



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," raises 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*

Maine Heart Gallery Spotlight



Harleigh, Gabriella, & Isaac
These three deeply connected siblings are looking for a loving forever home together!

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

A Family for ME's Adoption Matching Program (AMP)

Did you ever wonder if there is a way to adopt a child that is a match with your family? There certainly is! The Adoption Matching Program (AMP) with A Family for ME specializes in exactly this service.

The process involves interested families and available children participating in an intake process that includes questionnaires and meetings with experienced Matching Coordinators.

If you are licensed and 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 should be able to help.

If you or someone you know would like to begin the licensing process, visit us at afamilyformemaine.org to get started.

Do you have an adoption story you'd like to share with us in observance of National Adoption Month? We will be accepting your stories throughout the month of November! Please send them to: cbrown@spurwink.org

A Family for ME Recruiters:

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

Christine Brown - District 3 (Central ME)
207-274-0745, cbrown@spurwink.org

Cate Colombo - District 5 (Central ME)
207-699-9408, ccolombo@spurwink.org

Patricia Tate - District 4 & 7 (Eastern ME)
207-810-6010, ptate@spurwink.org

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

Maine Adoption Resources

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. & The Kinship Program (AFFM): The staff has personal and professional experience with the adoption process. AFFM staff members assist families with post-adoption needs, systems navigation, and referrals.

Families Rising (formerly North American Council on Adoptable Children): Your go-to source for advice on parenting children in adoption, information on adoption assistance and the U.S. adoption tax credit, enhancing adoption practice, training for parents and professionals, and more.

A Family for ME: To learn more about obtaining a foster/adoptive license and how to get started, please visit afamilyformemaine.org or call 844-893-6311.

A poster for "A Family for ME Foster Care Q & A Sessions". It features a young man in an orange shirt and blue jeans, holding a black folder and pointing upwards with his right hand. To his left is a QR code. The text on the poster reads: "Curious about foster care? A Family for ME Foster Care Q & A Sessions The 2nd Monday of every month Join us via zoom the 2nd Monday of every month at 6pm to learn more about foster care! These sessions aren't part of the licensing process. They are casual, informational discussions where you can ask questions, or just sit in and listen! Register HERE!"

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Upcoming Events:

Attend an event in your community!

November 6 – Adoption Matching Program Open House, Portland

November 10 – Virtual Foster Care QnA, Zoom

November 16 – Foster Care Informational Luncheon, Charleston Church, Charleston

November 20 – Foster Care Awareness Event, University of Maine, Orono