

Shirley Melancon, Family Partner



I am a birth mother to one, adoptive mother to three, legal guardian of one, step mother of four, and have fostered many children including three I fostered for over 13 years in long term foster care. Many of my foster children have stayed in touch with me throughout their lives and I will soon be a grandmother for the first time, to a baby that will be born to one of my former foster children.

I obtained my Associate Degree in Ohio and attended the University of Maine at Orono focusing on Education, specifically Early Childhood Education.

I worked for eleven years as an assistant teacher in a kindergarten classroom for children with developmental delays. From 1995 to 2001 I worked for the Maine Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, serving as Executive Director during the last two years. I stopped working outside the home when I adopted my twin sons who came to me at age six months in 2001. Then, in November, 2008, I became a Family Partner with the ChildSTEPS Project and was assigned to Kennebec Behavioral Health.

I serve as co-chair of the Foster, Adoptive and Kinicare Parent Advisory Committee and as president of the board of directors for the Statewide Association of Fostering Enterprises.

Through years of parenting children with special needs, I have developed strategies, resources and relationships that I am hoping to share with parents facing similar difficulties and challenges.

“Finding one’s voice often comes during the quietest moment.”

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