The State of Washington

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 state; and

WHEREAS, foster families have dedicated themselves to providing loving, nurturing care for thousands of children entrusted to them; and

WHEREAS, foster families in Washington State open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, playing a vital role to help children and families heal and reconnect, and helping launch children into successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public, and private organizations who work to increase awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2005 as

Foster Care Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognition of the special people who take care of foster children in our state by wearing a blue ribbon in their honor.

Signed this 13th day of April, 2005

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire