

# CITY OF YAKIMA P R O C L A M A T I O N

*WHEREAS*, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our community; and

*WHEREAS*, there are families struggling with providing care for their children and need support; and

*WHEREAS*, sadly there are children who come into the care of the State of Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families every day for reasons such as abandonment, death of parents, abuse and neglect and other traumatic life experiences; and

*WHEREAS*, in the State of Washington more than 10,000 children and youth on average are placed in foster care annually; and the demand persists for more foster and kinship families to provide caring and supportive homes during difficult periods in the lives of kids and their families; and

*WHEREAS*, children and youth in foster and kinship care range in age from infant to 21 years old and these children often have unique medical, psychological, or physical needs; and

*WHEREAS*, foster care and kinship providers give these children a safe environment where patience, kindness, and caring can be experienced, and learned and where each child's life can change for the better, and where parents accept as part of their reward the opportunity to see their children develop, grow, and become a viable part of the community with a stronger self-image; and

*WHEREAS*, a network of foster and kinship families is a fundamental part of providing constant nurturing and support to children and families who need time to heal and put their lives back together; and

*WHEREAS*, the goal is to reunify these children and teens with their biological families; and

*WHEREAS*, if these children and teens are not reunited with their parents, these same foster and kinship families will often become an adoptive home or permanent placement for these children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families, and

*WHEREAS*, each day professionals in private, public, and tribal agencies come together to support kids and families; working diligently to ensure safe and loving homes for children; and work together to support kids and families with the resources, support, and warmth they need and deserve; and

*WHEREAS*, community members are encouraged to demonstrate their respect and gratitude for foster and kinship families who unselfishly share their lives; and

*WHEREAS*, during National Foster Care Month we, in the City of Yakima, celebrate all those who have invited a child in need into their hearts and into their homes; and express our sincere appreciation for all who help make foster care and kinship care possible.

*NOW THEREFORE*, I, Patricia Byers, Mayor of the City of Yakima and on behalf of the City Council hereby proclaim the month of May as

## *“Foster Care and Kinship Care Month”*

in the City of Yakima and urge all its citizens to recognize the valuable service of foster and kinship families and thank them for their service to children and teens in their community.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

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Patricia Byers, Mayor