



# *The County of Ashe*

## **FOSTER CARE MONTH 2026**

### **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, children and youth are the future of our communities, and every child deserves the safety, stability, love, and belonging of a nurturing family; and

**WHEREAS**, across the United States and throughout North Carolina, thousands of children have experienced abuse, neglect, trauma, or family crises that have resulted in their placement in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently an estimated 11,000 children in foster care in North Carolina, including hundreds of young adults ages 18 to 20 participating in extended foster care services, and in Ashe County alone there are 18 children in foster care, including 3 young adults in extended foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, children in foster care often face tremendous uncertainty, grief, separation, educational disruption, and emotional hardship, yet with the support of caring adults and stable relationships, they can heal, grow, and thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, foster parents, kinship caregivers, adoptive families, social workers, therapists, educators, court personnel, volunteers, and community partners play a critical role in supporting children and families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, caring and committed foster families provide not only shelter, but compassion, guidance, advocacy, encouragement, and hope to children who need it most; and

**WHEREAS**, communities are strengthened when they come together to support vulnerable children and families through prevention services, reunification efforts, foster care, kinship care, adoption, and independent living support for older youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Foster Care Awareness Month serves as an opportunity to recognize the resilience and strength of children and youth in foster care, honor the dedication of caregivers and professionals, and encourage more individuals and families to open their hearts and homes to children in need;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Ashe County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 2026 as: **“FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH”** in Ashe County, North Carolina, and encourage all citizens to recognize the important role foster families, kinship caregivers, child welfare professionals, and community partners play in changing the lives of children and youth in foster care.

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**Todd McNeil**  
Chairman of the Board