

For Immediate Release



**Contact:** Sarah MacLaughlin  
Foster Family Coordinator  
207-523-5038; [smacLaughlin@yimaIne.org](mailto:smacLaughlin@yimaIne.org)

**Hope Blooms in Foster Care**  
Families and Staff Will Plant Flowers to Increase Awareness

April 19, 2010 –The Southern Maine Foster Family Recruitment Team will celebrate Foster Care Awareness Month with their third annual “Hope Blooms” event. On June 5, 2010, this collaborative team will be joined by foster/adoptive parents and children at 10 A.M. Saturday morning at the horse barn behind the Portland Ice Arena to plant flowers at the “Hope Blooms in Foster Care” gardens. This is a family-friendly event; all are welcome to help celebrate.

The gardens, one located directly behind the Portland Exposition Building and the other alongside the walkway leading to Hadlock Field, will be planted to honor our Maine foster families, and to raise awareness of the continuing need for foster and adoptive families in Cumberland County.

The recruitment team is a joint venture among the following private and public agencies: Casey Family Services, The Department of Health and Human Services—Portland office, KidsPeace, SMART Family Services, Woodford Family Services, and Youth Alternatives Ingraham. Their goal is to increase the pool of foster and adoptive homes available to children in Southern Maine. Please contact any of the aforementioned agencies if you would like more information about this project and the need for foster and adoptive families in the state of Maine.

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