



- WHEREAS, there are over 11,000 children in foster care in North Carolina, and over 409 children 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 is an irreplaceable 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, children in foster care continue to face challenges even more pronounced by the opioid crisis and substance abuse disorder, which affect parents and guardians causing barriers and delays to reunification of families, and uncertainty and instability in normal activities such as school, sports, and church. Social workers, foster parents, and dedicated community members work tirelessly to assure they have safe, secure, and stable homes; and,
- WHEREAS, we honor those committed individuals 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, volunteer and professional organizations continues to 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 2023 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.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 25th Day of May 2023