



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, our state recognizes that every child has the right to grow up healthy and safe with love, protection, and stability of a permanent family; and

**Whereas**, although the number of children in foster care in New York State has steadily decreased due to the diligent efforts of local, state and nonprofit child welfare partnerships, there are still approximately 20,000 boys and girls – some with disabilities, cross-systems challenges, and barriers to permanency – that remain looking for dependable and caring parents; and

**Whereas**, some of these young men and women are aging out of the foster care system without a permanent home, making it harder for them to get a good education, find a job, and build a better life; and

**Whereas**, New York has invested both financial and human resources in Kinship Guardianship Assistance, Youth in Progress, At-Risk Youth College Access Challenge Grants, and Education and Training Voucher Programs that are increasing permanency and improving well-being, reducing rates of re-entry into foster care, and helping young people in foster care transition to a brighter, more productive future; and

**Whereas**, to give foster care youth the support they need, New Yorkers as mentors, teachers, faith leaders, caseworkers, advocates, and adoptive and foster parents are lending strength and support to our most vulnerable children and youth; and

**Whereas**, during Foster Care Month in May, we honor these dedicated New Yorkers who are answering the call to action and we mark this month by raising awareness of the need for mentors, volunteers, and adoptive and foster parents to improve the lives of children and youth in foster care throughout New York State;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2014 as

## FOSTER CARE MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day of April in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor