

May is
National
Foster Care
Month!



FAMILY TIES

VOLUME 27 | MAY/JUNE 2024

In honor of National Foster Care Month in May, T-shirts will be available by donation. All Proceeds will go towards direct support AFFM Provides to resource families.

T shirt Link Here:

https://www.customink.com/fundraising/affm-love-is-happiness?utm_campaign=desktop-campaign-page-share-v3&utm_content=affm-love-is-happiness&utm_medium=social&utm_source=copy-link

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



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 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 support and resources 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.

PH: 207-827-2331



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

WWW.AFFM.NET

OCFS ONLINE RESOURCE PARENT PORTAL



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.

CELEBRATING AFFM'S HEROES



DONATE NOW

Proceeds will benefit Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine, INC. & The Kinship Program

Matthews' 5th Annual

**MEMORIAL RIDE
LOOK TWICE
SAVE A LIFE**

JULY, 27TH, 2024

**KSU 11 AM AMERICAN LEGION LISBON
AFTER PARTY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
AT O'DONOGHUES, BRUNSWICK**

*LIVE MUSIC
*50/50
*DOOR PRIZES



Thank you, Aubuchon in Lisbon, Maine, for holding a 'Round Up Challenge' for AFFM for the month of May! Proceeds will go towards AFFM's Back to School Program

**AUBUCHON
HARDWARE**

A MESSAGE FROM OCFS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

I think we can safely say that spring is finally here, and hopefully good weather and sunshine is not far behind. Getting outside is great fun and so good for our overall health. Warmer weather means more chances to play outdoors, to hike in our beautiful parks, and enjoy the fresh Maine air. Many tips can be found at HealthyChildren.org to keep our children safe and healthy in the spring and summer.

The warm weather brings more insects, so follow these recommendations to [Choose an insect repellent](#) for your child. And if you should find a tick on your child here is a guide on [How to Remove a Tick](#).

May is [National Water Safety Month](#) so there are many resources online with tips to keep everyone safe while enjoying activities in and around the water. Remember to keep all children safe around swimming pools, hot tubs and open water. Be sure there is always an adult present who is the designated "Water Watcher"- an attentive adult who is assigned to watching the children in the water at all times.

Review the Safety courses available through [Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife](#) website to keep safe when boating and using ATVs this summer.

As always, I remind you to be sure that all children in your home are up to date on their well child check ups and all their vaccines. Check with your child's pediatrician today to see if they are due for a visit. Stay healthy and stay safe- and enjoy the sunshine!

Thank you again,

Adrienne W. Carmack, MD
Medical Director, OCFS



ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Amanda, Dustin and big brother Nicholai Chambers are so happy to announce the adoption of twins Paisley & Jax 3 Months old January 30th, 2024

Noah Isaiah & Ella Lynne Dobson were adopted on November 7th, 2023 by their parents, Chandler & Kori! Noah was in foster care for 938 days, and Ella for 742. They have been with their adoptive parents since they came home from the hospital as newborns. Noah & Ella are loved immensely by many friends and family, including a beloved church family. They have many cousins to grow up with and have been truly considered family since day 1. Chandler and Kori couldn't be more excited for this next chapter in their lives as a family of 4!



We met our girls on April 14th 2021 when we picked them up from their fourth placement that week. We knew right away that what they needed was lots of hugs, extra love and confirmation that they were wanted! From that day on we worked together with our girls to build a home that made them feel welcome, safe, loved and supported no matter the obstacles in our way. On 9/16/22 we officially asked them to join our family forever to which they quickly approved! We made it legal on 12/18/23!

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

CONGRATULATIONS



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

Staff to Contact for Support

DISTRICTS 1 & 2 (COUNTIES: YORK & CUMBERLAND)

Kelly Donegan
Kinship Navigator
York only



Tammy Cutchen
Kinship Navigator
tammyc@affm.net
207-478-6990
Cumberland only



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



Kinship/Grandfamilies & the FAFSA: College Financial Aid

The Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network has put together a FAFSA resource for students raised by grandparents and other kin. As the children in care enter their senior year of high school kin/grandfamily caregivers will be thinking about what comes next, including, potentially, higher education and how to pay for it.

The resource guide to help with these decisions can be found here:

<https://www.gksnetwork.org/resources/kinship-grandfamilies-the-fafsa-college-financial-aid/>

Copies of the resource guide can be printed and mailed as well. Please reach out if you'd like a copy mailed to you.

Thank you Generations United and The Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network for all you provide to kinship caregivers.

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

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

Biddeford - Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month 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 the 3rd Thursday 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.

Milford- Meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Dr. Lewis S. Libby School (13 School St.) Meeting led by Bette Hoxie, AFFM Kinship Program Manager.

South Portland/Southern Maine Agency on Aging - Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month 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 the 2nd Tuesday of the month 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.

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 5:30-7:00 P.M. by **ZOOM**.

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).

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 Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Baptist Church (95 High Street).

Lincoln--F/A/K- Meets the fourth Monday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Community Evangel Temple (124 River Rd.)

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)

Milford-Kinship Only- Meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Dr. Lewis S. Libby School (13 School St.)

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

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.
304 Hancock Street Suite 2A, Bangor, ME 04401
333 Lincoln Street Suite 101 Saco, ME 04072

Phone: (207) 827-2331
Fax: (207) 573-3023
On the Web: www.affm.net
E-Mail: info@affm.net

Affiliated With:
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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



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



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