



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 is an invaluable 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 are in the midst of crisis during a global pandemic. Social workers, foster parents, and dedicated community members work tirelessly to assure they receive safe, secure, and stable homes; and,

WHEREAS, we honor the selfless individuals who open their homes to nurture and promote healing, unification, and family based empowerment and acknowledge the additional challenges imposed by the coronavirus; and,

WHEREAS, dedicated individuals, families, professionals, and faith based and community organizations who support children in foster care help maintain essential parent-child relationships and support parents working to regain custody of their children; and,

WHEREAS, dedicated child welfare professionals 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 2020 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.

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Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

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Chad Brown

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Bob Hovis

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Jack B. Brown, Vice-Chairman

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Tom Keigher

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Allen R. Fraley

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Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2020