

ENGAGING YOUTH

BUILDING SUPPORTS

STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITIES

A Family for ME

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April '24 - June '24

AFamilyForMEMaine.org



A Family for ME

Engaging Youth
Building Supports
Strengthening Opportunities

Scan the code to learn more about foster care!

May is National Foster Care Month!

In 2021, 77% of eligible youth in foster care ages 14–21 left care without receiving the federally funded services necessary to prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

This year, National Foster Care Month (NFCM) will raise awareness about the needs of youth transitioning from foster care into adulthood and living independently.

Access to culturally appropriate resources and opportunities is essential to the futures of youth exiting foster care. We should look for ways to collaboratively work with related professionals to engage youth in permanency planning, gain access to holistic supports, and help nurture important relationships to set them up for future success.

You can use the NFCM [resource collection](#) and [outreach toolkit](#) to help educate the public about the needs of youth exiting foster care. The website is also a great resource for learning the benefits of starting conversations early and continuously during a young person's time in foster care.

Stay connected to the conversation throughout May by following #FosterCareMonth on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn. Join the official [NFCM subscription list](#) to receive important updates and special messaging during the campaign – and make sure your family and friends sign up, too!

[*childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth](http://childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth)

Maine Heart Gallery Spotlight



Landon, D.O.B. 2008

Landon likes telling jokes and outdoor activities. Though looking for permanency, he is open to building relationships and having a mentor.

Visit the Maine Heart Gallery at:
afamilyformemaine.org/heart-gallery

A Family for ME Current Events

5/3-5/4: Maine [AEYC Annual Conference](#), Portland

5/4: Camp to Belong "[Run to Belong](#)," Augusta

5/9: [Morse Library Presentation](#), Greene

5/18: [AFFM Foster Family Fun Day](#), Fort Knox

5/18: [AFFM Foster Family Fun Day](#), Fort Williams

6/1: Brewer [Riverwalk Festival](#)

6/9: [Ellsworth Pride](#)

6/15: [Portland Pride](#)

6/22: [Bangor Pride](#)

6/26: YLAT [Teen Conference](#), Standish

A Family for ME Information Tables Maine Public Libraries:

Orono	Ellsworth	Houlton
Hampden	Bar Harbor	Presque Isle
Dexter	Searsport	Caribou

Please join us for our regularly scheduled Q & A Sessions to learn more about foster care and adoption! Come with your questions! Register [HERE](#) or on the Events page at afamilyformemaine.org.

Curious about foster care?

Join us on [zoom](#) the 2nd Monday of every month at noon or 6 pm to learn more!

These sessions aren't part of the licensing process. They are casual, informational discussions. You can ask questions, or just sit in and listen!

May 13th
June 10th
July 8th



A Family for **ME** Q & A Sessions

National Foster Care Month Statistics

The transition to adulthood is a time of great potential for all young people, but youth who exit foster care without permanence face increased barriers to a successful transition. View these statistics to learn more about this population:

There are over 391,000 children and youth in foster care. Approximately 20,000 youth age out of the foster care system each year without a permanent family.

Once in foster care, older youth spend more time in care than their peers who enter care before age 14.

In 2021, an estimated 77% of eligible youth in foster care, ages 14–21 years old, left care without receiving the federally funded services necessary to prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

Data shows that extended foster care is associated with improved access to services and positive outcomes for older youth ages 18 to 21. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of youth in extended foster care, through their 19th birthday, received more services than older youth not in extended foster care.

In 2021, 58% of Black youth and 57% of Hispanic and Latino youth in foster care aged 16 years or older exited care without permanence.

Read the full article [HERE](#).

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