



Lake County, Ohio

# Lake County Board of Commissioners

*John R. Hamercheck*

*John Plecnik*

*Ron Young*

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## **Commissioners Recognize May as National Foster Parent Appreciation Month**

May is recognized nationally as Foster Parent Appreciation Month. The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services is proud to recognize and express appreciation for the 48 licensed foster homes in our county. The Board of County Commissioners officially recognized May 2021 as Foster Parent Appreciation Month at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting. “Not only today, but every day, we must come together as a community to recognize the important role foster parents play by providing safe and stable homes for children and youth in need,” said Commissioner President John R. Hamercheck.

Dedicated foster parents help the children in our community through a difficult time in their life – providing comfort, understanding and safety while families work toward reunification. May is a time to recognize these unsung heroes in our community. “May is a great time for renewing commitments to ensure a brighter future for children and youth in foster care and to celebrate those who make such a meaningful difference in their lives,” added Commissioner Ron Young.

The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services has a committed group of foster parents who have kept their homes open for children in need during the pandemic. “During a time when social distancing is encouraged, our foster parents continue to open their homes and hearts to children who have experienced trauma. Our foster parents provide children in need with a safe place to work through difficulties, grow and thrive. Their dedication and commitment to the children of Lake County is an inspiration,” said incoming Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar. If you know a foster family in our community, please take a moment to recognize their dedication and thank them for a job well done.

“Foster parents should be celebrated for the essential role they play in the healing, development and success of the children and youth in their care,” said Commissioner John Plecnik.

The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services is always in need of new foster parents! Research shows that the healthiest environment for a child who has been separated from his or her family is with another family. The more foster parents we have in our community increases the likelihood that children will be reunified with their families. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please contact the Lake County Foster Care and Adoption Hotline at 440-350-4218.