

# Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

Volume 24

Number 5

September 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 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.

## Do You Know About AFFM's Listserv?

***AFFM'S Listserv is the fastest way to receive up to date information most important to you!***

***What you may see on the listserv:*** Monthly newsletters, DHHS updates, C.A.R.E.S. meeting announcements, training opportunities, free social events, and more!

***The advantages of adding your email:*** Never miss out on great opportunities, keep informed on announcements important to you, receive consistent support.

***Please Note:*** You may receive multiple emails per day. AFFM does its best to filter content, however some emails may not always pertain to you.

AFFM understands and accepts the responsibility of caring for Resource Families private information. This information will not be shared.

## Sign Up Here:

**<https://affm.net/mailling-list-subscriptions-adoptive-foster-families-of-maine/>**

**Email: [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net) and we can sign you up!**



# AFFM Resource Rooms & Donations



*Did you know AFFM's Bangor and Saco office have Resource Rooms open to all foster, adoptive, and kinship families in need?*

*Did you recently have a child move to your home? Is your child outgrowing their clothing? We will do our best to accommodate your needs and find the items you are in search of. AFFM relies heavily on donated items to continue to replenish the resource rooms so we may not always have the sizes you're looking for.*

*Please call ahead of time if you'd like items from the Resource Room and we will be happy to assist you!*

***AFFM continues to accept donations by appointment. AFFM can accept up to two bags of items at this time as we do not have the capacity to sort and organize. AFFM can accept the following items:***

Kids clothing, boys & girls size infant to teen in like new conditions. Shoes in like new conditions.

Like new or new winter clothing, jackets, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens/gloves. New bedding.

All items must be washed and clean. Please take the time to thoughtfully sort through your donations, otherwise we will not be able to accept them. Please no faded, piling, torn, stained or inappropriate clothing. Thank you for all the lovingly sorted and washed donations you bring to us, we do our best to make sure they reach children in care.

Please do not leave donations outside the office. Please call and make an appointment for donation drop off.

Thank you for all your contributions to our resource rooms!

## Have You Heard of FFTA?

***Maine Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) is a collaboration of behavioral health agencies in support of positive outcomes for children and youth served in family-based treatment settings, particularly treatment foster care. This is accomplished by partnering with families, communities, child welfare and other child-focused entities to promote best practices in treatment foster care.***

**Who can be a treatment foster parent?** Interested candidates must be at least 21 years of age, and may own or rent their home. They may be single, married, or partnered, and agree to abide by the rules and standards for licensed foster homes. Candidates need to have at least six months of verifiable work experience with children with emotional and/or behavioral needs or one year as a licensed foster parent.

**What's the difference between treatment foster care and regular foster care?** Children and youth referred to treatment foster care agencies typically have higher needs due to behavioral health issues and/or developmental delays. As a result, they often have special education services, therapy needs, and medication management. They require foster parents with specialized skills and training in managing children's behaviors. Treatment foster care agencies provide casework support, support workers, training, support groups, and clinical consultation.

**How do I get more information?** You can contact any of the member agencies in your area. Here are the treatment foster care agencies throughout the state:

[Aroostook Mental Health Center](#)

[Community Health and Counseling Services](#)

[Community Care](#)

[Kidspace](#)

[Woodfords Family Services](#)

[Spurwink](#)

# Feel Good Stories!

Thank you to the Bayley Family  
who honored the legalization of their sons'  
adoption by donating bags of school supplies  
for children in care!



Let me begin by saying that my boyfriend and I have been fostering Braydin for over a year and a half. He is now six years old. We are in the process of adopting him. He has always called us Mom and Dad. My son Braydin, is such a sweetheart. First of all, when his foster dad decided to propose to me we were both standing up. He opened the ring said a few romantic things and I removed the ring from the box and put it on. Braydin witnessed the whole thing and promptly informed my boyfriend that he did it wrong. Braydin then got down on one knee, opened his imaginary box (pretending to be romantic) and said with a voice you would hear in the movies, "Will you marry me?" He then stood up and said, "Dad, that's how you do it!" if that wasn't sweet enough, the day of the wedding came. As I entered the area to walk down the aisle the only thing I heard was a little voice say, "Oh, Wow!" I looked towards the voice and saw Braydin turned around in his chair with a look of amazement on his face with his eyes as big as saucers. That totally made my day.

*Submitted By: Kathryn Bunker*

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!

## Holiday Gift Giving Program!

*AFFM 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'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 children's wishes.*

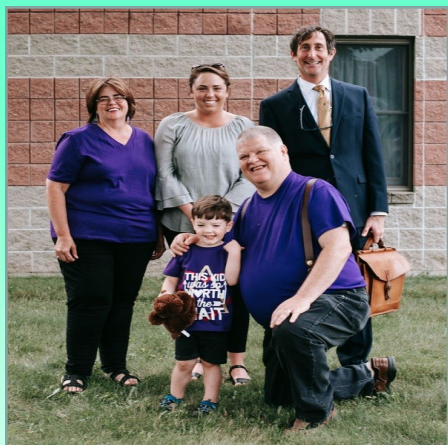
*Requests will be filled to the best of our ability and our sponsors.*

*AFFM will take requests until Friday, November 19th. Please mark your calendars!*



# Adoption Announcements!

Kristie Deschesne is happy to announce the adoption of Kayden, who turned 9 in June and has been with us for a little over three years. His brother Gage and Kristie have known Kayden his whole life, and are happy to make his addition to our family official!



Tim and Grace Cooper are proud to introduce Lucas Bryan Cooper. We officially adopted Lucas after 1015 days in State Custody on July 29, 2021. We didn't give Lucas the gift of life, life gave us the gift of him. Thank you to our village who has been with us and supported us throughout this journey. The adoption took time but our little guy was so worth the wait!

August 23rd was a day full of tears and emotions but we are excited to say we have adopted our little Angie. She came into our home still wearing pampers. She'll be 8 next March. She has grown to love us as much as we love her. She loves going to church. She has brought such joy and happiness into

our lives! The most powerful words anyone can hear from a child are "I love you". We are blessed to have her and will do whatever we can to make the road ahead smooth as possible for her.

We love you Angelique!

Submitted By: Ana Daigle



*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!*

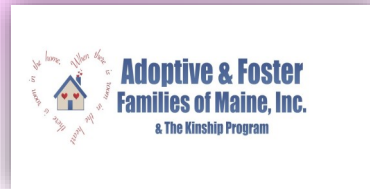
# Kinship



# Corner

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!



***Do You Have a Question or Concern Related to Kinship Care?***

***Reach Out to Your Local Kinship Specialist!***



**Kinship Supervisor Bette Hoxie**

(District: 4, 5 & 6 Counties: Knox, Waldo, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Somerset, Penobscot, & Piscataquis)

***bette@affm.net***

**Kinship Specialist Carey Pierson**

(District: 1 & 2 Counties: York & Cumberland)

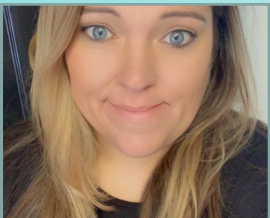
***carey@affm.net***



**Kinship Specialist Jessica Richards**

(District: 3 Counties: Franklin, Oxford, & Androscoggin)

***jessica@affm.net***



**Kinship Specialist Mindy Kane**

(District: 7 & 8 Counties: Hancock, Washington, & Aroostook)

***mindy@affm.net***



# Upcoming Training!

## MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING

TUESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2021 7:00pm - 9:00pm

*Presented By: Hether Anderson, AFFM Training Facilitator*

All resource families are required to take the mandated reporter training when becoming licensed. They also need to renew this training every 4 years! Join us for the Mandated Reporter Training and receive 2 training hours towards recertification! Mandated Reporters are a critical part of Maine's Child Protection System and acts as an early warning network to identify suspected child abuse and neglect; promptly enough to avoid serious and long term damage to a child. Professionals who frequently encounter children in their work are in the best position to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect and are required by law to do so.

## PLANNING FOR JOINING A CHILD TO YOUR FAMILY

MONDAY OCTOBER 18, 2021 7:00pm - 8:30pm

*Presented By: Hether Anderson, AFFM Training Facilitator*

This training is designed to help support resource families in understanding the process a child and family go through when a child joins their home. We will cover the commitments, needs and wishes for a child joining your family. This training will help guide families towards successful transition.

## POSITIVE DISCIPLINE PART 1 & 2

OCTOBER 12 & 14, 2021 6:30pm - 8:30pm

*Presented By: Monica Bushey, AFFM Training Coordinator*

Two challenges children face are learning acceptable social behaviors and being able to control their own actions. This training will focus on how to guide children as they learn how to make effective choices and manage their own behaviors over time. This training will cover the definition of discipline along with seven principles of discipline which are introduced through group work and class discussion. These principles will give you tools to use at home.

THIS IS A TWO SESSION TRAINING!

## FOSTER PARENT COLLEGE

**Available Anytime!**

Are you looking to complete your relicensing hours on your own time? Foster Parent College is self-paced training available 24/7 with courses including informative handouts, interactive exercises, review questionnaires, and printable summaries of training. Training offered include but are not limited to: Anger Outbursts, Child Abuse and Neglect, Foster Care to Adoption, Understanding Behavior, and Kinship Care.

Sign Up Here: <https://affm.net/services/training/>

**To RSVP for the any of the above training visit <https://affm.net/calendar/>**

## COMMUNICATING TODAY IN A DIVERSE WORLD FOR A HAPPIER TOMORROW

Facilitated By: Marcus Stallworth and  
Travis Bryant

A panel discussion including resource families, supportive staff, and community members

This training will be held virtually  
September 22, 2021

3:30PM

***RSVP details coming soon, keep an eye out via listserv!***

## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO LOVE THE CHILD

1 Day Conference-Bangor

Friday October 22, 2021

### ***Working With and Valuing Birth Family Connections***

Presented By: Barbara Ford

This workshop has an emphasis on finding commonalities that will encourage care providers to be strength-based in their approach. This workshop will also provide the opportunity to explore many options for being creative and positive about your children's contact and visitation and how all resource families can be a mentor and an important part in the success of these relationships.

### ***Developing Empathy with the Team and Other Forms of Communication***

Presented By: Bette Hoxie

Derived from Developing Empathy with Grammy, Bette will present a guided imagery to assist and enhance participants involvement in the presentation. Bette will help participants realize each person in their lives can bring something positive to the table.

Assisted by a panel, this workshop will help professionals and caregivers gain a greater understanding of their role in caregiving, show how empathy with one another can lead to positive outcomes, and help participants better understand the emotional and traumatic impact on youth who are separated from family.

***RSVP details coming soon, keep an eye out via listserv!***



# C.A.R.E.S.

Connect . Advice. Resources. Education. Support

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

*(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 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 September 14th from 10-11:30 A.M.**

**Friday With Friends, Friday September 17th from 6:00 AM-7:00AM**

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

**District 1 (York County):** Wednesday September 15th 6:30PM-8:00PM and Tuesday September 28th 10:00AM-11:30AM

**Kinship Only:** Tuesday September 21st 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 September 14th 7:00PM-8:30PM, Thursday September 23rd 12-1:30PM *(For Permanency Guardianship/Adoptive families)*, Tuesday September 3rd 10:00AM-11:30AM

**District 3 (Androscoggin/Franklin/Oxford County):** Thursday September 16th 10:00-11:30AM and Thursday September 23rd 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 September 1st 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 September 2nd 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 September 1st 6-7:30PM

**District 6 (Penobscot/Piscataquis county):** Monday September 20th 6-7:30PM

**District 7 (Hancock/Washington county):** Thursday September 16th 7-8:30PM

**District 8 (Aroostook county):** Tuesday September 28th 6-7:30PM

**\*Kinship Only:** Tuesday September 14th 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*

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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

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.

NON-PROFIT

U.S. POSTAGE

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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!](#)