



PROCLAMATION

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

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

WHEREAS, families are the foundation of our communities and provide love, identity, self-esteem, and support for children and youth; and

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

WHEREAS, Arlington has more than 88 children and youth ages 0 to 21 in foster care, along with many more children and youth informally supported by dedicated kinship, foster, and adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, kinship, foster, and adoptive families provide stability, care, and permanency for children and youth, including through adoption when children cannot be safely reunified with their birth families; and

WHEREAS, partnerships among kinship, foster, and adoptive families, child welfare staff, and public and private child-serving organizations help ensure that youth are heard, supported, and guided at every step of their foster care journey, including as young adults transition to independence; and

WHEREAS, Foster Care Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the enduring contributions of kinship, foster, and adoptive families and recognize that foster care supports children, youth, and entire families;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **May 2026** as **FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH** in Arlington County and encourages all residents to recognize and support the kinship, foster, and adoptive families, child welfare professionals, and community partners who help provide safe, stable, and nurturing homes for Arlington's children and youth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew de Ferranti".

Matt de Ferranti
Chair, Arlington County Board