



RANDOLPH COUNTY
Department of Social Services

Beth W. Duncan

Director

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Board Chair

PRESS RELEASE

“Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care”

May is National Foster Care Month. This year's theme is "Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care" and highlights the diversity of the children, youth, families, and professionals involved in child welfare.

Foster care is a temporary living arrangement for abused, neglected, and dependent children who need a safe place to live when their parents or another relative cannot take care of them. Children of all ages, from newborns to teenagers, and from all walks of life, enter the foster care system, through no fault of their own. Often their families face issues such as illness, alcohol or drug addiction, or homelessness. Many children have been victims of physical or sexual abuse. All children who are in foster care require special care, support and nurturing.

Foster parents provide temporary, loving homes for children, ensuring that each child's physical, medical and emotional needs are met. Families are needed that can parent any child, but especially teenagers, sibling groups and medically fragile children. In Randolph County, the Department of Social Services currently has 128 children in foster care and 29 licensed foster family homes. That means many Randolph County foster children are placed outside the county. Therefore, National Foster Care Month is a time when DSS puts extra emphasis on recruiting new foster families and appreciating the ones already serving. On June 20, 2015, in coordination with Copperhead Baseball, DSS will recognize foster families in attendance at the game.

Foster families are recruited, trained, and licensed to care for abused and neglected children temporarily, while their parents work with social work professionals to resolve their family issues. Foster parents must: be at least 21 years old; have a stable home and income; be willing to be finger printed and have a criminal records check; maintain a drug free environment; complete all required training; and be licensed by the state of North Carolina.

For more information about National Foster Care Month, please visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/> or in NC <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/fostercare/index.htm>. If you would like to serve as a foster parent, contact the Randolph County Department of Social Services at (336) 683-8062.

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