



# Board of Commissioners

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 2, 2024

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### May is National Foster Care Month in Lake County

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, May 2, 2024— For over 30 years now, the U.S. government has issued annual proclamations in recognition of National Foster Care Month, celebrated in May, to show appreciation and gratitude to foster parents across the nation. Foster parents are those people in our community who step forward and provide safe haven for children when they cannot remain in their home of origin.

Lake County currently has 44 licensed foster families who are able to care for children of all ages. Lake County also works with relatives and kin who have opened up their homes to children in need of care.

"We are extremely grateful to our foster parents who provide the children in our custody with consistent, nurturing, and safe environments to grow and thrive. Foster parents are often faced with extremely challenging situations, and we appreciate the significant role they play in the lives of the children we work with every day," said Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar.

Lake County Department of Job and Family Services is fortunate to receive continued support and recognition from the Lake County Commissioners each May and this year has been no different. During their May 2, 2024, meeting, the Lake County Commissioners graciously passed a resolution declaring May as Foster Parent Recognition Month in Lake County.

"I have stated it previously, and I will emphasize it once more, foster parents are truly saints. We acknowledge and honor the vital role that foster parents fulfill in the healing, growth, and triumph of the children and youth under their care. Foster parents save children, and build real families," stated Commission President John T. Plecnik.

Annually, Lake County recognizes and celebrates foster parents and their service to the county by hosting an annual appreciation dinner. If you know a foster parent in your community, please take a moment this month to thank them for their service to their county and most of all to the children they bring into their homes.



*From the left: Commission President John T. Plecnik, Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar, Eugene Tetrick, Commissioner Richard J. Regovich, Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.*

"Foster parents play a crucial role in the lives of children in the child welfare system. It is important to recognize the dedication and care they provide to children in Lake County. Each child has the intrinsic right to grow up in a safe and loving family. Thus, we express our gratitude to foster parents for offering them secure and stable homes," stated Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"There is a growing number of individuals and families embracing the role and becoming foster parents in our community. I encourage anyone who is interested to contact the Foster Care and Adoption Hotline," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please contact our Foster Care and Adoption Hotline at 440-350-4218.

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