



PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our State; and

WHEREAS, nationally there are more than 365,000 children and youth in foster care, and on average over 3,000 children and youth in foster care in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to someone who can be a supportive and lasting presence in their lives; and

WHEREAS, foster homes provide children in care with a temporary, safe, stable and nurturing home until they can be reunited with their families; and

WHEREAS, some children stay in a foster home for days or weeks, while other may stay for months and in cases where children are unable to safely return to their family home they may be placed permanently with another family; and

WHEREAS, families who open their hearts and homes to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect thereby launching young people into successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS, dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals, public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents; and

WHEREAS, the foster care "system" is only as good as those who choose to be part of it.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dennis Fleming, Mayor of the City of Valdez, Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of May as

National Foster Care Month

in Valdez and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will change a lifetime for a young person in foster care.

DATED this 29th day of April, 2025.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk