

## Foster Care Month

May 2026

**WHEREAS**, the family serves as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support for our children, and is the very foundation of our communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County recognizes that when children are provided opportunities to grow and develop in family settings, they are able to reach their full potential and as such, is committed to ensuring that children unable to be with their birth parents are placed in family-based care whenever possible; and,

**WHEREAS**, in Orange County, as of January, 1,936 children and youth were in a foster care placement, where they received compassion and nurturing in safe, secure, stable homes with relative caregivers, non-related extended family members (NREFMs), resource families and adoptive families; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County of Orange Social Services Agency's Child & Family Services Division is dedicated to promoting a kin-first culture built upon a continued commitment to ensuring children remain with their relatives and does so at a rate higher than any other county in the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, relative caregivers, NREFMs and other resource families open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, playing a vital role in helping children reach their full potential. Through these efforts, youth and families heal and reconnect, and adolescents successfully launch into adulthood; and,

**WHEREAS**, Orange County recognizes the many people who meet the needs of children and youth involved with the foster care system, and commend their extra focus on initiatives like minimizing the amount of youth in congregate care, recruiting and supporting resource families, and allowing siblings to remain connected to one another; and,

**WHEREAS**, employees of public and private organizations increase awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contributions of relative caregivers, NREFMs, resource families and adoptive families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES HEREBY DECLARE** the month of May 2026 to be Foster Care Month in Orange County to honor all relative caretakers, NREFMs, resource families and adoptive families for opening their hearts and homes to children in foster care and for loving these children like their own, and commends them for their devotion, compassion and commitment to helping improve the lives of Orange County children, youth and families.