

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

## PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS FOSTER CARE MONTH

WHEREAS, in California there are nearly 75,000 children in foster care today who need lifelong, permanent connections with family and supportive adults; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Cruz County there are approximately 250 children, ranging from fragile at-risk newborns to teenagers, in foster care at any given time; and

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

WHEREAS, over 200 Santa Cruz County resource families open their homes and their hearts to children whose families are in crisis, and play a vital role in helping children and families alike; and

WHEREAS, a small group of experienced Mentors have stepped forward to provide support and guidance to other resource parents as they navigate the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, foster parents, in conjunction with community partners, relatives, mentors, advocates and social workers, are a vital team of "partners in permanency" working to establish life-long connections for children and youth by preparing them to return home, to live with another family, or offering permanency by adopting them; and

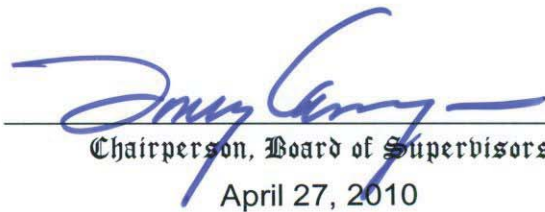
WHEREAS, these "partners in permanency" work together to ensure that no child or youth leaves foster care without a permanent connection to a nurturing adult; and

WHEREAS, many dedicated foster families adopt foster children, decreasing the number of available foster homes and increasing the need for more foster families; and

WHEREAS, many caring foster families, relative caregivers, and community-based organizations work year-round on behalf of our county's most vulnerable children and youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Campos, Chairperson of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim May, 2010, as Foster Care Month in Santa Cruz County and urge all citizens to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children and youth in foster care, foster parents, relative caregivers, and the child welfare professional staff working with them during this month and throughout the year.



  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

April 27, 2010

Date