

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

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Interim Director Matt Damschroder today recognized May as National Foster Care Month to highlight the continued need for stable, loving homes for displaced youth. Over 15,000 Ohio children are in foster care.

“Foster families who open their hearts and homes deserve our praise and support,” said Governor DeWine, who issued a proclamation in recognition of the month. “Their selfless acts show the character of our communities and provide a temporary safe haven for children when it’s not safe for them to remain in their own homes.”

This year’s national theme is “Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not as a Substitute for Parents.” More than half of the 423,000 youth in foster care nationally have a case plan goal of reunifying with a parent or primary caregiver. In Ohio last year, 7,700 foster children were reunified with their families.

“As an adoptive parent as well as a foster parent, I’ve seen how foster care supports not only the child but also the parent-child relationship,” said ODJFS Interim Director Damschroder. “Foster care can be both a bridge and a unifier for families, but ultimately it is a caring way to do what’s best for the child. We have more than 8,000 foster care households in Ohio, and I am grateful for their empathy, compassion, and commitment.”

To learn more about becoming a foster caregiver or other ways to support children and youth, visit [FosterandAdopt.jfs.ohio.gov](https://FosterandAdopt.jfs.ohio.gov).

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*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.*

