

Background:

The Board is requested to adopt a resolution proclaiming May as Foster Parent Recognition Month.

May is traditionally designated "Foster Parent Recognition Month" in Sonoma County. It is our pleasure and privilege to honor Sonoma County's foster parents. These hard-working individuals and couples provide vital care for abused and neglected infants, children and teens that have been removed from their homes. Currently, there are 536 Sonoma County children in placement 34 of them at Valley of the Moon Children's Home as of early April.

Foster families lovingly share their homes and hearts, nurturing children and youth. These youngsters may be in foster care for just a few weeks or for more than a year. Some children who cannot return to their birth parents, or live with extended family are eventually adopted by their foster parents. Other foster parents provide a stable home that assists teens to successfully transition into independent adult lives.

Some foster children have special medical needs and require transportation to treatment, sometimes as far away as Oakland, San Francisco and Palo Alto. The infants, many of whom have congenital conditions and are going through withdrawal from prenatal drug exposure, can require an extraordinary amount of skilled, patient, and loving care. Many foster children have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, drug abuse and other dysfunctional behavior and have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or other mental health needs.

Foster parents give a great deal of time and energy, sometimes forgoing sleep caring for the children in their care. They are positive role models and very special people. Their work is difficult and challenging, but their exceptional parenting has changed the lives of many children in our community. Foster parents are people with lots of patience, dedication, flexibility and a sense of humor. They have room in their homes and their hearts for children needing safe, loving care. We are extremely grateful to these giving, caring people who provide safe haven, hope and a vision of a better life for vulnerable children and teens. Please join us in thanking and congratulating the foster parents of Sonoma County for their great work.

Recommendation

Approve Gold Resolution declaring May 2009 Foster Parent Recognition Month

Attachments: Resolution

On File with Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If Other than "Requested")

Vote:

