



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

## **Welcome Packet**

- Empathetic Non-Judgmental Listening
- Systems Navigation
- Training Opportunities
- C.A.R.E.S. Meetings – Connect, Advice, Resources, Education, Support
- General Assistance
- Family Events
- Allegation Support
- Information & referrals

**207-827-2331**

Call for Support



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

304 Hancock St. Suite 2A  
Bangor, ME 04401

207-827-2331  
www.affm.net

333 Lincoln Street Suite 101  
Saco, ME 04072

Welcome to Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine, Inc. & The Kinship Program (AFFM). We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting adoptive, foster, and kinship families (resource families) across Maine and building upon the wonderful supportive network of caregivers such as yourself.

AFFM is here to assist you in various ways. As a resource parent connected to AFFM, you will have the option to receive:

- ❖ The Family Ties Newsletter
- ❖ A Discount Card for the Discount Card Program
- ❖ Access to AFFM's Lending Library
- ❖ Access to Material Goods
- ❖ Up-to-date information about legislation and policies that affect your special type of parenting
- ❖ Support Groups (C.A.R.E.S. Meetings)
- ❖ Mentoring Services
- ❖ Free passes to the children's museums (Bangor, Rockland, Portland)
- ❖ AFFM's Listserv, (the fastest way to receive information from us). Contact AFFM to Sign Up!
- ❖ Access to AFFM's Annual Training Conference and much more!

This packet contains a brochure that gives a brief overview of the services offered by AFFM, a discount card, and a newsletter. AFFM has offices in Bangor and Saco along with staff who work remotely from various places around the state. We are here to meet your needs wherever you are located. Please review the information and call if we can be of service in any way.

Thank you for caring for Maine's children and their families.

Sincerely,

Your Dedicated AFFM Support Team



“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**

304 Hancock Street, Suite 2A  
Bangor, Maine 04401

333 Lincoln Street  
Saco, Suite 101 Maine 04072

**207-827-2331**

**1-800-833-9786**  
**www.affm.net**

Find us on    @AFFMsupport

## 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



# Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine Inc. & The Kinship Program

## Trainings

Below is a list of online training offered by AFFM. All training is free of charge. Please click the link below to register. You will receive an email with login instructions the day of the training.

**\*IMPORTANT\*** EACH PARTICIPANT MUST REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY WITH **SEPARATE EMAIL ADDRESSES**

<i>Training Name</i>	<i>Start Date Time</i>	<i>End Date Time</i>
Parenting Life Skills	08/16/2023 6:30 PM	08/16/2023 8:00 PM
Kinship Parenting	8/22/2023 6:00 PM	8/22/2023 7:30 PM
Understanding the Maine Child Protective Court System	08/30/2023 6:30 PM	08/30/2023 8:00 PM
Mandated Reporter Training	09/06/2023 6:30 PM	09/06/2023 8:00 PM
Understanding Safety and Awareness	09/12/2023 6:30 PM	09/12/2023 8:00 PM
Self-Care for Foster and Kinship Providers	09/20/2023 6:30 PM	09/20/2023 8:00 PM
Building Resilience for Kinship Caregivers	9/26/2023 6:00 PM	9/26/2023 7:30 PM

**RSVP here:** [Trainings - RSVP - Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine \(affm.net\)](https://www.affm.net/trainings-rsvp)

**Foster Parent College**, in partnership with AFFM, offers interactive online courses for foster, adoptive & kinship parents. Accessible 24/7, parents can enroll, complete, & get certified in a single session from home. Courses are developed by top experts in parenting, social work & more. Maine residents can sign up for free through AFFM.

<https://www.fosterparentcollege.com/comment/contact-affiliate.jsp?affId=1110&op=request>

### **AFFM Lending Library**

The Lending Library offers diverse resources: books, videos, and DVDs covering foster care, kinship, and adoption topics. Material is available for all ages.

<https://affm.net/support/lending-library/>

**September book highlight:** For Grandparents Day on September 10, 2023, we're highlighting "*Grandparents as Parents; A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family.*" If you're a grandparent raising grandchildren, this book offers essential support, strategies, and stories to navigate parenting the second time around. Learn to cope, set boundaries, and access resources effectively.



## Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine Inc. and The Kinship Program

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304 Hancock St. Suite 2A  
Bangor, ME 04401  
207-827-2331  
207-573-3023 fax

333 Lincoln St., Suite 101  
Saco, ME 04072  
[www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net)

Dear Foster, Adoptive, and/or Kinship Family,

Enclosed is your Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine (AFFM):

Discount Card (with 2023 sticker on back)  
2023 Sticker Only (to add to the back of a previous year's card)  
Current Discount Card Vendor List (Always updated on [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net))

Please try to keep your card from year to year and remember to request a new sticker each year. **Updated stickers are not automatically mailed out.**

We are hoping to reach each area of the state for discounts to make the card more useful to all. If you have any suggestions of places for us to approach for a discount, please contact us via email at [info@affm.net](mailto:info@affm.net), or by calling the office.

Sincerely,

AFFM Staff

## AFFM Discount Card Business Partners

Please help us add to this listing!

Encourage businesses in your community to participate in the service.

Visit [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net) or call 827-2331 for more information about how you can get involved.

These offers may not be combined with any other promotions, discounts, or special events.

### Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

FREE admission to SPNEA's historic house museums in Maine, and elsewhere in New England

#### Androscoggin County

##### **Yvon's Valvoline**

698 Main St., Lewiston, ME 04240  
207-777-3600

\$3 off basic motor oil change  
\$5 off synthetic blend oil change  
\$10 off full synthetic oil change

##### **We Do Windows and More**

[www.mainewindowcleaners.com](http://www.mainewindowcleaners.com)  
A Complete Interior and Exterior  
Window Cleaning business  
10% discount on windows  
[info@mainewindowcleaners.com](mailto:info@mainewindowcleaners.com)

##### **Martin Stream Campground**

1 Martin Stream Road  
Turner, ME 04282  
207-740-2240  
[martinstreamcampground.com](http://martinstreamcampground.com)  
[zach@martinstreamcampground.com](mailto:zach@martinstreamcampground.com)  
10% discount

##### **Sippy Cup Consignment**

20B Main Street  
Lisbon Falls, ME 04252  
520-0893  
10% discount

##### **The Suite Salon**

14 Millett Dr.  
Auburn Me 04210  
207-400-5156  
15% off services  
with Breeanna ONLY

##### **Moonstone Pottery & Elementals**

186 Turner Street  
Auburn, ME 04210  
207-241-7550  
[moonstonepottery@gmail.com](mailto:moonstonepottery@gmail.com)  
10% discount

##### **Orphan Annie's Antiques**

96 Court Street  
Auburn, ME 04210  
207-782-0638  
[orphananniesme.net](http://orphananniesme.net)  
20% discount

##### **Rainbow Bicycle**

97 Lisbon Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
207-784-7576  
[info@rainbowbike.com](mailto:info@rainbowbike.com)  
10% off on parts & accessories

##### **Governor's Restaurant Lewiston**

1185 Lisbon St.  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
207-753-0173  
10% off, excludes alcohol and gift  
cards

**Aroostook County**

**Vicki's Used Clothing**

344 Rista Rd.  
New Sweden, ME  
Call for store hours 896-3176  
20% discount

**Circle B Farms**

287 Presque Isle Road  
Caribou, ME  
<https://www.circlebfarmsinc.com/>  
10% off entire purchases at the farm stand when opened and at processing center in the late fall and winter months

**Reflections**

Ashland, ME: 435-7160  
25% off

**Little Daniel's Den**

20% discount  
90 East Main st.  
Fort Kent, ME.  
557-9394  
<https://www.lildanielsden.com/>

**CALL AFFM BEFORE USING  
Children's Museum & Theater of  
Maine**

142 Free St., Portland  
Free admittance up to 6 people with  
prior RSVP to AFFM then  
Reserve Tickets online at  
<https://www.kitetails.org/reserve-tickets>  
s buy checking off "Discount: Pay at  
Door"

**Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad &  
Museum**

Portland, ME: 828-0814  
TRAIN RIDES, 15+ people:  
\$5 Adults and \$3 children  
[info@mainenarrowgauge.org](mailto:info@mainenarrowgauge.org)

**Sweet Repeats**

554 US Rt. 1  
Freeport, ME  
351-0137  
10% off all purchases  
[www.sweetrepeatsmaine.com](http://www.sweetrepeatsmaine.com)

**Sugar Supply Co.**

20% off any order of 1 dozen or more  
Call or text (207) 523-0053, IG or FB  
[@sugarsupplyco.maine](https://www.sugarsupplyco.maine)

**Cumberland County**

**Portland Museum of Art**

7 Congress Square, Portland  
\$1 off admission

**Sparetime**

867 Riverside St. – Portland  
878-2695  
\$3.00 a game per person  
\$2.00 shoes per person

**Simply Pest Solutions**

Standish, ME  
330-8981 or 576-5076  
[www.simplypestsolutions.com](http://www.simplypestsolutions.com)  
[simplypestsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:simplypestsolutions@gmail.com)  
10% off all services and products

**Desert of Maine**

95 Desert Rd, Freeport  
207-850-3025  
[www.desertofmaine.com](http://www.desertofmaine.com)  
Free tour, walk the dunes, and play on the natural playground.

**Smiling Hill Farm**

781 County Hill Rd. Westbrook  
1 adult FREE per child

**Steamboat Landing  
Miniature Golf**

15 Steamboat Landing Rd.  
Naples, ME \$1 off Mini-golf  
693-6782

**On the Road Again Automotive**

55 Lamb Mill Rd, Naples ME 04055  
207-333-0187  
10% off labor costs

**Lots for Tots**

240 US Route 1  
Falmouth, Maine  
(207) 347-8601  
AND

21 Hannaford Dr.  
Scarborough, ME  
883-1100  
10% off

**Pineland Farms**

15 Farm View Drive, New Gloucester  
688-4539  
<https://pinelandfarms.org/>  
Schedule with Pineland Farms when the pass will be used. Free admittance up to 4 people with prior RSVP to AFFM



**Maine Wildlife Park**  
56 Game Farm Rd. Gray  
**CALL AFFM BEFORE USING**  
*The Wildlife pass*

**Longfellows Restaurant**  
247 Main St.  
Kingfield ME 04947  
[www.longfellowsme.com](http://www.longfellowsme.com)  
20% off

**Franklin County**  
**The Wilhelm Reich Museum**  
Dodge Pond Rd.  
Rangeley, ME: 864-3443  
25% Off

**Hancock County**  
**ABBE Museum**  
Adults \$6 Children \$3  
Youth 10 and under Free  
26 Mount Desert St. Bar Harbor  
Phone: 207-288-3519  
[www.abbemuseum.org](http://www.abbemuseum.org)

**Everything KIDS**  
24 Main St. Winthrop. Call 395-8086  
[www.facebook.com/everythingKIDSIN  
MAINE](http://www.facebook.com/everythingKIDSINMAINE) 10% off

**The Pin Curl**  
174 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes  
495-3864  
20% off all hair services

**Winthrop Area YMCA**  
Winthrop, ME: 377-9686  
\$3 off program fees

**Bearly Used Boutique**  
104 Kennedy Memorial Drive Waterville  
242-9613  
30% Off total purchase

**Kennebec County**  
**Gifford's Miniature Golf**  
Waterville/Skowhegan  
\$1 off mini-golf 861-465  
**Raggamuffins Consignment**  
279 Water St. Gardiner  
582-2886  
30% off total purchase

**Kennebec Valley YMCA**  
Augusta & Manchester (626-3488)  
10% discount on membership  
Website: [www.kbymca.org](http://www.kbymca.org)

**Wax On / Wax Off**  
**Auto Detailing**  
22 Irish Circle, West Gardiner  
10% off services

**A Second Life**  
398 Maine Ave, Farmingdale Maine  
[www.facebook.com/aSecondlifeshs](http://www.facebook.com/aSecondlifeshs)  
20% off

**Knox County**

**Sweet Peas Family Consignment**

229 Park St. Rockland, ME.  
207-594-0095  
www.lilsweetpeas.com 15% off

**Fresh Off The Farm**

495 Commercial Street, Rt. 1  
Rockport, ME. Call 236-3260  
10% off anything in the store

**Creative Memories Scrapbooking**

Camden  
15% off classes/materials  
230-0569  
[medina@midcoast.com](mailto:medina@midcoast.com)

**All Play Family Entertainment Center**

400 Friendship Rd  
Waldoboro 832-7860  
[www.allplay-fec.com](http://www.allplay-fec.com) 15% off  
(Does not apply to group rates or other discounted pricing)

**CALL AFFM BEFORE USING  
The Coastal Children's Museum**

75 Mechanic St., Rockland  
Free admittance up to 6 people with  
prior RSVP to AFFM

**Lincoln County**

**Affordable Builder's**

Michael Kelley & Ben Moorside  
Mike@ 207-949-1162  
Ben@207-659-0028  
Free Quotes!10% off if referral is made  
and accepted, an additional 10% given

**Young'uns**

591 Main Street  
Damariscotta 563-3046  
15% off children's clothing

**Boothbay Railway Village**

Boothbay, Maine: 633-4727  
Free admission with discount card -  
DOES NOT INCLUDE:  
Special Events

**Oxford County**

**Bethel Outdoor Adventure & Campground**

Bethel, Maine: 824-4224  
10% discount on canoe/kayak rentals  
& camping

**Fryeburg Thrift Store**

<https://www.fryeburgthrift.com/>  
679 Main Street, Fryeburg  
50% off even during sale events!

**Penobscot County**

**Appliance Doctor INC.**

[www.ApplianceDoctor1980.com](http://www.ApplianceDoctor1980.com)  
207-327-1000  
20% off appliance service

**Bangor Historical Society**

159 Union St, Bangor  
942-5766  
\$1 off admission

**Bell Imaging & Design, LLC**

890 Coldbrook Rd, Hermon

**Diversity Salon**

Clients of all hair types  
Including ethnic hair  
619 Hammond St. Bangor  
947-2002 www.diversitysalon.com  
20% off Services and retail

**Family Fun Bowling Center**

15 Hildreth St, Bangor 942-6701  
(Mon-fri) \$3 per game/shoes free  
(Sat-sun) \$3 per game/shoes free  
NOT AVAILABLE  
SATURDAY EVENINGS

**Foxgreen Farm, LLC**

557 N. Howland Rd.

**The Growing Place**

2 Locations!!  
548 Hammond St  
1209 Outer Broadway  
941-1055, 947-9055  
15% off children's clothing, strollers, &  
equipment

**Leadbetter's Custom Contracting, INC.**

Bangor + surrounding areas  
941-0008  
15% off all services, including snow  
plowing and landscaping

**CALL AFFM BEFORE USING  
Maine Discovery Museum**

<p><a href="http://Bellphotostudio.com">Bellphotostudio.com</a> 207-356-2353 20% off any photography or graphic design service (excludes events and weddings, or already discounted sessions)</p> <p><b>Brewer Playland Adventures</b> 510 Wilson Street, Brewer, ME 989-6611 \$1 Off Discount Bracelets</p> <p><b>Maine Logging Museum</b> Leonard's Mills: Bradley, ME 581-2871 \$3 Adult, \$1 children</p> <p><b>Novus Glass</b> 499 Hammond St. Bangor 945-6688 Travels to you 15% off window repair/replacement</p> <p><b>Old Town Bowling Lanes</b> 185 Center St., Old Town 827-2874 25% off bowling</p>	<p>Howland 270-2993 <a href="http://www.foxgreen.com">www.foxgreen.com</a> \$7.00 off any vegetable purchase at the farm. No minimum purchase. Valid 1x per week per family.</p> <p><b>Paul Bunyan Campground</b> 1862 Union St. Bangor 941-1177 10% discount per family per day</p> <p><b>Restyled</b> 8 Main St, Dexter 924-3900 <a href="mailto:restyled.consignment@gmail.com">restyled.consignment@gmail.com</a> 20% off</p> <p><b>Sonny's Driving Range and Training Center</b> 108 Cove Hill Rd., Winterport 223-5242 \$1 off a bucket of balls</p>	<p>74 Main St., Bangor Free admittance up to 6 people with <u>prior RSVP to AFFM</u></p> <p><b>Sweet Frog</b> 878 B Stillwater Ave. Bangor 947-3764 <a href="http://www.sweetfrog yogurt.com">www.sweetfrog yogurt.com</a> Buy 1 &amp; get 1 free (same or lesser value)</p> <p><b>The Sports Arena</b> 1620 Outer Hammond, Hermon 848-2695 Buy one string, get one FREE (Except Friday + Saturday Nights after 6 pm)</p>
<p><b>Possibilities</b> 49 Maine st. Lincoln, Me 04457 207-794-1000 <a href="http://www.possibilitiesgifts.com">www.possibilitiesgifts.com</a> They are offering \$5 off \$50 purchase excluding jewelry.</p>	<p><b>Subway</b> 255 Main St. Old Town, ME 04468 50% off a 6 inch sub and fountain drink</p>	

<p><b>Joe's Towing</b> 6 Second St., Milo 279-6366 <a href="mailto:joestowingmilo@yahoo.com">joestowingmilo@yahoo.com</a> 20% off towing &amp; roadside service</p>	<p><b><u>Piscataquis County</u></b></p> <p><b>Repeat After Me</b> 64 East Main Street Suite E Dover-Foxcroft, ME, ME 04426 279-1607 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RepeatAfterMeMaine/">https://www.facebook.com/RepeatAfterMeMaine/</a> 25% discount</p>	
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**Sagadahoc County**  
Please call if you know of a business that may want to participate in this program!

**Somerset County**

**L.C. Bates Museum**  
Hinckley, Me: 238-4250  
50% off admission,  
15% off at gift shop  
FREE nature trails  
FREE family Backpack

**The Magic of Conjuring Carroll**  
Solon, ME: 635-3133  
\$20 off any show

**The Children's Cottage**  
Skowhegan, ME 313-0933  
20% off

**Waldo County**

**Penobscot Marine Museum**  
Buy one get one free. 2 Church Street,  
Searsport, ME  
548-2529 and 548-0334  
www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org

**All Play Family Entertainment  
Center**  
1 Searsport Ave.  
Belfast 218-1100  
[www.allplay-fec.com](http://www.allplay-fec.com) 15% off  
(Does not apply to group rates or  
other discounted pricing)

**Perry's Home Furnishing &  
Design**  
111 Belmont Ave.  
Belfast, ME 338-3610  
[www.perrysfurniture.com](http://www.perrysfurniture.com)  
10% off mattresses

**Belfast and Moosehead Lake Rail**  
[www.belfastandmooseheadlakerail.org](http://www.belfastandmooseheadlakerail.org)  
\$2 off Adult Fare for any Train Ride

**Colburn Shoe Store**  
79 Main St.  
Belfast, ME  
338-1934  
20% off

**Washington County**

**Eagle Bowling Lanes**  
Machiasport, ME  
255-6696  
10% off bowling

**The Red Sleigh**  
1881 US RTE 1, Perry  
Free gift with purchase of \$25 or more  
853-6688

**York County**

**Black Bird Portraits**  
North Berwick 207-229-2874  
Blackbirdportraits.wixsite.com/Maine  
[Blackbirdportraits207@gmail.com](mailto:Blackbirdportraits207@gmail.com)  
40% off a one hour family portrait  
session

**Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf**  
Bar Harbor: 288-2133  
Old Orchard Beach: 934-5086  
\$1 off mini-golf

**Sandwich Shack**  
898 Main Street Ste:103 Sanford, ME  
207-850-1189  
25% off their total bill

**Funtown Splashtown USA**  
US Route 1  
774 Portland Road Saco, ME  
\$5.00 off a big rider/slider and \$4.00  
off a little rider/slider. at Guest Service  
Window

*If you know of a business that would like to provide a discount to families, please contact AFFM or feel free to reach out on AFFM's behalf. Thank you!*



# FAMILY TIES

VOLUME 26 | JULY 2023

## FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Summer Events

Back to School Program  
(Available Until August  
4th!)

Feel Good Stories

C.A.R.E.S. Meeting:  
Join a Meeting Near You!

...and more!

*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

# ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS!



**THE MCEWEN'S ADOPTED THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER LAST JULY. THEY STARTED FOSTERING ABIGAIL AT 20 MONTHS. SHE HAS GROWN SO MUCH!**

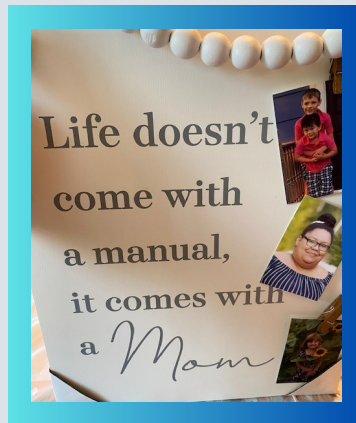


**ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023, AFTER SPENDING 959 DAYS IN FOSTER CARE, XAVIER OFFICIALLY BECAME A BELYEA. HE IS HEAVEN SENT, COURT APPROVED AND FOREVER LOVED BY OUR FAMILY ♥!**



## FEEL GOOD STORIES!

We have four adopted children. All of whom are amazing of course! We encourage connections with birth family when safe to do so. Recently we connected with our 10 year old's birth mom. She sent us this picture for mothers day! It was just so amazing and thoughtful of her.



My teen in care started a job at McDonalds over the winter. It turned out the judge on her case worked at the same McDonalds location when he was a teenager, though he was paid significantly less! Then this spring, she was playing tennis at school, and the same judge told us how his mother remembers losing to my daughter's tennis team 82 years ago! It was so nice that the judge was willing to share those stories and make a connection with my daughter.

I would like to submit a pretty funny story that literally just made everyone in my house bust out laughing so hard! This past Friday all the kids and myself were just chilling out at home, Kaliina came into my room where I was watching a movie and she wants to play, so she gets up on my bed and starts jumping on my stomach (playfully that is) and I look at her and say "Kaliina you are so lucky Mumma does not have to fart or puke right now with all that jumping on my stomach". She instantly stands up (on the bed next to me) and as she is slowly rolling her eyes in the back of her head and falls backwards onto a pillow and pretends to pass out. I say "Kaliina what on earth was that?" She stands up and without missing a beat looks me straight in the eyes as she is slowly waving her hand back and forth in front of her nose and says "Mumma stinky farted" We all instantly started laughing so hard and I say to her "Mumma is not stinky" and as she is sliding off the bed laughing from the bottom of her belly starting to run out of the room she screams "Mumma is stinky and Kaliina funny" and she ran out straight into the next room laughing so hard. Kaliina has been fully adopted since August of 2022, and this little spit ball of fire has brought so much life into our home. She is funny, sweet and sassy (our little sour patch kid, sometimes sweet and sometimes super sour lol) and just so much fun to be around. NEVER a dull moment. She has thrived beyond what I could have ever imagined in such a short time.

# UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS!

## Family Fun Day @ Mantle Lake

All foster, adoptive, and kinship families come join us for AFFM's Annual Family Fun Day at Mantle Lake Park

**When: Friday, August 4th, 3pm-6pm**

**Where: Mantle Lake Park, 100 Pine Street, Presque Isle, ME**

*RSVP REQUIRED*

*Scan the  
QR code  
to RSVP*



- FREE BBQ!
- Fire Trucks/Police Car
- Games/Activities provided by The Northern Lighthouse Inc.
- Bounce House
- Door Prizes
- Face Painting and More!



## JOIN US FOR HAMPDEN CHILDREN'S DAY AUGUST 12TH @9AM

Come decorate bikes and ride/walk in the parade!

Help AFFM decorate bikes at 9 AM

at Reedsbrook middle school in Hampden. Kids can use bikes or scooters please make sure children are wearing helmets. Adults are welcome too and we are looking forward to seeing you!!



# BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFFM's goal is to make the next upcoming school year, whatever it may bring, go as smoothly as possible. The Back to School Program is designed to assist families who would struggle otherwise purchasing back to school items for the children in their care.

AFFM's Back to School Program provides a new backpack, grade appropriate school supplies, personal care items and when available, a new outfit. The program serves children in grades kindergarten (age 5) to senior year of high school.

If your child will be in need this upcoming school year, please **fill out a request form found here** or at [www.affm.net](http://www.affm.net).

**Please note, AFFM's Back to School Program relies heavily on donations to fill the backpacks. You may not receive all the items requested. Please have your request in no later than Friday, August 4th.**

\*If your child is entering 7th grade up to high school, AFFM may be able to provide a \$25 gift card. As teens tend to have their own style of clothing, AFFM hopes to provide kids going into middle school and high school with gift cards to purchase their own outfits. The Back-to-School Program was designed to bring a sense of normalcy to kids in care, especially at the beginning of a school year. AFFM is aware providing teens the opportunity to pick their own clothing may help ease some anxiety as they transition into a new school.

**\*AFFM has a limited amount of gift cards available, this will be first come first served\***

Scan **THE CODE**



## A Message from OCFS Medical Director

In case you have not heard, OCFS has launched two exciting new programs for young children and families. Help Me Grow (HMG) and the Early Childhood Consultation Program (ECCP) are available throughout Maine.

Help Me Grow (HMG) connects families of young children (pregnancy through age 8) to information and services. Caregivers and providers can contact HMG for support and receive short-term care coordination for up to 60 days for a variety of needs. HMG Resource Specialists will listen, share developmental information and community resources, and provide follow-up to caregivers and referral sources. To learn more go to: Help Me Grow Maine ECCP® is a prevention service that partners a mental health consultant with adults who work with infants and young children ages 0-8 where they learn and grow, such as child care, preschool, pre-K, and public school. ECCP® provides short-term consultation to child care providers, teachers, and families to help understand children's needs, address challenging behavior, and support healthy social and emotional development before mental health or early intervention treatment is needed. Consultation is no-cost and confidential. OCFS is now expanding ECCP® statewide after a successful pilot of the program. To learn more go to: Early Childhood Consultation Program

Have a fun, safe summer!  
Thank you-  
Adrienne W. Carmack, MD  
Medical Director, OCFS





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

## STAFF BY DISTRICT

### DISTRICTS 1 & 2 (COUNTIES: YORK & CUMBERLAND)



Tammy Cutchen  
Kinship Navigator  
Tammy.c@affm.net  
207-710-2066



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)



Travis Bryant  
Executive Director  
207-827-2331



Meagan Sprague  
Resource Family Program Manager  
207-827-2331



Bette Hoxie  
Kinship Program Manager  
207-827-2331



Monica Bushey  
Training Program Manager  
207-827-2331



Hether Anderson  
Lead Resource Family Trainer  
207-827-2331



Holly White  
Administrative Specialist  
207-827-2331



# KINSHIP CORNER



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*Celebrate all kinship families during Grandparents Day on Sunday September 10th AFFM will have activities throughout the state. Follow AFFM for more information. Are there ways you celebrate your family? Share with AFFM, we'd love to hear how to celebrate and honor kinship families throughout the month of September.*



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

**Biddeford** - Meets Tuesday, August 15th, 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. RSVP by calling Brigid at 207-827-2331 or email [brigid@affm.net](mailto:brigid@affm.net) or clicking the below link:  
<https://affm.net/cares-rsvp/>

**Wilton** - Meets Thursday, August 17th, 6:00-7:30 P.M. at SeniorsPlus 284 Main St. Suite 210, Wilton, ME. Childcare provided with prior RSVP. This meeting is led by Cyndi Dolloff, AFFM Trainer, Facilitator and Resource Parent. RSVP by calling Brigid at 207-827-2331 or email [brigid@affm.net](mailto:brigid@affm.net) or clicking the below link.  
<https://affm.net/cares-rsvp/>

**Statewide** - Meets Tuesday, August 8th from 6:00-7:30 P.M. by ZOOM Conferencing. RSVP IS REQUIRED EACH MONTH TO RECEIVE THE LINK TO JOIN THE MEETING. RSVP by calling Sheila at 207-827-2331, email [sheila@affm.net](mailto:sheila@affm.net), or by clicking on the link below. 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!



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



**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.

**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.*

**Farmington - F/A/K-** Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at UMF Roberts Learning Center Rm 001 & 003.

**Sanford - F/A/K-** *Temporarily on hold*

**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 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Green Street United Methodist Church (13 Green Street).

**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 The Lincoln County Assembly of God Church (672 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).

**Dover-Foxcroft - F/A/K** - Meets the second Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30PM at the Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church (824 West Main Street).

**Ellsworth - F/A/K-** Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at United Baptist Church (28 Hancock Street).

**Skowhegan-F/A/K-** Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 P.M. at The Federated Church (13 Island Ave.)

**Belfast- F/A/K-** Meets the first Wednesday 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 5:00-6:30 P.M. at the Rose M. Gaffney School (15 Rose Gaffney Road)

**Presque Isle- F/A/K-** Meets the first Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Northern Lighthouse (172 Academy 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](mailto:brigid@affm.net)*

*Questions for Northern Maine Meetings Please Email: [sheila@affm.net](mailto:sheila@affm.net)*

Adoptive & Foster Families  
of Maine, Inc.  
304 Hancock Street, Suite 2A, Bangor, ME, 04401  
Fax: 207-573-3023

### **Allegation Support**

- Are you feeling alone, frightened and confused due to an allegation of abuse within your foster home?
- Are you wondering how to deal with the stress?
- Are you worried that your own children will be taken from you?
- Are you feeling like a criminal and wondering if people are thinking you are a bad parent?
- If you have answered yes to one or more of these questions, Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine (AFFM) may have some supports that will help you.

### **You Are Not Alone**

Nearly every foster parent will experience an allegation at least once during their foster parenting career.

What the Allegation Support Team Offers:

- Non-judgmental listening
- A place for you to vent
- An explanation of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) investigating process
- Help in assessing what is abuse and what is a licensing violation
- Information on the length of the investigation process
- Help in understanding the DHHS chain of command
- Help in preparing to meet with DHHS staff
- Help in assessing if legal counsel is warranted
- Encouragement to advocate for yourself
- AFFM staff will maintain confidentiality according to Maine law

### **Accessing Allegation Support**

827-2331 or 1-800-833-9786

A team member will respond within twenty-four hours of your call. (Usually, a response call is made within minutes of your call)

Share this information with your foster parent support groups and friends who may benefit. Keep a copy near your phone. You never know when you will need it