

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

April 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION MONTH – MAY, 2005

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- Foster Parent Recognition Month and Proclamation Signing

May is Foster Parent Recognition month which presents a wonderful opportunity to show our resource families how much we appreciate all they do. Foster parents are often the unsung heroes for foster children and youth. Foster Parent Recognition month provides us the opportunity to show that their sacrifices and dedication do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

A proclamation signing by Governor Blunt has been tentatively set for May 11, 2005, from 10:00 – 11:00 am. The local circuits have been asked to name foster parents to attend. We are limited to a total of 12 participants.

The Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support (CNC) provides a toolkit to support the celebration of Foster Care Month. This toolkit may be accessed on their website at [www.fostercaremonth.org](http://www.fostercaremonth.org) and it includes a variety of materials for reaching out to community partners and the media. Some examples of material included in the toolkit are fact sheets and sample letters to legislators and government officials.

The goal of Foster Care Month and the foster parent recognition activities is to increase public awareness of the need for resource families and interest in making a difference in the life a foster child or youth. At the end of January, 2005, Missouri had 11,175 children and youth in out-of-home care. The CNC website mentioned previously also has information on other campaigns to help increase awareness for the need for foster homes and resource families.

If circuit or regional staff would like to have central office staff participation in a foster parent recognition event, please make the request through the supervisory lines to Cindy Wilkinson, Quality Improvement and Field Support Unit 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. We have also been informed by the Department that direct solicitations or requests for donations for foster parent appreciation activities are acceptable, as long as the donations do not benefit staff (i.e. donations of prizes or awards to be given to foster parents, donations of dinner for foster parents with staff purchasing their meals, etc).

Appreciation certificates for foster parents are available for the use of circuit staff and can be located on the [Children's Division Intranet site](#) (Employee Access Only). The certificate can be accessed by clicking on the [Children's Division E-forms](#) link and going to the MS Word forms section. It is listed as Foster Parent Appreciation Certificate.

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Attachments:

Foster Parent Appreciation Certificate [CD E-Forms and Instructions](#)