

Wake County Board of Commissioners Proclaim

Month of September 2016 As Kinship Care Month

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our County, and

WHEREAS, nationally over five million children are living with grandparents in Kinship Care Placements, 100,669 reside in the state of NC and 4,633 of these young people reside in Wake County North Carolina,

WHEREAS, grandparents and other relatives provide for and nurture relative children on a day-to-day basis, often from early childhood to adulthood; these relative caregivers unexpectedly put their life plans on hold to raise children, and

WHEREAS, relationships with family are essential for children and adults, it is our obligation to preserve kinship, sibling, and other family connections for children of Wake County, and

WHEREAS, children have the greatest opportunities to thrive when they are raised with family members on a permanent basis, and

WHEREAS, the community becomes increasingly aware of the challenges and lack of resources faced by grandparents and other relatives raising relative children; we are committed to work in partnership with the community to ensure kinship families have access to services that can enable kinship youth to flourish in all facets of their life,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Wake County Board of Commissioners, does herby proclaim September 2016 as *"Kinship Care Month"* in Wake County and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to include their participation in our efforts to support Kinship Care Families to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

This 6th day of September, 2016

James West, Chairman Wake County Board of Commissioners