



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **May Is National Foster Care Month**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is joining Governor Kasich in recognizing May as National Foster Care Month and urging all Ohioans to do something positive to make a difference for children and youth in foster care.

Ohio has 12,093 children in foster care and 5,861 licensed foster homes. In addition, many children live with grandparents or other relatives when their parents cannot care for them. This kinship care increases stability for children by keeping them closer to their siblings, extended families, neighborhoods and schools.

“Ohio’s foster and kinship families are our unsung heroes,” said ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. “The national theme for this year’s campaign is ‘You Can Change a Lifetime,’ and Ohio’s kinship and foster families definitely do just that. They open their homes and hearts to support children during some of the most difficult times in their lives. Often, they are the reason families are reunited. In other cases, they decide to make lifelong, permanent commitments to the children in their care. Please join us in recognizing and honoring Ohio’s foster and kinship families during Foster Care Month.”

Local children services agencies regularly recruit potential families to serve in this important role. A directory of county children services agencies can be found at [www.jfs.ohio.gov/county](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/county).