



Greene County Commissioners' Office

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioners issue proclamation for Foster Parent Appreciation Month

WAYNESBURG, PA. – During their recent meeting, Greene County Commissioners proclaimed May 2019 as Foster Parent Appreciation Month.

The proclamation states that 122 children receive care from Greene County foster families “who unselfishly give love, security and guidance,” and that foster families provide children with a loving and caring environment until their own families are better able to support them.

“Throughout Greene County’s rich history, the very foundation has been the family,” the proclamation states. “When children have the opportunity to learn and grow in a loving, supportive home, they mature into responsible, productive and contributing members of our communities.”

Greene County Commissioners said that in addition to having a strong network of foster families, the county has foster parents who work in conjunction with Greene County Children and Youth Services in preparing children in need to meet the challenges that they will encounter in daily life.

In presenting the proclamation, Commissioners said they “encourage all citizens to recognize the invaluable contributions foster families give to our children, and to recognize foster family care and the valuable services they provide to all families.”

In attendance for the proclamation being issued were representatives from Greene County Children and Youth Services. Michelle Howard, CYS Casework Supervisor,

thanked the Commissioners for their support of CYS and also for recognizing the county's dedicated foster parents.

Howard recognized CYS staff members and representatives in attendance for the proclamation presentation, and stressed to the Commissioners that the County is in need of more foster parents.

"Greene County has 122 children in foster care, with 48 percent of those children being placed in Greene County homes," she said. "There is a great need in our County for more foster families who are willing and able to help our local children in need."

If anyone is interested in becoming a foster family, please contact Victoria Stewart at CYS, 724-852-5217.

Howard also stressed the importance of what foster parents do for the children, and also for the County.

"Child welfare is by nature a difficult job for the front-line workers; however, it is a job that could not be done without our dedicated and caring foster families," she said.

"These families make a choice to open their homes to children in need that are unable to stay with their biological families for a number of reasons. The children that they welcome into their lives come with many appointments, therapies, visits and a host of other responsibilities that the foster parents' own children may not have; yet, foster parents rise to the challenge on a daily basis."

Howard told the Commissioners that the importance of the role that foster parents play "is often overlooked and taken for granted, and we are grateful for this opportunity to recognize their tireless dedication to the children they care for."



In the photo:

Pictured (l. to r.), first row: Sarah Braddock, Greene County Children and Youth Services Casework Manager; Pat Lemley, CYS Advisory Board Chair; Donna Neino, CYS Advisory Board Member; Michelle Howard, CYS Casework Supervisor; Michelle Daff, CYS Caseworker; and Beth Booker, CYS Casework Supervisor.

Second row: Kevin Freyder, CYS Solicitor; John Hough, CYS Caseworker; Davine Arnold, CYS Casework Supervisor; Greene County Commissioners Dave Coder and Archie Trader; Stacey Courtwright, CYS Administrator; Jessica Sphar, CYS Deputy Administrator; Victoria Stewart, CYS Caseworker; and Commissioner Blair Zimmerman.