

Item Title: Proclamation Recognizing National Foster Care Month

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners proclaim the month of May as National Foster Care Month and recognizes and honors Foster Parents for the work of caring for abused and neglected children.

Item Summary:

May is National Foster Care Month. Each May, Foster Care Month provides an opportunity for people across the nation to focus attention on the year-round needs of American children and youth in foster care. The campaign raises awareness about foster care and encourages many more citizens to get involved in the lives of these youth - whether as foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers and other ways.

Each May, we salute the compassionate people who make a difference serving as foster parents. We salute our many faith partners that help support our 182 foster families and our youth in foster care. We give many thanks to our Wake County foster parents, these unsung heroes, who freely give of themselves serving and meeting the needs of over 650 abused or neglected children in Wake County's Foster Care program. Many formerly abused or neglected youth will safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives or be adopted by loving families because of the wonderful work provided by these caring citizens. Forty-one percent of the youth in Wake County were adopted from the Foster Care System in FY2017.

This year's theme is "It's All Relative: Supporting Kinship Connections." All children deserve a safe, happy life including the 430,000 American children and youth in foster care. Young people in foster care especially need nurturing adults on their side because their own families are in crisis and unable to care for them. Given the importance of National Foster Care Month, Wake County's Foster Care Program requests that the Board of Commissioners declares the month of May as National Foster Care Month. Wake County Human Services is a part of a collaborative that provides services to youth exiting Foster Care.

Attachments:

1. National Foster Care Month Proclamation