

Families And Children Together  
Maine  
Kids **+** Kin

Services for Grandfamilies

Grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings and other family members who are raising a relative's child

Volume 6 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

February 2012

**Earned Income and Child Tax Credits!**

As Much As \$5,666 — or more — Could Be Waiting For You!



**You could qualify!** Did you work in 2011? You may be eligible for the **Earned Income Credit**, even if you don't owe income tax.

**If you worked in 2011:**

- Did you have one child living with you? Did you earn less than \$36,052\*? You can get an **EIC** up to **\$3,094**.
- Did you have 2 children living with you? Did you earn less than \$40,964\*? You can get an **EIC** up to **\$5,112**.
- Did you have 3 or more children living with you? Did you earn less than \$43,998\*? You can get an **EIC** up to **\$5,751**.
- If you had no children living with you, did you earn less than \$13,660\* in 2011? Were you between the ages 25 and 64? You can get an **EIC** up to **\$464**.

**You could get a CTC refund too!**

Many families that earned more than \$3,000 may qualify for the **Child Tax Credit (CTC)** refund, up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under age 17.

**File a Federal Tax Return to get the EIC and CTC: Get Free Help!!!**

VITA, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, helps people fill out returns for free. For a site near you, call 1-800-906-9887.

**IN PORTLAND**

Join **Patricia Ellen**, at the **Center For Grieving Children**, as she discusses how to manage grief and loss.

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012**  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**The Center For Grieving Children**  
**555 Forest Avenue, Portland**

*(during the regular grandfamily group meeting)*

Families will have access to the "Volcano Room," a small padded room for adults and children to express their feelings.

*For more information, or to register for this event and reserve childcare, contact Cathy at 591-6278 or [cpaglio@mainekids-kin.org](mailto:cpaglio@mainekids-kin.org).*

**IN BANGOR**

**ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER FAMILIES OF MAINE**  
**Roller Skating Party!**

*This event is open to all kinship, adoptive, and foster families!*



**Wednesday, February 22, 2012**  
**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**



**Great Skates, Sylvan Road, Bangor**

**Admission, Skate Rentals, and Pizza are FREE!**

*For more information or to register for this event, contact AFFM at 827-2331.*



**Maine Kids-Kin Survey Reminder**

*Don't forget to take a few moments and fill out the annual survey you received in the mail. Your opinions and experiences are very important to us, and you could win a **\$100 Irving Gift Card**, or **one of eight \$25 Hannaford Gift Cards!** Our annual survey helps us to determine which services are most beneficial to Grandfamilies and helps us to build new and improved services.*

**Be Informed **+** Find Support **+** Make Connections**

**1-866-298-0896 **+** [www.mainekids-kin.org](http://www.mainekids-kin.org)**

# FEBRUARY GROUP MEETINGS

When you go to a group meeting you get a chance to connect with other grandfamilies by sharing stories and information, offering support and listening to each other. Some group meetings provide childcare, giving the children an opportunity to meet and socialize with other children in similar situations.

**Please contact us if you would like to receive a phone call reminder for your local group meeting.**

## Augusta New Time For February!

**Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**, The Children's Center, 1 Alden Avenue. Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.

## Bangor

**Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**, Families And Children Together office, 304 Hancock Street. Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.

**Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm**, Families And Children Together office, 304 Hancock Street. Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.

## Belfast

**Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am** meeting at the Belfast Free Library on High St. in the first floor conference room (on the right as you enter the library.) Parking available on Spring and Miller Streets.

## Dover-Foxcroft

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**, Penquis, 50 North St. Please contact Meaghan at F.A.C.T. at 941-2347 to reserve childcare.

## Lewiston

**Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm**, in the LePage Center at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center (entrance on Campus Avenue.)

## Waterville

The Grandest Parents of All - **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm** at Educare, 56 Drummond Ave. Childcare and dinner for the whole family served. For more information and to register, contact Samantha Thibodeau at The Children's Center at 626-3497.

## Westbrook

**Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**, Maine Kids-Kin, 869 Main Street, Suite 900. Please contact Nancy at F.A.C.T. to reserve childcare at 591-6278.

**Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**, Maine Kids-Kin, 869 Main Street, Suite 900. Please contact Cathy at F.A.C.T. to register at 591-6278.

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm**, The Center For Grieving Children, 555 Forest Avenue, **Portland**. Contact Cathy at F.A.C.T. to reserve childcare at 591-6278. **Please see Page 1 for more information.**

## TIP SHEET FOR GRANDFAMILIES

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### FUN IN THE KITCHEN

Taking time to cook with your children makes memories they can pass on to their families. It may take longer to get the meal or snack made, but the moments with your children will be priceless. (Just remember to have patience. Don't worry about flour on the floor or spilled milk.) Try these yummy recipes for a Valentine treat!! Enjoy!!

#### **Lemony Love Potion**

- 12-ounce can pink lemonade concentrate
- 1 cup raspberry sherbet
- 12-ounce can on lemon/lime soda (we used 7-Up)

1. In a pitcher, mix the lemonade concentrate with the recommended amount of water.
2. In a separate pitcher, combine the sherbet with 1 cup of the lemonade mixture.
3. Add the soda, stir, and serve. Makes 3 cups.

#### **Cake In A Mug**

*Care for a delicious mug of...cake? Everyone loves the idea of cake baked in a mug and nothing could be easier. They can "bake" them in minutes in the microwave.*

Makes 1 individual cake .

- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 1/2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 tablespoons whole or 2% milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 large mug (big enough to hold 1 1/2 cups of liquid)
- Vegetable cooking spray

With a fork, whisk together flour, sugar, and cocoa in a small bowl. Stir in milk and egg until smooth. Spray the inside of the mug lightly with vegetable spray. Pour batter into the mug (it will be halfway full). Put the mug in the microwave and cook on high power for 2-2/12 minutes. It's done when batter stops rising and the part that rose over the top of the mug looks set. (When you remove the cake from the microwave, it will sink back into the mug, which is okay.)

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*Copies of our tip sheets may be found on our web site at [www.mainekids-kin.org](http://www.mainekids-kin.org).  
For permission to reproduce Maine Kids-Kin materials contact us at [info@mainekids-kin.org](mailto:info@mainekids-kin.org).*

# Families And Children Together

Maine  
Kids **+** Kin

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## CELEBRATING GRANDFAMILIES

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who are helping to organize the Clothing Exchange and fill clothing requests from grandfamilies. If you would like to help other grandfamilies while enjoying the company of other volunteers please join us!

**Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 - 11:00 am**

Families And Children Together  
304 Hancock Street, Bangor



For more information, please contact Anna at  
941-2347 or [alibby@mainekids-kin.org](mailto:alibby@mainekids-kin.org).

## Maine Kids-Kin Staff

*Don Lynch, Director*

### Jan Bisbee

*Lead Family Service Advocate*

### Tracy Cooley

*Navigator Project Coordinator*

### Mindy Williams

*Lead Family Service Advocate*

### Nancy Robinson

*Family Service Navigator*

### Cathy Paglio

*Family Service Advocate*

### Susan Barker

*Family Service Navigator*

### Janelle Wuoristo

*Communications Assistant*

### Ellen Gray

*Financial Assistant*

### Anna Libby

*Volunteer Program Organizer  
Family Service Advocate*

### Meaghan Mower

*Family Services Assistant*

## PAYING IT FORWARD



### Pay It Forward Bottle Drive



You can help raise money for the **Pay It Forward** fund simply by returning your cans and bottles to the **Bangor Redemption and Beverage Center** at **490 Broadway** in **Bangor**. Be sure to let them know you would like the money to go into the **Families And Children Together (F.A.C.T.)** account.

**Every call is welcome and appropriate when it comes to the safety and care of your family... Give us a call to find out what we can do for you.**  
*(Every conversation is confidential)*

**1-866-298-0896** (Statewide)

**941-2347** (Bangor)

**591-6278** (Westbrook)

Or visit our website at [www.mainekids-kin.org](http://www.mainekids-kin.org)