



- WHEREAS, the foster care system has approximately 10,678 children in foster care in North Carolina, and over 327 children in Gaston County today who depend on foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other community members to help them find permanent homes and connections; and,
- WHEREAS, foster care is an exceptional resource for keeping children safe in temporary circumstances and providing stability, direction, and comfort to one of our community's most vulnerable populations; and,
- WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, communities, and public and private organizations working to increase public awareness of the needs of children both in foster care and exiting foster care, and of the enduring and valuable contributions made by foster and kinship families; and,
- WHEREAS, we honor those committed individuals and families, who open their homes and hearts to children and provide a warm and nurturing environment, spaces to encourage and promote healing, and a secure place to live and grow; and,
- WHEREAS, our community, across all aspects of faith-based, non-profit, corporate businesses, and professional organizations volunteer their time, energy, and talents on behalf of children in foster care, and support individuals and families who have chosen to be foster parents; and,
- WHEREAS, dedicated child welfare professionals and community partners work to achieve permanency for children through reunification with birth parents, kinship care, adoption, or legal guardianship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of May 2026 as

## **FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH**

and extends its grateful appreciation to all foster parents, past, present, and future, and to family members, volunteers, mentors, and child welfare professionals in Gaston County.

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jim Bailey

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Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

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Cathy Cloninger

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Tom Keigher

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Allen R. Fraley

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Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2026