



## Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner  
H. L. Whitman, Jr.

May 14, 2018

Dear Texas Foster Parents:

Thank you for your commitment to providing a safe, nurturing place for Texas children and youth who cannot be with their families. May is National Foster Care Month, a special time to honor your willingness and dedication to making a difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Foster parents are vital to the work we do, and without your support, we would not be successful in achieving permanency for so many children and youth. You provide what all children and youth deserve – a nurturing, stable and safe place to live.

During Hurricane Harvey last year, hundreds of foster families were displaced by the rampant flooding along the Texas coast. Working together with CPS, child placing agencies, community organizations and others, foster parents stepped up to ensure that children and youth were unharmed and had a safe place to stay. It was truly remarkable.

This year's National Foster Care Month not only celebrates foster parents, but relative foster parents as well. For the first time in 2017, the number of relative adoptions in Texas exceeded the number of unrelated adoptions. As our kinship program and supports continue to adapt and expand, we hope to increase the number of verified kin who commit to care for family.

Texas continues to need more loving foster parents. Please help us spread the word and encourage others to help.

Again, thank you for your selfless work on behalf of our children and youth.

Sincerely,

Kristene Blackstone  
Associate Commissioner for CPS