



FAMILY TIES

VOLUME 27 | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

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.

Happy New Year! AFFM is excited to enter 2024 and continue to support families in Maine, but first let's look back on the hard work done throughout 2023.

AFFM's 26th Annual Spring Training Conference, "The Heart of Healing" was held on April 14th and 15th at the Double Tree in South Portland. Over 150 individuals came together for the weekend. Attendees gained a better understanding of building resilience through relationships, healing through grief and loss, healing through play and connection, and helping youth heal and reconnect. Mark your calendars for AFFM's 27th Annual Spring Training Conference, "Inclusive Parenting" on Friday April 12th and Saturday April 13th. This year's conference will be in Bangor at the Hilton Garden Inn. Keep an eye out for the conference brochure!

Along with leading the conference, Monica Bushey and her training staff continue to co-partner with DHHS, the University of Southern Maine, and the Catherine Cutler Institute to provide the preservice training. The training team also offers training on a myriad of topics presented individually, and at times, during C.A.R.E.S. meetings. Training information can be found here: <https://affm.net/support/training/>

AFFM offers C.A.R.E.S. meetings via zoom, as well as in person. Please reach out to either Brigid Torberg or Sheila McDougal for more information about the C.A.R.E.S. meetings. Thank you, Brigid and Sheila for the continued support you provide to families. AFFM also offers support via their Facebooks C.A.R.E.S. Groups.

AFFM's Mentor Service has steadily grown throughout the year. If you are interested in becoming matched with a mentor or becoming a mentor, visit <https://affm.net/support/mentor-service/> or reach out to either Sarah Hatt, Heather Crooker, or Beth Gilboy to assist you.

This past summer, AFFM was happy to work with camps statewide to offer scholarships to 94 children!

PH: 207-827-2331



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

WWW.AFFM.NET

AFFM filled 452 backpacks through the Back to School Program. Thank you to those that donated clothing, gift cards for teens, school supplies, personal care items, backpacks, and most of all your time to this program.

On September 10th AFFM celebrated Grandparents Day with events at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, Cole's Transportation Museum in Bangor, and Owls Head Transportation Museum. It was great to have an in person event to celebrate kinship families.

AFFM hosted three family fun events at Fort Knox, Williams, and Mantel Lake throughout the summer. Keep an eye out for more information for this year's events! AFFM staff also partnered with the eight DHHS district offices to coordinate and host resource family recognition events.

Beginning annually in August, AFFM goes into full "Holiday" mode. The Holiday Gift Giving Program begins taking requests for gifts in late August and stops mid November. There is so much work that goes into gathering children's wishes, finding sponsors, collecting gifts, picking up and dropping off the gifts, etc. AFFM is so thankful for all those who step up each year to support the program to ensure kids have the holiday they deserve. AFFM's Holiday Gift Giving Program provided gifts to over 1,200 children statewide. AFFM's gratitude to The Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Committee as well as the community around us can not go unnoticed. Over the past years, the challenge of filling each request has been met because of how incredibly fortunate AFFM is to collaborate with the Spirit of Giving, community members, business owners and individuals.

AFFM's Kinship Navigators have been hard at work connecting kinship families to the services needed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children in their home. AFFM's Kinship Navigators provide non judgmental listening support, systems navigation, access to AFFM's programs, and more. If you are a kinship caregiver in need of support please reach out to your local Kinship Navigator.

AFFM welcome's Denise Yegge to the team as she takes on the role of Kinship Finder. Denise will work with DHHS to maintain lasting connections for youth in out-of-home care and assist kinship caregivers in accessing essential programs and services. Welcome Denise!

AFFM continues to hold monthly story times over zoom. Caregivers, please consider having your child join. The children have the opportunity to meet others in similar situations (foster, adoptive or kinship placements) and you get the opportunity to have up to an hour to yourself. The kids who have participated thus far have been engaged and engaging. Meagan Sprague and Bette Hoxie take turns reading and although there is considerable talking and commotion between books, once the stories begin the children are absorbed. AFFM hosted a special Story Time with Santa and Mrs. Claus in December. Mr. and Mrs. Claus joined kids via zoom to read stories, and chat with kids in attendance. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Bill and Karen Labombarde) for joining us and of course for putting a smile on the kids' faces!

AFFM remains dedicated to supporting resource families throughout the year and continues to offer supports via C.A.R.E.S. meetings, listening support, the mentor service, allegation support, material goods, etc.

Thank you to the Board of Directors, trainers, interns, mentors, C.A.R.E.S. facilitators, childcare providers, and volunteers for your commitment and dedication to AFFM. Without your support and hard work, it would be difficult to achieve all that we have. You are all appreciated!

AFFM wishes you and your family a happy and healthy Year!

Wondering Who You Should Contact for Support?

Visit: <https://affm.net/resource-contacts-by-county/>

**Thank
you!**

AFFM's Holiday Gift Giving Program provided gifts to over 1,200 kids, statewide. AFFM could not have done this alone and we are unbelievably thankful for the incredible support from businesses and individuals who donated to this program!

Each holiday season, our community comes together and blows us away with their generosity. AFFM is Indebted to each and every one of you for the love and support provided. Thank you!

Ai207 of Charleston Church

Alyssa Miller

Altrusa International of Biddeford-Saco

Amber Hewes

Andrea Kenney Hallett

Angela MacDonald

Angie Martin Scheibler

Anita McLellan

Anna Marie Parker Saucier

April Belyea

Bangor Federal Credit Union

Bangor International Airport

Barbara Spiegel

Beth Peterson

Bow Street Beverage

Brewer Youth Hockey

Bright Start Early Childhood Center

Brittany McFadgen

Camp Bow Wow Portland

Carla Cambridge

Catherine Ann

Coastal Enterprises Inc.

Charmie Cuthbert

Chelsae & Will Guerrette

Cheryl LaFlamme

Clare DeSantis

Claudette Babin

Coast 93.1

Coastal Jewelers

Crystal Duprey Madore

Dayna St.Peter

Debbie Bouchard

Debbie Lento

Denise Condon

Denise Lausier

Devan's Purple Closet & Tina Fitzgerald

Diane Tedford

Diversified Communication

Downeast Toyota

Dunstan Dental Center LLC

Elizabeth Whitiker

Erica Laplante

Esther Anne

First Congregational Church UCC

Frances Hamilton

Frank's Bake Shop & Catering

Fromhart Family

Gillies & Pritte, Inc.

Ginger Wentzel Keiffer Buck

Girl Scout troop #896

Greeley Family

Guerrette Family

Haley Kelley

Hannah Magee

Hatt Family

Holland's Variety Drug & Kristy Rich

Holly Powers

Jenn Wong

Jennifer Hobbs

Jennifer Kelley

Jennifer Tanguay

Jill Mansir

Jordan's Furniture

JRB Construction

Julie Bouchard

Kaitlyn Butts

Karen Flewelling

Karen Philbrook

Kasandra Doody

Kate Clark

Katelynn Tardie-Cyr

Katherine Sue Gochenour

Katie Michaud

Katie Rustin

Kelly Jo Clark Cole

Kelly Nickerson McHatten

Kelsey Buck

Kids Count Learning Center

Kim Folsom

Kim Ross

Kim Williams

Kori Dobson

Kristin McLane

Laneice Sirois

Lauren & Logan Markie

Laurie Campanelli

Levesque Building and Remodeling

Linda Polchies

Liz Farley

Lori Hudson

Lots of Tots

Louise Carroll

Lynne McKeown

Mainstreet Ogunquit

Maine Parent Federation

Mallorie Caverhill

Mann Law Personal Injury Attorneys

Marcia Allen

Margaret Petersen with Paper Pie Books

Margo Conley

Marianne Malone

Meagan Stanley

Meaghan Tobias

Mechelle Given

Melanie Crane & Elevate Maine

Melissa Gerkovich

Merry Johndro Bragg

Michele Pleau

Michelle Livingston

Michelle Vanderpool Buck

Michelle Walker

Michelle Whitten-Sawyer

Nancy Duncan

National Distributors, Inc.

Norway Savings Bank-Naples

Northern Lighthouse, Inc. & Blake Hatt

Ogunquit Spirit of Giving Committee

Old Castle Lawn & Garden

Page Morgan

Pam Wing & The Beacon

Parish of the Resurrection (Holy Family)

Raveena Stubbs

Red Knights Maine Chapter IX

Rhonda Chasse

Rockland DHHS

Ryan Madore

Sara Gray

Sarah Duncan

Savannah McLellan

Sean Stanton

Second Baptist Church

SeniorsPlus

Sharon Madore

Skowhegan DHHS

Specs P.A.

Stephanie Bragg

St. Paul the Apostle-Bangor

Sunrise Opportunities

Susan Elizabeth

Susan Rossetti and Johnson & Johnson

Tammy Cutchen

Tammy Wickstrom

Toys for Tots

Tremont School

Tyler Technologies

United Baptist Church of Ellsworth

United Way

Vicky Dunn

Wanda Plummer's Dance School

ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Maverick Skomurski,
Adopted December 6th
2023.

The best Christmas
present anybody can
ask for!

Email:

meagan@affm.net
for your adoption
announcement to
be featured in
AFFM newsletter!



AJ came to us as an emergency placement at 5 days old in January of 2020 and he's never left. Adoption was legalized August 30, 2023. AJ loves riding tractors with his Daddy (Paul) and helping us with the farm and helping Momma (Melodie) with taking care of our angora bunnies. He had his own pumpkin patch that he helped weed and water and pick the pumpkins and all proceeds from the sales went to his college fund. He is a happy little boy that he very loved by his family.

Submitted By: the Lavoie family

A Message from OCFS Medical Director

Thank you again to all our resource parents, kin providers and adoptive parents. I am grateful to each and every one of you for helping in the care of our youth and supporting our families. We all need to lift one another up as we work to keep our children safe, happy and healthy. As a safe secure nurturing adult, you can have a major impact on a child's life- I hope these resources can help. The Maine Pediatric and Behavioral Health Partnership has a page of resources for patients and families:

<https://www.bhpartnersforme.org/patients-families>

The information on Healthy Children.org is updated regularly, the website is from the American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

The National Child and Traumatic Stress Network has a webpage of resources for caregivers of youth who have experienced traumatic events-

<https://www.nctsn.org/audiences/families-and-caregivers>

As always, I remind you to be sure that all children in your home are up to date on all their vaccines, including the flu and COVID vaccines, and there is now protection against RSV for our infants and older adults. Check with your child's pediatrician today. It is not too late in the season to get vaccinated!

Sincerely,
Adrienne W. Carmack, MD



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

Staff to Contact for Support

DISTRICTS 1 & 2 (COUNTIES: YORK & CUMBERLAND)



Kinship Navigator



Beth Gilboy
Resource Family
Specialist
Beth@affm.net
207-631-4318



Brigid Torberg
Resource Support
Coordinator
Brigid@affm.net
207-710-2089

DISTRICT 3 (COUNTIES: OXFORD, ANDROSCOGGIN, FRANKLIN)



Jessica Richards
Kinship Navigator
Jessica@affm.net
207-817-6062



Brigid Torberg
Resource Support
Coordinator
Brigid@affm.net
207-710-2089



Beth Gilboy
Resource Family
Specialist
Beth@affm.net
207-631-4318

DISTRICTS 4 & 5 (COUNTIES: WALDO, LINCOLN, KNOX, SAGadahoc, KENNEBEC & SOMERSET)



Alyssa Rovella
Kinship Navigator
Alyssa.r@affm.net
207-817-6060



Sheila McDougal
Resource Support
Coordinator
Sheila@affm.net
207-817-6063



Heather Crooker
Resource Family Specialist
HeatherC@affm.net
207-817-6065

DISTRICT 6 (COUNTIES: PENOBSCOT AND PISCATAQUIS)



Heather Crooker
Resource Family
Specialist
HeatherC@affm.net
207-817-6065



Terri Barnett
Kinship Navigator
Terri.b@affm.net
207-659-0801



Sheila McDougal
Resource Support
Coordinator
Sheila@affm.net
207-817-6063

DISTRICTS 7 & 8 (COUNTIES: WASHINGTON, HANCOCK, AROOSTOOK)



Sarah Hatt
Resource
Family Specialist
Sarah@affm.net
207-631-0342



Sheila McDougal
Resource Support
Coordinator
Sheila@affm.net
207-817-6063



Mindy Kane
Kinship Navigator
Mindy@affm.net
207-631-0580

ALL DISTRICTS (ALL COUNTIES) P: 207-827-2331 E: INFO@AFFM.NET



Travis Bryant
Executive Director



Meagan Sprague
Resource Family
Program Manager



Bette Hoxie
Kinship Program Manager



Monica Bushey
Training Program
Manager



Hether Anderson
Lead Resource
Family Trainer



Holly White
Administrative
Specialist



KINSHIP CORNER



As kinship placements, (children placed with relatives or other individuals known to the children and or their parents) continue to increase across the State of Maine, partnerships with multiple agencies who also provide support to relative caregivers becomes increasingly more important. AFFM is proud to partner with multiple agencies, organizations and private and public donors to support it's mission. Thank you to all who provide for these amazing families that step forward usually with no advance preparation to provide a home to Maine's children in need of a safe and nurturing home, while their parents do the work needed to provide safely for their children. Without your assistance AFFM's Kinship Program would find meeting the needs of over 3000 families very difficult! You are among the best! Time and space do not allow me to list all but a few included are:

Maine's Office of Child and Family Services

WIC

Maine's Child Welfare Ombudsman Office

Wabanaki Reach

Generations United

UMO's Center on Aging

UMO School of Social work

Maine Safety Planning Committee

Maine Area on Aging Offices

State Planning on Aging Committee

The Gorman Foundation

Step Up Parents

Welcome to Housing

The list is endless and all of our partners are sincerely appreciated!

Did You Know There Are Kinship Specific C.A.R.E.S. Meetings?

RSVP HERE: <https://affm.net/cares-rsvp/>

Biddeford - Meets Tuesday, February 20th, 10:00A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at JR Martin Community Center 189 Alfred St #1 Biddeford. NO childcare is provided. This meeting is led by Cat Anglea, AFFM Facilitator and Resource Parent.

Wilton - Meets Thursday, February 15th, 6:00-7:30 P.M. at SeniorsPlus 284 Main St. Suite 210, Wilton, ME. This meeting is led by Cyndi Dolloff, AFFM Trainer, Facilitator and Resource Parent.

South Portland/Southern Maine Agency on Aging - Meets Thursday, February 8th, 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.. at the South Portland Library. Childcare provided with prior RSVP. The meeting is led by Tammy Cutchen, AFFM Kinship Navigator and Robyn Berry, SMAA Family Caregiver Support Program Specialist.

Statewide - Meets Tuesday, February 13th from 6:00-7:30 P.M. by ZOOM Conferencing. RSVP IS REQUIRED EACH MONTH TO RECEIVE THE LINK TO JOIN THE MEETING. Meeting led by Bette Hoxie, AFFM Kinship Program Manager and Dona Lane, M. ED, Clinical & Educational Consultant.

AFFM has partnered with the University of Maine to help survey kinship families who receive support from AFFM. Please keep an eye out for the survey (by mail or e-mail) from the University. Surveys will arrive about 3 to 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!





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 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.

South Portland, Kinship Only- Meets the second Thursday of the month from 12pm-1pm at the South Portland Library.

Waterboro - F/A/K - Meets the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm at Massabesic Adult Learning Center

84 West Road Massabesic East Waterboro

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. Childcare is not provided.

Wilton, Kinship Only- Meets the third Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at SeniorsPlus 284 Main St. Suite 210, Wilton.

Childcare is not provided at this time.

Farmington - F/A/K-Temporarily on hold

Sanford - F/A/K- Temporarily on hold

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

Augusta- F/A/K - Meets on the first Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Green Street United Methodist Church (13 Green Street).

Orono - F/A/K - Meets on the third Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Orono United Methodist Church (36 Oak Street).

Damariscotta - F/A/K- Meets the first Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at Central Lincoln County YMCA (525 Main Street).

Bangor - A/PG - Meets the second Monday 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 5:30-7:30 P.M. at United Baptist Church (28 Hancock Street).

Skowhegan-F/A/K- Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 3-4:30 P.M. at The Federated Church (13 Island Ave.)

Belfast- F/A/K- Meets the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Baptist Church (95 High Street).

Machias- F/A/K- Meets the second Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30 P.M. at the Rose M. Gaffney School (15 Rose Gaffney Road)

Presque Isle- F/A/K- Meets the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at Presque Isle Public Library (39 2nd Street).

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

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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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THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

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Bangor, ME

PERMIT NO. 65



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



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

Contact Us



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

207-827-2331

Email: info@affm.net



LEARN MORE

Visit Our Website
www.affm.net

