

Events & Programs!



FAMILY TIES

VOLUME 289 | JULY-SEPT 2025

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAYS!

Join us for a day of fun, connection, and community! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate togetherness, and bring awareness to youth in care. Each event will have games, activities, and so much more!

TO RSVP: SCAN THE QR CODE

DATE:
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 2ND
TIME: 10-1PM

LOCATION: AUGUSTA
ELKS LODGE -397 CIVIC
CENTER DR, AUGUSTA



DATE:
FRIDAY,
AUGUST 8TH

TIME: 3PM-6PM
LOCATION: SARGENT
FAMILY COMMUNITY
CENTER -24 CHAPMAN RD.
PRESQUE ISLE



207-827-2331

WWW.AFFM.NET

A Family
for ME



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

Save the Dates

July | August | September

Upcoming Events

JULY

15

FAMILY FUN DAY AT KNOWLTON PARK** ELLSWORTH/MACHIAS - C.A.R.E.S. F/A/K- 5PM-7:30PM

AUGUST

2

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY!
LOCATION: ELKS LODGE
AUGUSTA | 10AM-1PM

AUGUST

8

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY!
LOCATION: SARGENT FAMILY
COMMUNITY CENTER, PRESQUE
ISLE | 3PM-6PM

SEPTEMBER

7

GRANDPARENTS DAY
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
SCHEDULED EVENTS!

SEPTEMBER

20

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY!
LOCATION: RANGELEY
STATE PARK 10AM-1PM

For more details &
Upcoming events

VISIT:

[HTTPS://AFFM.NET/CALENDAR/](https://affm.net/calendar/)

AFFM's Back to SCHOOL Program

Click here to sign up for the program:
<https://forms.gle/n9dKdUTNZS2p1xKh6>
or scan the QR code to sign up*



*If you are currently using another program, we kindly ask that you refrain from enrolling in ours to ensure resources are fairly distributed.

2025

JULY

MONTHLY C.A.R.E.S & TRAININGS CALENDAR

ACRONYM

- F/A/K- Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship family
- A/PG-Adoption and permanency guardianship
- C.A.R.E.S. - Connect | Advice | Resources | Education | Support

TYPE

Trainings C.A.R.E.S.

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP TO
CARES/TRAININGS



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|---|---|--|------------------------------------|---|-----|
| | | 01 Belfast F/A/K | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |
| | 07 Augusta F/A/K | 08 Statewide, Virtual F/A/K Saratoga - F/A/K Dresden - F/A/K Kinship Only, Virtual Marginalized & Reentering Homeless | 09 Statewide, Virtual F/A/K District 1-9 F/A/K-CARES- Conflict to Collaboration Training & Receive Resolution | 10 DAMARISCOTTA F/A/K | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Building Safe Connections: Supervision Child Visitation Back 2 School Program Starts | 15 Family Fun Day at Moose Lodge - F/A/K District 3 Adoption/Permanency Guardianship-CARES- Virtual | 16 | | 17 Wilton - Kinship Only, CARES District 1-9 C.A.R.E.S.- F/A/K-Adoption | 18 |
| 20 | 21 ORONO - C.A.R.E.S., FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, KINSHIP | 22 Lewiston / Auburn F/A/K - C.A.R.E.S.- *With DHHS Q & A* | 23 Allegation Protocol and Prevention | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS



DEFORGE FAMILY

Kristen DeForge is excited to announce the adoption of her daughter Akari DeForge on June 16th 2025 at the Portland District Court. Akari has always felt like a member of our family we are so blessed to finally make it official.



The Original Adoption Symbol:

The adoption symbol features a triangle intertwined with a heart. The triangle represents the triad of adoption: birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees. The heart symbolizes the love that connects all three sides of the adoption journey.



COOK FAMILY

We are so excited to welcome Morris Michael to the Cook family forever! He was adopted on April 23rd 2025 - we have cared for Morris since he was 5 days old and he is coming up on his 2nd birthday!! So much to celebrate!!

Celebrating an adoption?
We'd be honored to share
your joyful news!

Email your announcement to info@affm.net
to be featured in an upcoming issue of the
AFFM Newsletter.



KINSHIP CORNER



Watch for announcements on Facebook and AFFM's calendar on our website for events happening for Grandparents day throughout the state of Maine!

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!

Celebrating Grandparents and Kinship Families

As Grandparents Day approaches September 7th, we honor the vital role of grandparents and kinship caregivers in the lives of Maine's children. In Maine, many children in the foster care system are cared for by relatives, providing a sense of continuity and stability. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members often step in to raise children during challenging times, offering not only a safe home but also love, support, and family connections.

Join us at the August Kinship Care Meeting where AFFM will be showing *Nonnas*: a heartfelt film about grandmothers, food, and tradition. *Nonnas* reminds us that even through loss and differences, we can still show up for one another with care and community. Thank you for all you do. You're not alone and resources like the Kinship Program are here to support you.

Wishing all our kinship families a joyful and meaningful Grandparents Day!



UPCOMING TRAININGS

| Training Name | Start Date Time | End Date Time |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mandated Reporter Training | 7/08/2025 6:00 PM | 7/08/2025 8:00 PM |
| Conflict to Collaboration Unlocking Effective Resolution | 7/09/2025 6:00 PM | 7/09/2024 7:30 PM |
| Building Safe Connections: Supervising Child Visitation | 7/14/2025 6:00 PM | 7/14/2025 7:30 PM |
| Allegation Protocol and Prevention | 7/23/2025 9:00 AM | 7/23/2025 10:30 AM |
| Mandated Reporter Training | 08/14/2025 06:00 PM | 08/14/2025 08:00 PM |
| Mandated Reporter Training | 9/11/2025 06:00 PM | 9/11/2025 08:00 PM |

RSVP here: [Trainings](#)
or [Scan the QR code](#)



Messages from OCFS



OCFS Announcement

[OCFS] is pleased to announce that Julie Panicci (formally McShane) has been hired as the Resource Parent Program Manager within the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). Julie has a BS in Sociology and holds a Master of Social Work, from the University of New England. Julie was employed with the OCFS for 21 years and has worked as a permanency/adoption caseworker and an adoption supervisor in District 1 before transitioning to her last role within OCFS was as the Program Administrator in District 2. Julie was involved in many different initiatives and committees that helped to improve practice and implement change. She developed stakeholder engagement to strengthen and evaluate district needs.

OCFS Announcement continued...

In 2019, Julie began working for The Cutler Institute as a Policy Associate II for Child Welfare Development. There, Julie collaborated with the State of Maine to help identify organizational/programmatic issues and trends and assess resources and barriers for organizational improvement.

She also implemented a model training system for child welfare staff and resource families that align with the agency's policies, model of practice and legal requirements to support the workforce.



Continued...

In 2021, Julie moved to doing the same type of work in the State of NH, at UNH and held the role as the Program Director for the Child Welfare Educational Partnership. Here she oversaw the contract with the NH Division of Health and Human Services to provide a broad range of educational programs, research, and development of training activities to all staff, foster and adoptive parents, and residential care providers at the NH Division of Children, Youth and Families. In 2024, Julie became a Child and Family Program Specialist for the Children's Bureau out of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Here, she provided oversight and coordination of federal child welfare programs, ensuring successful implementation of policies and guidelines to improve services to children and families.

We are very excited to be welcoming Julie back into the OCFS. She will begin this role on June 16, 2025 and will be stationed out of the Portland Office.

Denise Merrill, LMSW-cc
Manager of Child Welfare Statewide Programs
Office of Child and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

C.A.R.E.S.

Connect. Advice. Resources. Education. Support

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

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 / Southern Maine Agency on Aging Kinship Only- meets the second Thursday of the month 12-1 by ZOOM the first two months of a quarter & meets in-person at the South Portland Library the third month of the quarter. **(on hold until September)**

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 **(on hold until September)**

Biddeford, Kinship Only- Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 10:00A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at The Second Congregational Church at 19 Crescent Street, Biddeford. Childcare is not provided. **(on hold until September)**

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.

Auburn- F/A/K- Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at SeniorsPlus 8 Falcon Rd, Lewiston.

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 6:30-8:00 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 Tuesday 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 4-5:30 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- On Hold.

Machias- F/A/K- On Hold

Milford-Kinship Only- On Hold

Presque Isle- F/A/K- On Hold.



[Click here to view the live google doc to view current C.A.R.E.S. or scan the QR Code](#)

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

Staff Contact List for Support

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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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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

September is Kinship Month!



LEARN MORE

Visit Our Website
www.affm.net

