

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



602A

FROM: Department of Public Social Services

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 5, 2009

SUBJECT: May 2009 Foster Care Month

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors declare May 2009 as Foster Care month in the County of Riverside and approve the attached proclamation.

BACKGROUND:

In Riverside County, there are over 3,980 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure, and stable home through Foster Families. These families offer their homes and love in caring for children whose families are in crisis. The support, compassion and nurturing provided by our foster families help children in their healing process.

Departmental Concurrence

(CONTINUED 2 Pages)

Susan Loew

Susan Loew, Director
Department of Public Social Services

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

BY: *Debra Cournoyer*
Debra Cournoyer

County Executive Office Signature

Dept's Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:
 Consent
 Policy

FROM: Department of Public Social Services

DATE: May 5, 2009

SUBJECT: May 2009 Foster Care Month

PAGE: 2

BACKGROUND (Cont'd):

Foster Care Month originated in 1988 when the National Foster Parent Association advocated for an annual proclamation which was issued by President George H. Bush. The main focus was to provide appreciation and recognition for the tremendous efforts and contributions of foster parents across the nation.

In Riverside County there are currently 888 licensed foster care homes, 1,155 relative and non-relative extended family members (NREFM), 864 foster family agency homes and 87 group home organizations serving over 3,980 children. These homes provide safe, stable and nurturing environments to children until they can be reunited with their biological parents or placed in a permanent home. With guidance from supportive adults, foster children do overcome the trauma of previous abuse and neglect. Without these permanent connections, former foster children are far more likely to endure homelessness, poverty, compromised health, unemployment, incarceration and other adversities after they leave the foster care system.

Foster care families are helping to build a brighter future for the children and youth they serve. By proclaiming May 2009 to be Foster Care Month in the County of Riverside, the Board of Supervisors continues a tradition of commitment and support for extraordinary efforts of foster care families serving the communities in our county. This recognition is to take place during the same month that the State of California and the Federal Government also recognize the foster care community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This Agreement has no fiscal impact or exchange of funds.

Foster Care Month May 2009

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our State, and

WHEREAS, in Riverside County there are 3,980 children and youth in foster care being provided with a safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family, and

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives, and

WHEREAS, foster, kinship and adoptive families, who open their homes and hearts and support children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect, thereby assisting young people transition successfully into adulthood, and

WHEREAS, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, and

WHEREAS the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents, and the foster care "system" is only as good as those who choose to be part of it;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT, THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, do hereby proclaim May 2009 as FOSTER CARE MONTH and urge all citizens to serve an active role in making a difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care.