



# FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH **SPECIAL EDITION**

*“Anyone who does  
anything to help a child in  
his life is a hero.”*

— Fred Rogers

Dear CYFS Foster Parents,

May is **Foster Parent Appreciation Month** and there is nothing more special to us at CYFS than celebrating the commitment you have to our youth in care!

Whether you are a licensed HMR, unlicensed HMR, or a traditionally licensed foster caregiver, you are the heroes of our agency. **You work** tirelessly around the clock caring for our youth, giving us the ability to do our jobs. **You are** the ones answering the calls in the middle of the night to take placement of our youth. **You are** the ones who are taking our youth to doctor, dentist, counseling, school appointments and so much more! **You have made** our youth a part of your lives and the lives of your families, sharing with them your traditions, values, and love. **You have given** our youth a place to call home while they overcome the challenges that life has brought them.

All of us at CYFS want you to know how valuable you are to us not just for your dedication to caring for our youth but also for your willingness to go beyond the ordinary and become extraordinary to make a difference in the life of a child!

**Your CYFS Child Welfare Team**

*“Heroes are  
ordinary people  
who make  
themselves  
extraordinary.”*

— Gerard Way

# NEW AND RENEWED

## FOSTER FAMILIES

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

*"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."*

— Fred Rogers

Laura Adams	Maria Del Carmen Moran	Jacqueline Hughes	Alanna Pelton
Tessa Adams	Christine Dhabalt	Jodi Lyn Humphries	Amber Raimondo
Leann Althiser	Lucy Diaz	Jessica Ingold	Christina Reese
Richard Anliker	Kaitlyn Dixon	Heather Innis	Christine Refugio
Linda Ash	Andrew Doxsie	Jessica Johnson	Kari Righter
Latrina Bailey	Lisa Draper	Kirstin Johnson	Amanda Rubush
Jovonna Bair	Jacqueline Drummond	Robyn Jones	Amber Sanders
Denise Baker	Debra Durant	Samantha Jones	Shayla Sanders
Crystal Barber	Connor Dusch	Neil Kendregan	Carol Sanderson
Melinda Barksdale	Heather Eash	Magen Kennedy	Vicki Scala
Curtis Batchelder	Joshua Elam	Tiffany King	Kimberly Senteras
Marica Benz	Jananna Ellison	Melissa Kirby	Tara Shelor
Ryan Bevers	Brandy Emo	Sharlene Koch	Victoria Shimkus
Teresa Bice	Danette Eutis	Diana Kraus	Crystal Sluder
Suzanne Blocker	Wendy Feltz	Kelly Lake	David Stadler
Peggie Bolden-Hamilton	Lori Fenner-Vegovisch	Leslie Lawson	Donna Stromberg
Megan Boyle-Cowell	Thomas Fields	Aleasha Lee	Natalie Strong
Tammy Brentise	Donna Fischer	Cindy Lewis	Shannon Summers
Jennifer Britz	Nicole Fitting	Alicia Lipe	Lucretia Tackett
Amanda Buchanan	Kendra Fluech	Letitia Little	Sarah Taylor Renfro
Eileen Bulthuis	Diane Fountain	Julie Lobello	Robert Tolson
Christopher Burdin	Dianne Gillespie	Benjamin Lyskowka	Sabrina Torres
Elizabeth Burke	Danny Ginger	Dawnie Mahrt	Octavia Tousseau
Debra Bushman	Tina Gluck	Amy Mason	Nancy Towns
Katherine Cain	Brenda Griffith	Katie Maynard	Jessica Tucker
Brooke Campbell	Seth Groves	Autumn McDevitt	Brittany Turner
Sonya Campbell	Tommy Hammond	Talor Lynn Meadows	Haeli Turner
Clinton Casford	Ruth Handzus	Addison Mears	Rebecca Tuttle
Jona Cavanagh	Larry Hearn	Jamie Meister	Falon Veselsky
Nancy Charles	Danine Heaton	Allen Miesner	Shelby Waibel
Clemencia Cisneros	Mary Hein	Latisha Millbrook	Shannon Walz
Margaret Clark	Mindy Heinz	Ashley Minard	Brittany Webb
Tisha Clark	Tiffany Hicks	Leighann Mitchum	Catherine White
Curtis Cohee	Penny Higgins	Nicole Moore	Deshonna Williams
Jennifer Corley	Elizabeth Hillestad	Jamie Mullens	Heidi Williams
Dora Cosme	Rachel Hofer	Michael Nesbitt	Colton Wood
Spencer Crabb	Augusta Hoffstatter	Robin Nevling	Michelle Woodrum
Bonnie Craft	Elizabeth Horton	Tanya Ordaz	Stacey Yates
Patricia Custer	Megan Howard	Tina Ortiz	Robin Youngblood
Gretchen Davis	Jason Howlett	Crystal Quart	
Ira Dawson	Faye Hughes	Cathryn Parker	

We asked our child welfare staff to share some names of our foster parents who they believe are more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Foster parents who they believe have championed for our youth!

*“Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.”*  
— Rita F. Pierson

## **THE CAPTAIN AMERICA AWARD**

These superhero foster parents continue to serve our youth by taking time out for them, advocating for them, and helping to give our youth and their families a chance to become better in life. These foster parents have hearts of gold and that is the whole reason they continue to serve.

Angela Dankenbring

Peggie Bolden Hamilton

## **THE SPIDER-MAN AWARD**

These superhero foster parents may not be able to make a difference to all our youth, but they are going to try to make a difference one youth at a time.

Shauna and Misty Darr

Zeda Elliot

## **THE WONDER WOMAN AWARD**

These superhero foster parents work alongside our staff to come up with ways to help make sure our youth are in a safe and loving home. Sometimes it may be taking a youth late on a Saturday night or offering to drive a youth to school.

Trisha Tibbs

Julie and Derek

## **THE SUPERGIRL AWARD**

These superhero foster parents are new to foster care but did not let that stop them from jumping in with both feet to help out our youth! Even before the ink on their license was dry!

Seth and Kirstin Johnson

Jessica and Larry Hearn

## **THE CAPTAIN MARVEL AWARD**

These superhero foster parents are committed to going the extra mile to advocate for our youth to make sure their voices are heard and their needs are met!

Estelle Torres and Chris Matina

Sue Lowe-Rice

## THE BATMAN AWARD

These superhero foster parents have proven themselves to be indispensable. They consistently step in to take kids with significant behavioral or medical challenges. These caregivers always consider how they can help so a child does not need to go to shelter or offer respite to help give our staff a chance to look for more permanent placement options.

Heroes that have been dedicated champions to our youth for more than 15 years:

Ceola Anderson	Patricia Jackson
Karla Anderson-Nolan	Anissa Lewis
James Barton	Darcy McGraw
Anna Daugherty	Tina Russell
Joann Edwards	Ricky Thomas
Julia Fitzgerald-Smith	Belinda Williams
Joanna Geyer	Marcia Berbaum

## IN MEMORANDUM

These superhero foster parents have proven themselves to be indispensable. They consistently step in to take kids with significant behavioral or medical challenges. These caregivers always consider how they can help so a child does not need to go to shelter or offer respite to help give our staff a chance to look for more permanent placement options.

Natalie Strong

Tiffani Graham



*“A hero is not shaped by their titles or trophies, but by their actions and character.”*

— Kobe Bryant

Lyle Kirkman

Melissa Cole



*“A hero is someone who has given their life to something bigger than oneself.”*

— Joseph Campbell