



- WHEREAS, there are over 10,000 children in foster care in North Carolina, and 350 in Gaston County 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 provides a pivotal role in helping put families back together. It can never and should never replace families; and,
- WHEREAS, a child's success is best supported in a system that is family-focused, child-centered, and community based; and,
- WHEREAS, through the partnerships among foster parents, child welfare staff, and public and private child-serving organizations, efforts are made to ensure that children are safe and their voices are heard as we work for the success of every child; and,
- WHEREAS, child welfare professionals work to achieve permanency for children through reunification with birth parents, kinship care, adoption, or legal guardianship; and,
- WHEREAS, this annual observance calls attention to the value of foster care as a temporary service that provides help, healing and hope to children and youths in our county.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of May 2019 as

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

and extends its grateful appreciation to all foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, and child welfare professionals in Gaston County. Further, the Board commends this observance to its citizens as an opportunity for communities, businesses, faith-based organizations, and families to participate in efforts to serve foster children throughout the year.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown, Vice-Chairman

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 28th Day of May 2019