

MAY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS “FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH” IN OREGON, A MONTH TO SHOW APPRECIATION TO RESOURCE PARENTS (FOSTER PARENTS) AND RELATIVE CAREGIVERS.



Foster parents, now called “resource parents,” work in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare Division. The role these families fulfill in Lincoln County has never been more important.

Many people know resource parents provide temporary care for children and young people while their parents work to create a safe environment for them to return to. That brief description contradicts the lasting impact resource parents have on children. Resource parents care, comfort and nurture children in foster care while helping them maintain bonds with family and other resources to help protect them from trauma. Resource families are uniquely positioned to help bring a family back together.

While resource families receive reimbursement for costs associated with caring for a child and youth experiencing foster care, they are not “paid” or financially compensated for everything they do. They foster because they care about our community, want to see families reunited and ensure youth receive the highest quality of care possible. The ODHS Child Welfare staff of the Lincoln Branch would like to publicly thank each of our local resource families for their vigilance, commitment, and continued partnership. We also want to recognize the many local businesses and organizations that donated gifts to Lincoln County’s resource families during Foster Care Awareness Month. Their generosity enabled every resource family in Lincoln County to receive a gift this May.

We gratefully thank the following businesses and organizations:

Our Giving Table, Lydia Massaad

Papa Murphy’s

Lincoln City and Newport

Every Child Oregon

Azul Mexican

BJ’s Ice Cream Newport

Blackfish Café

Blue Whale

Bow Wow Meow

Chalet

Christmas Cottage

Clearwater Restaurant

Cobblestone Pizza

Cold Stone Creamery

Dory Cove

Enough-Waldport

Flashbacks

Fresh Mexican Restaurant

Georgie’s (Hallmark)

Grand Central Pizza

Grocery Outlet-Newport

Hilltop Café

Hilltop Inn

Lazy Dayz Café

Lee’s Wok

Lincoln City Outlets-Columbia

Local Ocean

Lucky Thai Elephant

Nelscott Café

Newport Alpaca Shop

Off the Hook

Otis Pizzeria

Pacific Kitchen (Hallmark)

Pacific Sourdough

Ripley’s Believe It or Not

S. Beach Market

The Hill

Tie Dye Pizza

Timbers Restaurant

Toledo Auto Parts

Ultralife Café

Waldport Café

Wildflower Grill

Yummy Bowl

While resource families are an integral and vital part of helping children and young people who are experiencing foster care thrive, there are several ways individuals and groups can contribute in other ways. If you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities to support local children and young people in foster care, their families, relative caregivers, or their resource parents, please call the Lincoln branch of ODHS at (541) 265-8557 and ask to speak with a member of the Foster Care Certification Team. If you dare to get involved, you might just find that the life you enriched the most turns out to be your own!