



“When it’s something you don’t typically plan on doing, it is reassuring to learn there are supports and services available for families, who like me, find themselves raising a relative’s child.

– *Relative Caregiver*



**Are you a Kinship Provider?**

*Kinship Providers may be Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Family Members or Family Friends Raising Children*

## **Mission Statement:**

***AFFM provides the training, guidance, knowledge and resources needed to handle complex issues encountered by resource families as they open their hearts and homes to children in need.***

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

**Serving all counties in Maine**

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## **The Kinship Program**



# Kinship Program

## How The Kinship Program Can Help



Kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives or close family friends (often referred to as fictive kin). A kinship home is the preferred placement for children who cannot safely be cared for by their parents.

Kinship care helps to maintain the child's connection to their family and increases the chance for positive outcomes.

For children entering state custody, Maine DHHS requires that the family be licensed as a foster home.

Children may also be cared for by a relative without DHHS taking custody of the child, this is referred to as informal kinship care.



AFFM brings awareness to the general public, policymakers, and potential kinship caregivers of the needs, challenges, benefits, and joys of kinship care.

The kinship program provides non-judgmental, empathetic, and knowledgeable peer support staff to assist families as they navigate an array of supportive systems.

AFFM's Kinship Navigators are certified Grand Family Leaders and can assist families in a variety of ways.

- Non-judgmental listening
- Peer support
- Systems navigation:
  - DHHS
  - Courts
  - Education
- Navigating kinship relationships:
  - Understanding divided loyalties
  - Legal relationships
  - Caregiver responsibilities
- Mentor Service
- CARES Meetings/Support Groups
- Information and Referrals
- Family Ties Newsletter
- Caregiver education:
  - Annual training conference
  - Virtual and in-person training:
    - Customized training sessions
    - National Training Development Curriculum (N.T.D.C.)
    - Foster Parent College (FPC)
  - Lending Library
- Discount Card Program
- Family Fun Events
- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Holiday Gift Giving Program
- Clothing Closets
- Back to School Program