



## IDEAS FOR FOSTER FAMILY RECOGNITION EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES

*Here is a sampling of foster parent recognition ideas gathered from agencies and foster parent associations across the country.*

- Hold a press conference announcing the signing of proclamations by governors/mayors in recognition of the outstanding community service provided by foster families (see the Proclamation included in this toolkit).
- Develop a “Ribbon Campaign” by asking community members to support foster families by wearing a ribbon bow (see Ribbon Campaign materials included in this kit)
- Send “thank you” letters from agency directors to foster families
- Issue news releases and photographs to local media, profiling an inspiring story of how a foster family is serving children from the community.
- Host a Foster Family Recognition/Awards Banquet with dining and dancing.
- Involve youth in care and alumni in sponsoring foster family recognition events.
- Involve the business community in supporting foster families by asking them to donate awards/plaques, door prizes, discounted or complimentary services (manicures, massages, lawn mowing).
- Arrange a “Capitol Day” where foster families convene to educate lawmakers and others about foster care issues.
- Host a candlelight vigil to bring attention to the supports needed by foster families.
- Plan a “Step Out for Kids Walk-a-Thon” to raise awareness and funds in support of local families and children. This activity also can serve as an outreach tool to help recruit more foster families.
- Invite all foster families to a “Zoo Day,” “Sports Day” or “Museum Day” with the support of the local zoo, sports team and children’s museums. This provides an excellent opportunity for siblings living apart in foster care, to spend quality time together.
- Enlist civic organizations to plan programs to recognize the contributions of foster families.
- Approach billboard companies about posting foster care information and messages as a public service announcement.
- Encourage pageant contestants to choose foster care and foster family recognition as their service platform.

May is National Foster Care Month



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