

Town of Apex, North Carolina

PROCLAMATION

From the Office of the Mayor

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

***WHEREAS,** Every child deserves to grow up in a supportive, loving home where they can thrive and prosper,*

***WHEREAS,** In the United States there are over 407,000 children and youth in foster care, and 34 percent were placed with relatives or kin,*

***WHEREAS,** In North Carolina, more than 12,000 children are waiting for their "forever home",*

***WHEREAS,** In Wake County, more than 400 more beds are needed to care for foster children,*

***WHEREAS,** Children available for adoption are currently receiving foster care services. Most of the children waiting to be adopted are school-age children, teenagers, groups of siblings who want to stay together, children with special needs and children of color,*

***WHEREAS,** Relational permanency is fundamental to the well-being of children and youth. Maintaining relationships with relatives and kin can help provide a sense of belonging for young people in care*

***WHEREAS,** Supporting foster care children, their foster families, biological families, and services that support foster children can change generations, break cycles of abuse, prevent exploitation, and give children the opportunity to thrive,*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Jacques Gilbert, Mayor of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2022, to be Foster Care Awareness Month.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Apex, this 12th day of April, 2022.*

Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor