

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Virginia's children and youth are our hope for the future, and we assert that all children deserve a safe, loving, stable, and nurturing home; and

WHEREAS, families, serving as the primary providers of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, are the very foundations of our communities and our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a child's success is best supported in a child welfare system that is family-focused, child-centered, and community-based; and preserving families is the primary goal of the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, while Arlington has over 63 children and youth ages 0 -21 in foster care, there are even more children and youth being informally supported by dedicated kinship, foster and adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, many kinship families and foster families create permanency for children in foster care through adoption when those children cannot be safely reunified with their birth families; and

WHEREAS, through the partnerships among kinship, foster and adoptive families, child welfare staff, and public and private child-serving organizations, efforts are made to ensure that voices are heard, and support is offered for youth at every step of their foster care journey, including helping young adults successfully transition to independence; and

WHEREAS, we honor and celebrate the enduring contributions of kinship, foster, and adoptive families and recognize the outstanding service and commitment that they provide to Virginia's children and youth while recognizing that foster care supports entire families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby recognize **May 2024**, as

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

and I call this observance to the attention of our residents.




Libby Garvey
Chair