



October '24 - December '24



Scan the code to learn more!

Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds

Adoption is about much more than achieving legal permanency. It's about cultivating lifelong connections that provide unwavering support and a sense of belonging for young people throughout their lives.

This year's National Adoption Month theme, "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds," will raise awareness about how we can cultivate a support network for youth in foster care that meets their needs, embraces and affirms their identity, and promotes family, community, and cultural connections. This theme recognizes that by honoring every youth and their network, professionals can work toward an adoption journey imbued with meaning and purpose, paving the way for healing, well-being, and long-term stability.

Use the National Adoption Month resource collection and outreach toolkit to help raise awareness among the public and other professionals about the needs of youth who are waiting to be adopted and at risk of aging out of foster care without permanent family connections.

Stay connected to the campaign by signing up for the National Adoption Month subscription list. Use #NationalAdoptionMonth on LinkedIn, Facebook, and X, and remember to tag Child Welfare Information Gateway in your posts!

**childwelfare.gov*

Watch our short video to learn more, and share it with those you know!

Click to watch on YouTube!



Maine Heart Gallery Spotlight



Lucas D.O.B. 2008

Lucas likes sports, Legos, puzzles and games, outdoor activities, and riding his bike.

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

Adoption Matching Program (AMP)

Our AMP team matches licensed families in Maine with children awaiting adoption with the goal of permanent placements. Both the families and children complete an intake process that involves questionnaires and meetings with experienced "Matching Coordinators".

According to some families, one factor that can cause placement disruption is a family overestimating their ability to parent when they have no prior experience. It's highly recommended that families gain some experience in foster care by taking placements or doing respite care. This enables families the opportunity to see how equipped they are to support a child who has experienced trauma.

If you are interested in enrolling in AMP, please contact your resource unit supervisor or your licensing worker to make a referral. If you still have questions, your licensing worker will be able to help.

Please join us for our Q & A Sessions to learn more about foster care and adoption! 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!

October 14
November 11th
December 9th

A
Family
for ME

Register [HERE!](#)



Other programs that support children in foster care:

AFFM provides support to Maine's kinship caregivers. Their mission is to provide training, guidance, knowledge, and resources to foster and adoptive parents. Some of these include support groups, assistance with material goods, mentor services, and training. <https://affm.net>

The Youth Leadership Advisory Team (YLAT) is a joint project between Maine's Youth in Foster Care, The Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the Muskie School at the University of Southern Maine.

1-877-792-YLAT (9528)
ahmen.cabral@maine.edu

Cody's Closet in Sedgewick provides services for students such as senior photos, yearbook purchases, prom support, welcome-to-college baskets, and some special requests.

facebook.com/codysclosetMaine/

ER (Emergency Room) Bags comfort youth in crisis. If you would like to donate, some of the things we place in the bags are: books, notepads, coloring books (no wires or staples), crayons (non-toxic), blankets, pajamas, sweatpants (without strings), socks, stuffed animals (with sewn-in eyes), playing cards, card games, and flash cards.

Amy Bergeron, 207-572-0950
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A Family for ME Recruiters:

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