

# DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## *Proclamation*

### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH | 2025

- WHEREAS,** the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the foundation of our communities and our State; and
- WHEREAS,** 390,000 children are currently in foster care nationwide because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 11,000 children live in foster care, and approximately 407 young adults ages 18 -21 in extended foster care in North Carolina because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** foster families, who open their homes and hearts as a support to families and not a substitute for parents, play a vital role in helping children and families to heal and reconnect and launching children into successful adulthood; and
- WHEREAS,** in Durham County, there were 187 children and youth in foster care on April 30, 2025, being provided with a safe, secure, and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family or kinship family, and 32 young adults ages 18 -21 in extended foster care; and
- WHEREAS,** the needs of the foster care population result in a greater call for skilled foster families, community resources and partnerships; and
- WHEREAS,** when children are placed with relatives or close family friends, they benefit from preserved family relationships and cultural identity, and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham County foster care system depends on the active support and involvement of the Durham community; and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham County Department of Social Services is joined by numerous individuals, public, and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care; and
- WHEREAS,** Foster Care Month is an opportunity to recognize the foster parents, kinship families, child welfare professionals, and advocates working to ensure children's safety, permanence, and well-being, and to spread awareness on behalf of children in foster care while being "Centered on Family, Strengthening Connections"; and
- WHEREAS,** The Durham County Department of Social Services encourages residents to volunteer their time, energy, and talents on behalf of children and their biological families, kinship caregivers, and foster parents during this month and throughout the year.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

### **"NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH"**

in Durham County and commend this observance to our community and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help raise hope and foster dreams of children and youth in foster care.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Nida Allam, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

