



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS,** every child deserves to grow up in a supportive, loving home where they can thrive and prosper; and

**WHEREAS,** in the United States there are over 407,000 children and youth in foster care, and 34 percent were placed with relatives or kin; and

**WHEREAS,** in North Carolina, more than 12,000 children are waiting for their "forever home"; and

**WHEREAS,** in Our Community, there are approximately 98 licensed foster homes, and about 500 children in foster care in any given month; and

**WHEREAS,** most of the children in foster care are school-age children, teenagers, groups of siblings who want to stay together, children with special needs and children of color; and

**WHEREAS,** supporting foster care children, their foster families, biological families, and services that support foster children can change generations, break cycles of abuse, prevent exploitation, and give children the opportunity to thrive.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, recognize **May 2, 2023** as

## **NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS DAY**

**IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.

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Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk