

Proclamation



NATIONAL FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, since 1988, each U.S. President has proclaimed to recognize that May shall be known as National Foster Care Awareness Month to raise awareness of the needs of youth in foster care, and to celebrate the many supporters who are making a powerful and positive difference in their lives; and

WHEREAS, families are the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support for children, and they are the foundation of our communities; and

WHEREAS, of those that are identified as foster children, only 57% will graduate from high school by age 19, compared to 87% of all 19-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 2 to 10.8% of foster children will earn a college degree by age 25, compared to 29.4% of all 25-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, without the necessary education and skills by age 24, only half of all foster children will be employed; and

WHEREAS, our community is filled with generous individuals, families, and organizations who willingly help foster children in their time of need so they can experience a loving guardianship and the joys of family life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Haines City recognizes the importance of supporting foster children and their caregivers, and is committed to working collaboratively with schools, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and state and local agencies to ensure foster children thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Haines City does hereby proclaim May 2025 as National Foster Care Awareness Month in the City of Haines City, Florida, and urges all residents to support efforts that improve quality of life for foster children and celebrate those who make a lasting difference in their lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the city of Haines City to be affixed this 15th day of May 2025.

Morris L. West, Mayor