



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that there are children in our communities who may not have a safe and stable placement with their family, or whose families may be experiencing great difficulty and hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of our children begins at home and in Tennessee there are more than 8,000 youth in foster care being care for by a foster family; and

**WHEREAS**, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, foster, kinship and adoptive families who open their homes and hearts and support children whose families are in crisis play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect, thereby helping launch young people into successful adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a greater need for more foster families, especially those willing to take older children, children with special needs, and sibling groups; and

**WHEREAS**, foster care and adoption are issue areas of great priority for our state, fueling the launch of initiatives such a TN Fosters Hope and others, and

**WHEREAS**, all Tennesseans can play a role in supporting healthy outcomes for our children and families through advocacy and engagement, not limited to answering the call to foster, and

**WHEREAS**, we honor the Department of Children's Services, as well as other individuals and organizations throughout Tennessee who work diligently to serve the needs of children in foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as

*Foster Care Awareness Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-sixth day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Hargitt".

Secretary of State

