

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****May 11, 2017****Contact: Jon Keeling****Phone: (614) 466-6650****Email: [jon.keeling@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:jon.keeling@jfs.ohio.gov)**

### **ODJFS Encourages More Ohioans to Become Foster Parents**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) joins Gov. Kasich and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor in recognizing May as Foster Care Month in Ohio and celebrating the valuable services of kinship and foster caregivers. ODJFS also encourages more Ohioans to consider becoming kinship and foster caregivers.

“Ohio has more than 14,000 children in foster care, and the people who provide them with safe, stable homes are true champions,” said ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungey. “I’m grateful to them for their dedication and generosity, and I encourage more Ohioans to consider joining their ranks. Being a foster parent can be challenging but also extremely rewarding. It’s a rare chance to make a lifelong, positive difference in the life of a child.”

In Ohio, foster parents are licensed through a county public children services agency or private agency certified by ODJFS to approve and recommend foster parents. Foster parents must be at least 21 and able to meet a child’s basic needs. They also must complete training as part of a home study process.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, call or visit your public children services agency. A directory of county agencies is available at [jfs.ohio.gov](http://jfs.ohio.gov).

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