



- WHEREAS, there are approximately 415,000 children and youth in foster care across the country, 10,806 in North Carolina, and 325 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, we recognize the tremendous difficulties older children in foster care face as they work towards independence. Teenagers and young adults in foster care need healthy and compassionate lifelong supports to increase the possibility for long term success; and,
- WHEREAS, we have a duty to empower each child so they have the same sense of promise and possibility as any other young person, no matter who they are, where they come from, or what their circumstances may be; 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, 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 2018 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.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 22nd Day of May 2018