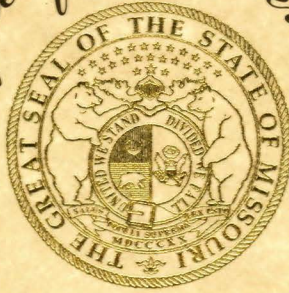


Office of the Governor



State of Missouri

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, every child deserves a loving family dedicated to helping them grow, learn, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, foster parents, including relative caregivers, provide the security, safety, and stability children need to overcome past traumatic experiences and reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, more than half of youth in care have the advantage of living with a relative; therefore, nonrelative placements are needed for the remaining youth who do not have relatives available and are in need of the support of foster families and the community; and

WHEREAS, Missouri foster parents and relative providers are caring for more than 12,000 children and youth in out-of-home placement today; and

WHEREAS, there is an ever-present need for additional foster parents to ensure that children – especially older youth, children with complex needs, and siblings – have a safe, stable home in their community; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the important role foster parents and relative providers play in caring for children who have experienced abuse and neglect, supporting family reunification and building strong communities; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, nonprofit organizations, and public servants who are dedicated to raising awareness about the needs of children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, we all play a role in ensuring Missouri's children are healthy, safe, and able to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, we thank all of our foster parents, relative and nonrelative, and all of our community partners who support them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim May 2024, to be

FOSTER CARE MONTH

in Missouri and encourage all Missourians to educate themselves regarding the need for foster parents in their communities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 6th day of May, 2024.



Michael L. Parson

Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jay Ashcraft
SECRETARY OF STATE