



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our greater society; and

**Whereas**, the people of the State of New York are known for their compassion, and have a long-standing tradition of opening their hearts and homes to children in need of a stable and caring atmosphere; and

**Whereas**, foster, kinship and adoptive families welcome into their lives children whose families are in crisis and they play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect and, through such support, they help set young people on the path toward becoming successful, productive adults; and

**Whereas**, in New York State, today there are over 26,000 children and youth in foster care; and

**Whereas**, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

**Whereas**, dedicated foster families frequently adopt their foster children, however, there remains a need for more foster families; and

**Whereas**, numerous individuals and public and private organizations throughout New York State work tirelessly to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care; and

**Whereas**, the foster care system is only as good as those who choose to be part of it, and many more people can do so by making an enduring and valuable contribution as foster parents;

**Now, Therefore**, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2009 as

## FOSTER CARE MONTH

in the Empire State and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will help change a lifetime for children and youth in foster care.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth  
day of April in the year two thousand nine.

*David A. Paterson*

Governor

*Lawrence Schwartz*  
Secretary to the Governor