STATE OF ALASKA

Executive Proclamation
by
Governor Sean Parnell

WHEREAS, foster parents impact the lives of vulnerable children across Alaska by opening their hearts and homes at a time when they need security and stability; and

WHEREAS, foster parents provide love, safety, and a nurturing environment, keeping children safe and helping them thrive; and

WHEREAS, for families in crisis, foster parents play a vital role in helping build strong families, working tirelessly with a child's parents to assist with the child's safe return to the parents' care, if possible. Foster parents can help children heal from painful wounds of abuse and neglect, preparing them for a healthy future; and

WHEREAS, a foster parent faces many challenges and sacrifices to make a difference that lasts a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,870 Alaskan children are currently in out-of-home care. Out-of-home placement is a last resort, considered when reasonable efforts to protect a child in his or her own home have been exhausted. Foster parents make it possible for children in out-of-home care to have a home while waiting for their family to recover from crisis; and

WHEREAS, across Alaska during the month of May, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Office of Children's Services, and other State agencies, child welfare advocates, and foster parent organizations will sponsor and hold special events recognizing Alaska's foster parents for their many contributions to our society and the lives of children and youth in foster care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as:

Foster Parent Appreciation Month

in Alaska, and encourage Alaskans to provide support to foster children in their community, to recognize those who have made the choice to become foster parents, and to explore the option of becoming foster parents themselves by calling the Alaska Center for Resource Families at 800-478-7307.

Dated: April 14, 2013

Sean Parnell

Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.