

May is
National
Foster Care
Month



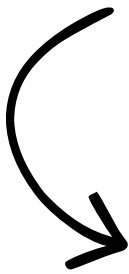
FAMILY TIES

VOLUME 292 | APRIL-JUNE 2026

You're invited to the Family & Community Fun Days!

FREE Food, inflatables & more!

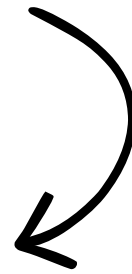
Scan the QR code to RSVP!



FORT KNOX



FORT WILLIAMS



A Legacy of Support: Announcing the H.O.P.E. Matters Endowment



Festival of "Fostering" Trees

2.8k Followers · 10 Following

The Festival of "Fostering" Trees is on a mission to "foster" community by supporting local York non-profits!

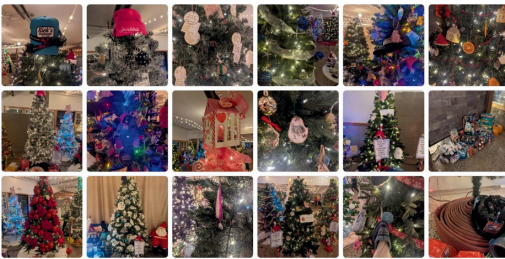
Come stroll through our forest of over 100 beautifully decorated, artificial Christmas trees. All trees are raffled off at the end of our event.

Community

Sign Up

Following

Search this Page



AFFM is thrilled to announce the creation of the **H.O.P.E. Matters Endowment**, made possible by a remarkable \$100,000 donation from the **Festival of Fostering Trees (FoFT)**. This milestone is the culmination of a shared journey; since 2023, the FoFT committee and AFFM have worked hand-in-hand to craft a vision that supports youth well beyond the original founders, ensuring a stable future for those who need it most.

The H.O.P.E. Endowment is dedicated to young adults and older youth who are currently in, have previously experienced, or are at risk of entering alternative care—including foster care, kinship care, adoption, or residential facilities.

To ensure this support lasts forever, the initial donation will be managed through low-risk investments. This strategy allows the fund to grow over time, using matured earnings to launch vital programming while reinvesting a portion to maintain long-term sustainability. By establishing this foundation, AFFM can build upon its supports while remaining agile and responsive to the evolving needs of our youth for generations to come.

This achievement is a testament to the tireless spirit of the Festival of Fostering Trees and our collaborative efforts over the last few years. Their commitment to a vision that extends "beyond the founders" has created a lasting legacy. We are honored to manage these funds and deliver support for many years to come.

Thank you, Festival of Fostering Trees, for partnering with us since 2023 to invest in the hope and resilience of our youth!

Follow them on Facebook



Save the Dates!

MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST

SAVE THE DATES!

SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST
11AM-2PM
SARGENT FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER
24 CHAPMAN RD.
PRESQUE ISLE
FREE EVENT!

SATURDAY JULY 11TH
11AM-2PM
AUGUSTA ELKS
397 CIVIC CENTER DR.
AUGUSTA
FREE EVENT!

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY!

Join us for a day of fun, connection, and community! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! It's all about celebrating togetherness with games, activities, raffles, and so much more!

MAINE NEEDS MORE FOSTER FAMILIES! BRING A FRIEND WHO IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING LICENSED AND STOP BY THE A FAMILY FOR ME TABLE AND YOU BOTH WILL GET A GIFT!

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

SAFE, STABLE, HAPPY, HEALTHY

YLAT

A Family for ME

COME TO OUR SPRING FLING

SCAVENGER HUNT FOR RESOURCE PARENTS & THEIR FAMILIES

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2026 **5-6:30 PM**

DHHS Office
Parking Lot 457
Alfred Street
Biddeford

In partnership with Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine (AFFM) & Our Resource Parent Care Team

Connection | Face painting | Interactive games & prizes | Delicious snacks & treats | Good vibes

RAIN DATE is May 21st

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

1

OPEN HOUSE
10AM-1PM 238 STATE ST
BREWER AFFM OFFICE

MAY

14

SPRING FLING
5:00 PM-6:30 PM
RAIN DAY MAY 21ST

MAY

30

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY AT THE FORTS

JUNE

24

YLAT 36TH ANNUAL TEEN CONFERENCE
9 AM- 4:30 PM

JULY

11

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY AT AUGUSTA ELKS
11AM-2PM

AUGUST

1

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY AT SARGENT FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER.
PRESQUE ISLE 11AM-2PM

AUGUST

15

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN DAY FARMINGTON 11AM-2PM

YLAT TEEN CONFERENCE!

SAVE THE DATE

36TH ANNUAL TEEN CONFERENCE

BRAVE VOICES: UNBREAKABLE, UNSHAKEABLE

JUNE 24, 2026 **9 AM - 4:30 PM**
(EXACT TIMING SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

YLAT

HUSSON UNIVERSITY

1 COLLEGE CIR. BANGOR MAINE

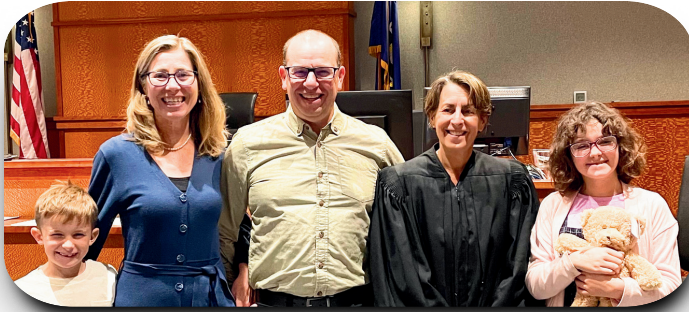
VISIT:

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

for more details & upcoming events

ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adoption Day!



Zach Smith,
Lori Power, Hermione Keeling, and
Linus Keeling on Adoption Day!

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.



Rio McLaughlin
Georgia McLaughlin - Mom
Caleb McLaughlin - Dad
Sabrina McLaughlin - Grammy
Tim McLaughlin - Grampy
on Adoption Day!

To View All Trainings-Visit: <https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training>

Training Title	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time	Location	Register
Mandated Reporter Training	5/6/2026, 6:00 PM	5/6/2026, 8:00 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Trauma Informed Parenting	5/13/2026, 6:00 PM	5/13/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Reports In Foster Care: Recognizing, Responding, Reducing the Risk	5/19/2026, 6:00 PM	5/19/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Accessing Services for Kinship Providers	5/26/2026, 6:00 PM	5/26/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Building Safe Connections: Supervising Child Visitations	6/23/2026, 6:00 PM	6/23/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Trauma Informed Parenting	6/24/2026, 6:00 PM	6/24/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training

KINSHIP CORNER

To wrap up the month of March, the New England Kinship Collaborative hosted a powerful convening dedicated to "Advancing Kin-First Child Welfare" across the region. Each New England state was represented by a team of parents, caregivers, and professionals. In addition to our New England state teams, the convening was supported by representatives from national leaders from the Administration for Children & Families, Generations United, Casey Family Programs, Chapin Hall. The event started with presentations from Alex J. Adam, ACF Assistant Secretary and Cody Inman ACF Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Commissioner. The day continued to flow centered on strengthening support for kinship families to improve safety, permanency, and well-being for every child. Participants explored the national landscape of Kinship Navigator Programs, discussing evidence-rated models and the dual paths to federal Title IV-E reimbursement—either by adopting existing models or developing state-specific programs.

The energy in the room underscored a shared commitment to honoring existing family bonds and moving from a "replacement" care model to one of true family preservation. Key takeaways from the convening highlighted that while momentum is growing, significant opportunities remain to improve licensing standards and expand the reach of navigator services. Regional leaders from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, shared progress on their "Kin-First" cultures, including Maine's statewide navigation program which reaches in all 16 counties. The Maine Kinship Navigator model is reaching its final steps in preparing its program to be evaluated by the National Child Welfare Clearinghouse as an evidenced based program.

Moving forward, the collaborative will focus on translating policy into practice by issuing clearer licensing standards and strengthening data infrastructure to secure long-term sustainability. As next steps, state leads are meeting to identify specific areas of practice to strengthen, ensuring that New England continues to be leaders in providing stable, loving homes for children within their own families.

Thank You for Supporting our Silent Auction at the 29th Annual Spring Conference



Thunder Chimney



The Mogul/Cooley Family

C.A.R.E.S.

Connect . Advice . Resources . Education . Support

- STATEWIDE F/A/K C.A.R.E.S. MEETING meets the second Tuesday of the month from 10-11:30 A.M by **ZOOM**.
- STATEWIDE Kinship C.A.R.E.S. MEETING meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00PM-7:30PM by **ZOOM**.
- 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 - F/A/K- meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM at The Point (345 Clarks Pond Pkwy.).
- 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).
- Saco/Biddeford - Kinship Only- Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 10:00A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at The Kimball Health Center Conference Room, 333 Lincoln St.).
- Lewiston/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
- 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. by **ZOOM**.
- 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).
- 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).
- Machias - F/A/K - Meets the second Thursday of the month from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Rose M Gaffney School (15 Rose Gaffney Road).
- Milford - F/A/K - Meets the third Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30 PM by **ZOOM**.
- Presque Isle - F/A/K - Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 PM at HUB Coffee (342 Main 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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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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LEARN MORE

Visit Our Website
www.affm.net

