



## ***Marion County*** OREGON

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**Contact:** Nelsa Brodie, Public Information Coordinator, 503-566-3916 or  
Tamra Goettsch, Children and Families Commission, 503-588-7975 or  
Jeff Holland, Marion County Sheriff's Office, 503-540-8048

### **Foster Care Month and National Corrections Officer Week Proclaimed**

Today, Marion County Commissioners proclaimed May as National Foster Care Month and the week of May 5-11 as Corrections Professionals Recognition Week in Marion County.

"In Marion County on any given day, there are over 900 children in foster care," explained Tamra Goettsch of the Marion County Children and Families Commission. "During this month we recognize and honor the work of caring foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care," she said.

Goettsch explained that if anyone would like to explore becoming a foster parent, that this month is a perfect time to do so. Contact Erik East at the Department of Human Services at (503) 373-1420 or Connie Hay of the Foster Care Action Team (503) 569-4425.

Commissioner Janet Carlson commented, "If there is one word to sum up what foster parents mean to our community it would be 'hero'. Stepping forward to take children into their homes is truly a heroic act, an act of kindness and love. We are grateful for our foster parents in Marion County," she said.

In proclaiming this week a time to honor the members of the Institutions Division of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the commissioners recognized the essential role corrections officers play in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Marion County.

"First of all, I want to thank the hard working men and women in our Sheriff's Office Institutions Division for their selfless dedication on a daily basis," explained Commissioner Patti Milne. "Public safety is the number one responsibility of local government and managing the jail is no small challenge. I am so grateful to these hard working individuals who make our communities safe and accountable."

The proclamation points out the hazards and sacrifices corrections professionals make in providing this vital public safety service. The commissioners expressed their gratitude to the outstanding professionals in corrections who serve Marion County citizens so well.

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