



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the youth of this state and nation are a precious resource and hope for the future, and they deserve every opportunity for a safe and happy life; and

Whereas, children and youth in foster care need meaningful connections to caring adults who become a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; every year, however, approximately 30,000 young people leave the foster care system nationwide without lifelong families; and

Whereas, across New York State, devoted foster parents make great efforts to change the life of a child or youth in foster care by adding the security and stability that can make a significant difference in their growth into adults; with the help of these individuals, many formerly abused or neglected children and teens reunite safely with their parents, are cared for by relatives, or are adopted by loving families; and

Whereas, thanks to the many advocates, child welfare professionals, elected officials, and support groups in New York State, the total number of children in foster care has decreased in recent years; while this reflects a positive trend, and the number of our state's children in foster care continues to decline, and there are still more than 20,000 children in foster care; and

Whereas, each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to shine a light on the experiences of children and youth in the foster care system, raising awareness of the urgent needs of these young people and encouraging citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers, or members of the community – with the hopes of changing a young life;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as

FOSTER CARE MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second
day of May in the year two thousand thirteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor