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## Governor Doyle Proclaims May “Foster Care Month”

MADISON – Highlighting the need for more foster parents in Wisconsin, Governor Jim Doyle today officially proclaimed May as Foster Care Month in Wisconsin. Throughout the month, the Department of Children and Families will recognize the incredible stories of current foster families and encourage more responsible, loving parents to become foster parents.

“As an adoptive parent, I know the incredible feeling that comes when you open your heart and your home to care for a child in need,” Governor Doyle said. “Helping foster children heal from the scars of abuse is not a simple or painless process. But there are few experiences greater than watching a young child grow because of the love and guidance you have provided.”

The Governor’s budget proposal makes a major investment in foster and out-of-home care. To support foster parents across the state, the proposal calls for a five percent rate increase in foster parent payments in each of the next two years.

The Governor has also allocated \$1.1 million to create a statewide foster parent training program. By taking the best of what is being offered across the country, this curriculum and training will ensure that foster parents receive the supports and preparation to provide for children in their care.

With a struggling national economy, this significant investment will help the state’s most vulnerable children at a time when they need it the most. Today there are more than 7,300 children living in out-of-home care, and there are approximately 4,100 foster homes.

“Kids across our state are looking for a kind, loving family to call their own,” DCF Secretary Reggie Bicha said. “During Foster Care Month and throughout the year, we need parents to answer this call to care.”

While calling for more parents to step forward and help the kids in their communities, the Governor and Secretary Bicha also praised foster parents for their dedication.

“Your compassion and care will have an impact that will last a lifetime,” Governor Doyle said. “We thank you for your kindness and your commitment to ensure that every child has a safe and loving home.”

For more information on becoming a foster parent, please visit the Department of Children and Families website at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/progserv/fosterparent.HTM>.

To view the proclamation, visit: [www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=16567](http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=16567).