God Church (672 Main Street). On-site childcare is available with advance notice. RSVP IS REQUIRED. Meeting led by Pat Tavernakis, AFFM Trainer.

**District 5 (Kennebec/Somerset county):** Wednesday, August 18th, 6-7:30PM

**District 6 (Penobscot/Piscataquis county):** Monday, August 16th, 6-7:30PM

**District 7 (Hancock/Washington county):** Thursday, August 19th, 7-8:30PM

**District 8 (Aroostook county):** Tuesday, August 24th, 6-7:30PM

**\*Kinship Only:** Tuesday, August 10th, 6-7:30PM

*Please email [sheila@affm.net](mailto:sheila@affm.net) with questions regarding C.A.R.E.S. Meetings in District 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8*

**Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.**  
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**Fax:** (207) 573-3023  
**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:**

304 Hancock Street Suite 2A, Bangor, ME 04401  
333 Lincoln Street, Saco, Maine 04072

**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!](#)**