

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH! Ideas for Celebrating Foster Parents and Families

The ideas offered below have been used successfully by foster care agencies across the country.

Special activities to plan in May

- Issue a proclamation to recognize foster parents for their many contributions (see sample proclamation on the CHAMPS website)
- Hold a press conference for the signing of proclamations by governors/mayors recognizing community service provided by foster parents and families.
- Send thank you notes to foster parents. Include a copy of the proclamation.
- Issue news releases and photographs to local media.
- Host a special event, such as a banquet with dinner and dancing, to recognize foster parents and families; include an awards ceremony.
- Involve youth in care and alumni in sponsoring foster parent and family recognition events.
- Involve the business community in supporting foster parents and families by donating awards, door prizes, discounts, complimentary services (manicures, massages, lawn mowing).
- Arrange a “Capitol Day” for foster parents and families to meet and educate lawmakers about issues of importance to them.
- Host a candlelight vigil to bring attention to the supports needed by foster parents and families.
- Develop a “Ribbon Campaign” by asking community members to support foster families by wearing a ribbon bow.

Special activities to plan throughout the year, including May:

- Include foster parents prominently in your communications. Share success stories.
- Plan a fundraiser, such as a walk-a-thon, to raise money for supports and services for parents and children; this is also a way to educate the public and recruit foster families.
- Invite foster families to a “Zoo Day” or “Museum Day” with the support of the local zoo and children’s museums.
- Enlist civic organizations to plan programs to recognize the contribution of foster parents and families.
- Post on billboards messages like: “Thank you, foster parents” and share more information.

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