

Family Ties

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. & The Kinship Program

Volume 25

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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.

Did You Know AFFM has Placement Backpacks as well as Adoption Backpacks?

AFFM has been partnering with two wonderful organizations, Comfort Cases and Jockey Being Family for the past several years now.

Comfort Cases provides backpacks for newly placed children and Jockey Being Family provides backpacks to children recently adopted!

A comfort case provides the essentials for a child's first few days in foster care. Each backpack includes a set of new pajamas, a stuffed animal, small blanket, book, a toothbrush and toothpaste. AFFM has Comfort Cases in sizes newborn to teen.

A newly adopted child may receive a backpack personalized with their initials and filled with a cozy blanket and coveted Jockey Being Family[®] bear. Adopted parents will also receive a cloth tote of resources.

If a child recently joined your family, or you recently adopted, AFFM would be happy to provide a backpack to you!

Email info@affm.net for more information!



**JOCKEY
BEING FAMILY.**
Strengthening Adoptive Families



Adoption Announcements!



Our family is thrilled to announce the adoption of our sweet boy, Mason James Myatt. He's had our hearts since day one and finally he shares our last name! ~ Myatt family

Khloe's adoption was legalized on June 13th! She is a sweet and joyful girl who loves school, her friend Madelynne, her big brother (15) Jullian, her Daddy & Mommy, her cousin Calvin, her Mimi and Pop, her kitty Ollie and our 3 dogs, Sadie, Josie and Rudy. She is happy, she smiles and laughs a lot! She enjoys gymnastics, swimming, skiing, hiking, roller-skating and biking to name a few. She has added great joy to our lives, has made our lives more interesting and fun filled, no doubt!

Debbie & Peter McKinney



James and Hazel Chick adopted Noah in March! He is 13 years old and loves to juggle, spin plates, speed cube and anything else that is tactile. He has lived with the Chick's since 2019.

OCFS Resource Parent Portal



The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is pleased to announce that on April 11, 2022, the Office of Child and Family Services launched a new online portal for currently licensed families and for families wishing to apply to be a resource parent. The Resource Parent Portal allows families to renew a foster care license, download forms, and upload required documentation.

To **renew** a license the portal can be accessed by clicking on this link: <https://som01.force.com/resourceparentportal>

- The first time you use the portal, you will receive a verification code via email that will allow you to set up an account
- All license applications and renewals, including uploading of completed supplemental documents can be done through the portal
- Additionally, you can download commonly used forms, such as mileage reimbursement forms, by clicking “forms” on the taskbar

New applicants will access the portal through this link: <https://afamilyformemaine.org> and click **Start Today** and follow the prompts. Applicants will receive a code after viewing an online informational video to be used to apply through the resource parent portal.

If you are unable to use the portal, paper forms may be mailed to you by request from your local OCFS office.

As a reminder, the CPS Hotline continues to be available to assist all individuals in making a report by phone 24 hours a day/365 days a year at 1-800-452-1999 and should continue to be used for resource parents to report incidents that require immediate attention or approval.

Thank you as we come together to support the safety, permanency and well-being of children in Maine.

A Message From OCFS Medical Director

Summer is here and it is a great time to review the healthcare needs of the children in your care. Please confirm that they have had their [well child check-ups](#) according to the recommended schedule, and are [up to date on immunizations](#) recommended for their age. Contact the pediatrician, the dentist, and other care providers to schedule any appointments that are needed. Now is also the time to review if everyone in your home has received the recommended COVID-19 vaccines and boosters which are [safe](#) and [effective](#). For the latest information on COVID vaccines go to [BraveLikeMe](#) and [HealthyChildren](#). Make a plan today to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine for yourself and all the children in your care over six months of age. You can find a location to make an appointment here: [COVID-19 Vaccine Sites in Maine](#).

Adrienne W. Carmack, MD
Medical Director
Office of Child and Family Services

Thank You!

AFFM would like to thank the below businesses and individuals who donated to the Back to School Program this year. AFFM was able to fill 464 backpacks for kids going into the 2022-2023 school year!

- Ticket to Dream Foundation
- The Dover Rover's ATV Club
- Bangor Staples
- Bethany Wilson and her team at Well Care Health Plans of Maine
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Pure Haven
- Aspen and Caydence (pictured below) who read approximately 1,806 minutes and raised \$1,575 worth of books and school supplies
- Seacoast Mission and the Journey Program
- Rylee Welch (pictured below)
- Falmouth High School's Student Led Change
- Michelle Whitten-Sawyer
- Karen Tompkins
- Charlene and Don Coleman



AFFM hopes your child has a healthy and successful school year!

Feel Good Stories!

Our 12-year-old son, Landon, recently attended USM's Lego Robotics Camp where he got to learn all about robots, motors, sensors and how to program them. Landon loves robots but was completely new to programming, so was a little anxious on his first day. The camp culminated in a tournament, much like Discovery Channel's "Battlebots" where robots faced off against each other. Landon built and programmed a fantastic robot with a clever black scoop at the front which confused most rival robot's color sensor into thinking it was at the edge of the tournament ring, at which point most robots were programmed to reverse back into the ring. His clever scoop, of course, made most of his rival's robot's reverse out of the ring! He came second overall, even beating one of the camp counselors in one of the elimination rounds.

Here's a photo of Landon and his camp-mates after the final tournament round just before they celebrated with a pizza party!

Submitted By: Naneen & Mike Chace-Ortiz



We are still so thankful for all the support we received from Ariel and Jenn from DHHS in Skowhegan. From Kinship to adoption, they were our rocks!

Thank you to Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine as well for all you do from encouraging words to adding discount vendors, there is so much more we appreciate about you all! From our family to yours, thank you!

~The Robinsons

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!

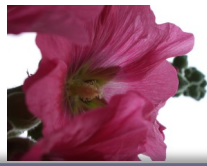
New Discount in Cumberland County!

Smiling Hill Farm

781 County Road
Westbrook, Maine
1 adult FREE per child!

Need a Discount Card or sticker for the back of your card? Email info@affm.net to take part in the Discount Card Program!





Celebrate Grandparents Day with AFFM!

Saturday September 10th AFFM will be celebrating Grandparents Day at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, the Cole Land Transportation Museum in Bangor and the Owls Head Transportation Museum!

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



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 6 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!



**Adoptive & Foster
Families of Maine, Inc.
& The Kinship Program**

Holiday Gift Giving Program!

AFFM is gearing up for the Holiday Gift Giving Program! Resource Families are invited to add their children's gift ideas to a wish list. Once again, the amazing people from the Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Committee, as well as local sponsors, will work to provide holiday gifts to kids in AFFM's program.

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 that of our sponsors.

AFFM will begin taking requests on Tuesday, September 6th until Friday, November 18th.

Please make sure your requests are in by these dates! It is difficult to fill requests after the deadline. AFFM and sponsors need time to gather gifts and make sure they are brought to their designated pick up location and delivered in time for Christmas.

Thank you to all who make this program possible!

STATEWIDE C.A.R.E.S. MEETING meets the second Tuesday of the month from 10-11:30 A.M

STATEWIDE Kinship C.A.R.E.S. MEETING meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00PM-7:30PM

Friday With Friends meets the fourth Friday of the month from 6:00 AM-7:00AM

****NEW: Attend a meeting and receive 1.5 hours of training!****

Southern Maine C.A.R.E.S. Meetings: *Childcare is Available at in Person Meetings with Advance Notice*

F/A/K Daytime- Meets the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00-11:30 A.M. by **ZOOM**.

F/A/K Evening- Meets the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 P.M. by **ZOOM**.

F/A/K Afternoon- Meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:30 P.M. by **ZOOM**.

A/PG Afternoon - Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 12:00-1:30 P.M. by **ZOOM**.

South Portland - F/A/K- Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at The Point 345 Clarks Pond Pkwy, South Portland.

Biddeford, Kinship Only- Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 10:00A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at JR Martin Community Center 189 Alfred St #1 Biddeford. NO childcare is provided.

Farmington - F/A/K- Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at UMF Roberts Learning Center Rm 001 & 003.

Sanford - F/A/K- Meets the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 P.M. at Curtis Lake Church 38 Westview Dr Sanford.

Auburn- F/A/K- Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at Opportunity Enterprises 400 Center St. Auburn.

Northern Maine C.A.R.E.S. Meetings: *Childcare is Available at in Person Meetings with Advance Notice*

F/A/K- Meets the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM by **ZOOM**.

F/A/K- Meets the third Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. by **ZOOM**.

F/A/K- Meets the third Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:30 P.M. by **ZOOM**.

Rockland - F/A/K- Meets the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Salvage Church (30 Sherer Lane, Rockland).

Damariscotta - F/A/K: Meets the first Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at The Lincoln County Assembly of God Church (672 Main Street).

Bangor - A/PG - Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30PM at the Redeemer Lutheran Church (540 Essex Street).

Dover-Foxcroft - F/A/K - Meets the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30PM at the Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church (824 West Main Street).

Ellsworth - F/A/K- Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at The Resource Center (460 High Street, directly across from Mardens).

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 for virtual meetings.

Questions for Southern Maine Meetings Please Email: brigid@affm.net

Questions for Northern Maine Meetings Please Email: sheila@affm.net

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.

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

Phone: (207) 827-2331

Fax: (207) 573-3023

On the Web: www.affm.net

E-Mail: 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

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AND HUMAN SERVICES. PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS TO: EDITOR, FAMILY TIES, AT
THE ADDRESS ABOVE.



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

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!](#)