

## National Foster Care Month

*"Change A Lifetime - Create A Lifelong Connection"*

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Share Your Heart



Open Your Home



Give Hope



**Get Involved ...  
Change a Lifetime**

**Cecilia Espinola, Director  
County of Santa Cruz, Human Resources Agency**

May is National Foster Care Month. Foster parents are a very important source of support for children when they are not able to remain safely in their own homes. More than 76,000 children are in foster care in California today - all of whom need stable loving and permanent homes. Foster parents share their lives with children in need and provide a nurturing stable home environment while their parents receive counseling, parenting education and other services to enable them to be reunited with their children. These resource families and the social workers that support them take on one of the greatest challenges our society generates. If you know a foster parent, please join me in thanking them and acknowledging these remarkable individuals who open their homes and their hearts to care for children in need ranging from newborns to teenagers. On Tuesday May 10th, HRA's Family and Children's Services Division will hold its annual Foster Parent Appreciation Day to thank our County's wonderful foster parents for all that they do to support children and families. The Board of Supervisors has also issued a proclamation to make a difference in the lives of children in foster care, go to [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org). For information about becoming a foster parent for a child in Santa Cruz County, go to [www.fostercare4kids.com](http://www.fostercare4kids.com).



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