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GOV. GUINN ANNOUNCES NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH FOR NEVADA

CARSON CITY - Gov. Kenny Guinn today issued a proclamation recognizing National Foster Care Month. The Governor's proclamation is part of a nationwide celebration that highlights the needs of children and youth in foster care as well as honors the foster families who provide safe and supportive homes for young people who are temporarily unable to live with their parents.

"Foster parents generously open up their homes to nurture and support these children who have suffered the separation from their own families," Gov. Guinn said. "I strongly believe that every Nevada child deserves a stable, loving family and a chance to succeed as an adult. National Foster Care Month is the time for us to encourage more Nevadans to come forward and help these young people."

Foster parents play a key role in the child welfare system. Jone Bosworth, Administrator for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), said that "over 3,000 children and youth are currently living away from home because their families are in crisis and unable to provide for essential needs. While many children are able to live with grandparents or other relatives, there remains a great need for foster homes." Currently there are over 1,300 licensed foster and group home facilities in Nevada who have opened their homes and given hope to children. For more information to get involved contact: Child and Family Services Rural Region District Office, (775) 686-4943; Division of Child and Family Services Systems Advocate, (775) 684-4453; Washoe County Department of Social Services, (775) 328-2300; Clark County Department of Family Services, (702) 455-5483.