

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

April 12, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH – MAY, 2004

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind staff that May is Foster Parent Recognition Month. It presents a wonderful opportunity to show appreciation to the resource families who are often the unsung heroes for our foster children and youth.

A proclamation signing by Governor Holden has been tentatively set to take place on April 22, 2004, from 11:30-1:30 p.m. The three state foster parent associations have each been asked to invite three foster parents. We are limited to a total of twelve participants, including our presenter.

The Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support (CNC) provides a toolkit to support the celebration of Foster Care Month. The toolkit can be downloaded at [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org) and includes a variety of resources, such as fact sheets, sample letters and materials for reaching out to reporters.

The website also contains a plan for a nationwide ribbon campaign promoted by the National Foster Parent Association. The plan is to put blue ribbons on trees, each representing a child in foster care. In February, 2004, Missouri had 11,293 children and youth in foster care. The goal of the campaign

is to heighten public awareness of the need for foster parents and the role of people who help make a difference in the lives of foster children and youth.

If county/regional staff would like to have central office staff participate in a foster parent recognition event, please make the request through the supervisory lines to Cindy Wilkinson, Out-of-Home Care Unit Program Manager. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible to allow for the scheduling process. Even though money is not available to help sponsor the activities, we want to be as supportive as possible in efforts to honor resource families.

Appreciation certificates for foster parents have been printed for the use of county office staff. Orders for certificates may be directed to Jackie Sloan by email at [Jacqueline.K.Sloan@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.K.Sloan@dss.mo.gov) or telephone at 573-751-3171.

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