



Foster Care Month May 2009

WHEREAS, in _____ County there are xxxxxx children and youth in foster care who need and deserve safe permanent connections to loving adults, a stable home and adequate preparation for a secure future;

WHEREAS, the needs of children and youth for belonging and unconditional emotional commitment are best met in families;

WHEREAS, _____ County has successfully supported permanent family connections for foster youth, provided supports for families at risk of entering the child welfare system, and changed practice to fully engage youth, family and communities thereby reducing the number of children in foster care;

WHEREAS, _____ County recognizes the enduring and valuable contribution of relatives and foster and adoptive parents who open their hearts, families and homes to vulnerable children and youth;

WHEREAS, _____ County recognizes the numerous individuals and public and private organizations who work to assure that the needs of children and youth living in and leaving foster care are met, that help provide foster and former foster children and youth with vital connections to their siblings, and that help launch young people into successful adulthood;

WHEREAS, there is new federal law that Fosters Connections to Success and Increases Adoptions by offering opportunities to promote permanent families for children in foster care, improve outcomes for older youth in foster care and increase support for Native American foster children, improve the quality of staff working with children youth in the child welfare system, expand our support of relative and adoptive caregivers, and assist older youth in securing meaningful supportive transitions from foster care;

WHEREAS, the new federal law affirms California's leadership and success in pioneering innovative child welfare approaches;

WHEREAS, _____ County is committed to working in partnership with the state of California and the federal government to continue to foster connections to success for all children and youth touched by the child welfare system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, by virtue of the authority vested in me as *(Governor/Mayor)* of *(state/city)*, do hereby proclaim May as FOSTER CARE MONTH in *(state/city)* and urge all citizens to volunteer their talents and energy on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents, relative caregivers, adoptive parents and professional child welfare staff during this month and throughout the year.