

WHEREAS, more than 16,200 children are under the care of the Department of Children and Family Services due to abuse, neglect or abandonment; and

WHEREAS, thousands of caring foster families have opened their hearts and homes to provide for the physical, health and educational needs of those children; and

WHEREAS, foster parents meet a very special need in our society by ensuring children receive attention, respect, love, compassion, and guidance; and

WHEREAS, foster parents are called upon to support both children and their parents during efforts to safely reunite families of origin, when possible, and contribute to alternative permanency options; and

WHEREAS, specialized training and support services are now being provided to foster parents serving older youth, who now constitute the majority of children in DCFS care, as well as youth with intensive special needs; and

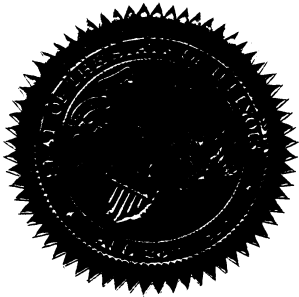
WHEREAS, there remains a significant demand for additional caring adults in Illinois to consider opening their homes to children in need of foster care; and

WHEREAS, Illinois foster parents deserve our gratitude and respect for the work they do everyday to ensure that our children can move beyond the trauma that brought them into the child welfare system and prepare them for fulfilling, productive lives in the future:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2007 as **FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH** in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this THIRD day of APRIL, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
SEVEN, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and EIGHTY-NINTH



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SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR