

Back to
School
Program



FAMILY TIES

VOLUME 293 | JULY-SEPT 2026

AFFM's *Back to* SCHOOL Program

To sign up for the program visit:
<https://affm.my.site.com/s/ResourceRequest?FormName=2026%20Back%20to%20School%20Program> or scan the QR code to sign up*



Deadline Friday, July 31st

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



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

Ph: 207-827-2331
WWW.AFFM.NET



SAVE THE DATES!

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

FREE EVENT!

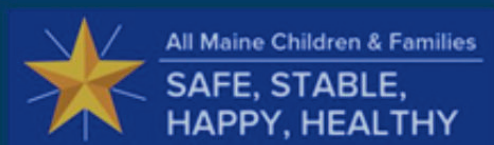
**SATURDAY JULY 11TH
11AM-2PM
AUGUSTA ELKS
397 CIVIC CENTER DR.
AUGUSTA**

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!!



Save the Dates!

JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

11

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN
DAY AUGUSTA

JULY

21

KNOWLTON PARK FAMILY
FUN DAY

JULY

26

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN
DAY AT THE FORT WILLIAMS

AUGUST

1

FAMILY & COMMUNITY FUN
DAY PRESQUE ISLE

SEPTEMBER

TBA

GRANDPARENT'S DAY-
KINSHIP MONTH MORE INFO
TO COME!

VISIT:

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

for more details &
upcoming events

ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



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



Training Title	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time	Location	Register
Youth In Care Series 2 of 4	7/14/2026, 6:00 PM	7/14/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Youth in Care Series 3 of 4	7/21/2026, 6:00 PM	7/21/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Building Resilience Through Self-Care	7/21/2026, 6:00 PM	7/21/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Reports In Foster Care: Recognizing, Responding, Reducing the Risk	7/25/2026, 9:00 AM	7/25/2026, 10:30 AM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Cultural Connections for Kinship Providers	7/28/2026, 6:00 PM	7/28/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Youth in Care Series 4 of 4	8/4/2026, 6:00 PM	8/4/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Kin are Raising the Kin; Lets Help	8/13/2026, 6:00 PM	8/13/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Building Bridges: Welcoming a Foster Child into Your Family	8/15/2026, 6:00 PM	8/15/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Education is Special	8/17/2026, 6:00 PM	8/17/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Building Belonging for Kinship Providers	8/25/2026, 6:00 PM	8/25/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Positive Discipline- Day 1	9/7/2026, 6:00 PM	9/7/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training
Positive Discipline- Day 2	9/9/2026, 6:00 PM	9/9/2026, 7:30 PM	Virtual	https://affm.my.site.com/s/Training

Building Stronger Partnerships to Support Kinship Families

Collaboration was at the heart of a recent luncheon that brought together Bette Hoxie, Kinship Program Manager, the AFFM Kinship Navigators, and Meagan Sprague, Resource Family Program Manager, with several Maine Probate Court Clerks and Registers. The gathering served as a follow-up to AFFM's panel presentation at the April conference in Bangor and marked another important step in strengthening partnerships that benefit kinship families across the state.

A special thank you goes to Catherine Moore of the Lincoln County Probate Court and Brielle Balmer of the Kennebec County Probate Court, who participated as panelists during the April conference. Their thoughtful presentation on the guardianship process for kinship caregivers—who often step in when parents are unable or unwilling to provide a safe and stable home for their children—sparked meaningful conversations and inspired this statewide collaboration.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for Probate Court Clerks and Registers to share their firsthand experiences and practical knowledge of the guardianship process. Their insight will help AFFM's Kinship Navigators better guide caregivers through what can often be a complex legal journey. At the same time, participants learned more about AFFM's Kinship Navigator Program and the resources available to support families caring for relative children.

As the number of children being raised by grandparents and other relatives continues to grow, partnerships like these become increasingly important. By working together, AFFM and Maine's Probate Courts are building stronger connections, improving access to information, and helping ensure that kinship caregivers receive the guidance and support they need. Thank you to all of the Probate Court Clerks and Registers who participated, as well as to our dedicated Kinship Navigators, for making this event such a success. We look forward to continuing this collaboration as we work together to better serve kinship families throughout Maine.



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

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

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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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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

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www.affm.net

