



WHEREAS, there are approximately 415,000 children and youth in foster care across the country, 10,000 in North Carolina, and 265 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, reunification is both the most common goal for children in foster care as well as the most common outcome. Child welfare professionals work to achieve permanency for children through reunification with birth parents, kinship care, adoption, or legal guardianship. Outcomes for youth who exit foster care without permanency are improved when their transition into adulthood includes a relationship or lifelong connection with a caring adult; and,

WHEREAS, communities play an important role in supporting all children and youth, but especially those in foster care. Individuals and families can help foster youth move closer to family reunification and establish permanent connections by becoming a foster parent, engaging in volunteer work, or mentoring children who need an adult role model.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of May 2016 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.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Tracy L. Philbeck

Joe D. Carpenter

Mickey Price

Allen R. Fraley

Jason Williams, Vice-Chairman

To be adopted the 24th day of May 2016