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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **County Proclaims May Foster Care Month**

*Supervisors Honor Foster Parents and Seek Everyday Heroes  
to Open their Homes to Children in Need*

**SAN JOSE, CALIF** -- About 1,700 children in Santa Clara County live in out-of-home care; with foster families, relatives, extended family members, and other approved placements. Today, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors recognized May as Foster Care Month, and highlighted the commitment of foster parents to connect children and their families to resources, support systems and opportunities they need to thrive.

“We honor foster parents for opening their hearts and their homes to effectively meet the needs of our children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems,” said Supervisor Ken Yeager, chair of the board’s Children, Seniors and Families Committee. “Foster parents inspire us by providing nurturing and caring homes for our children who have nowhere else to turn.”

The county is also encouraging eligible residents who are willing to lend a hand to consider becoming foster parents to a child in need of a stable home.

“Foster families go the extra mile to offer support and to provide an essential role in the lives of foster children,” said Norma Doctor Sparks, Director of the Department of Family and Children’s Services. “All children need a meaningful connection to a caring and loving adult who provides hope and a lasting presence in their lives.”

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The Department of Family and Children's Services goal is for children to remain in their communities, so they can continue to attend their same schools, visit their friends and family members, and have a smoother transition when it is possible to reunite with their families. To ensure there is an adequate number of foster families for children of diverse backgrounds, the Department of Family and Children's Services is seeking many more everyday heroes to come forward and lend a hand to children who need a stable home to develop the essential skills that could make them grow into well adjusted and productive residents.

Santa Clara County Social Services Agency is continuously recruiting and training foster care parents. Prospective foster families of all ethnic backgrounds, especially bilingual families that can provide for medically fragile children, teens, and sibling groups of three or more or by providing respite foster care are especially needed.

Residents interested in becoming foster parents can find out about requirements and qualifications by calling 408-299-KIDS.

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