



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee recognizes that every child deserves the safety, stability, and belonging of a loving, permanent home; and

WHEREAS, children thrive in families and communities that provide care, support, and connection, and Tennessee remains committed to strengthening families, supporting reunification when safe and appropriate, and pursuing permanency for children through kinship care, foster care, and adoption; and

WHEREAS, there are currently approximately 7,800 children in foster care in Tennessee, and approximately 4,500 foster homes across the state helping meet the needs of children and youth in care; and

WHEREAS, foster families across Tennessee open their homes and hearts to children and youth during times of uncertainty, offering compassion, structure, and stability when it is needed most; and

WHEREAS, kinship caregivers, foster families, adoptive families, child welfare professionals, community partners, and faith-based organizations each play an essential role in helping children heal, maintain meaningful relationships, and move toward lasting permanency; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee continues to strengthen support for children and families through efforts including the Every Child TN initiative, expanded services for young adults transitioning from foster care through Bright Futures, and continued work to increase foster home capacity and support kinship caregivers; and

WHEREAS, there remains an ongoing need for more Tennesseans to serve, especially those willing to care for older youth, sibling groups, and children with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, Foster Care Month is an opportunity to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of Tennessee's foster families and to encourage all Tennesseans to support children and families impacted by foster care;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

Foster Care 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 second day of April 2026.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

Secretary of State

