



U.S. Census data indicates that more than 94% of Maine residents identify as Caucasian. Because of that, it is easy to assume that recruiting foster/adoptive parents for Maine's youth requires minimal focus on recruiting diverse family homes. But who is included in "diverse" population statistics?

Maine Kids Count Report:

The Maine Kids Count Report is a comprehensive study of Maine's children. Approximately 12% of children in early elementary grades are not Caucasian, and those children are more likely to be found in foster care. When we broaden the term "diversity" to include gender identity, the need for diverse homes becomes even greater.

Minority & LGBTQ youth enter the foster care system at disproportionate rates that are not matched by resource families. These youth are then trying to manage grief, loss, and separation in an unfamiliar setting, with a family that has a limited understanding of what it's like to be them.

Maine Heart Gallery Spotlight



Deandre D.O.B. 2007


Deandre likes cooking, hiking, and video games. He loves school, animals, and exploring the outdoors.


To see more children from the Maine Heart Gallery, please visit [afamilyformemaine.org/heart-gallery](https://www.afamilyformemaine.org/heart-gallery)

Did You Know...

According to the Maine Kids Count Report:

- 3 out of every 25 first graders are “non-white” or Hispanic
- Children who are two or more races or Native American are more likely to be in foster care
- 1 in 5 Maine youth self-identify as LGBTQ+



A Family for ME
live virtual Q & A sessions!
zoom 

You've got questions,
we've got answers!

The 2nd Monday of every month at
Noon or 6:00pm!

Join us to learn more about foster care and adoption - Register [HERE](#) or on the Events page at afamilyforme.org.

A Family for ME Recruiters:

Amy Bergeron- Districts 6 & 8 (Northern ME), 207-572-0950, abergeron@spurwink.org

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Stephanie Eklund- District 1 & 2 (Southern ME), 207-400-9146, seklund@spurwink.org

Looking for more information to support diversity and equality in your home and family? Check out these resources:

- Out Maine: Building welcoming and affirming communities for Maine's LGBTQ+ youth. <https://outmaine.org/>
- University of Maine Multicultural Student Center: access free training for community members, faculty and students. <https://umaine.edu/multicultural/>
- There are 16 YMCAs across Maine whose core values are caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Find yours here: <https://nneymcas.org/find-your-ymca/>
- Foster Friends Database- offering wrap-around services and after-hours help for foster families. <https://forms.gle/1J8HNPPcFdR8sQe68>
- A Family for ME: To learn more about foster care or adoption please visit afamilyformemaine.org or call 844-893-6311.

Youth Self-Identity

This graphic depicts the different factors that make up a youth's self-identity. Without the support of every aspect of the wheel, they may feel incomplete.

