



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda Robertson, Chair
Franklin Gomez Flores, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Karen Howard
Katie Kenlan

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

**Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners
RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 AS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH IN CHATHAM COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the youth of North Carolina are our most precious resource and hope for the future, and all children deserve a safe, loving and nurturing place to call home; and

WHEREAS, according to the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for every 100 children entering foster care, only 57 licensed foster homes are available, nationwide and this shortage means children “spend nights in office buildings, teenagers shuttled between hotels and siblings separated not for safety but for lack of space”; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina on an average day there are over 10,000 children in custody of a Department of Social Services, with less than 6,000 licensed foster families within the state, in 2025; and

WHEREAS, during fiscal year 25, there were an average of 79 children in foster care in Chatham County each month, with an average of 38 licensed family homes, accounting for 54 beds available for placement. About 25% of these children resided within their biological family and kinship connections; and

WHEREAS, foster families, and kinship families open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, and play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reunify, while working to ensure the safety, permanence and well-being of children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners that May 2026 is proclaimed Foster Care Awareness Month in Chatham County and call upon all residents, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to volunteer their time, energy and talents on behalf of children in foster care, their biological families, kinship caregivers, and foster parents during this month and throughout the year.

Adopted, this the 20th day of April 2026.

Amanda Robertson, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Integrity – Respect – Collaboration – Community – Equity – Service – Accountability