



**WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAMATION
Recognizing May 2026 as
National Foster Care Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of National Foster Care Awareness; and

WHEREAS, Wake County is raising awareness of the needs of children and youth in the foster care system who require temporary – and sometimes permanent – homes with safe, nurturing families; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the state of North Carolina had a total of 5,820 licensed foster homes; in contrast, in 2023, there were 5,616 licensed foster care homes in the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the number of youths in foster care in the state of North Carolina totaled 11,315. In 2023, the number of youths in foster care was 10,243; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Wake County had 539 children in the foster care system ages, but only 76 foster homes were available for placement. The decrease in the number of foster homes derived from people deciding to no longer serve as a foster parent or existing foster parents retired and no longer had the capacity to assist; and

WHEREAS, the first National Foster Care Awareness Month was celebrated more than 35 years ago when U.S. President Ronald Reagan established it through a presidential proclamation. Since that time, the event has been celebrated each year to bring attention to the continual needs that exist for those in foster care; and

WHEREAS, in addition to annual proclamations by the US president, National Foster Care Month is also supported by other organizations and entities, such as the Children's Bureau, the Children's Welfare Information Gateway, and the National Foster Youth Institute. The Children's Bureau's National Foster Care Month campaign recognizes the important role that people from all parts of child welfare play in supporting children, youth, and families. This year's theme highlights the need to create a child welfare system that authentically engages and supports young people who are preparing to leave foster care.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 2026 as **NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH** and urges the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support this important issue.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of May 2026.

Donald Mial, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners