



*"The Peak of Good Living"*

TOWN OF APEX  
NORTH CAROLINA

## *Proclamation*

### Foster Care Awareness Month 2023

*from the Office of the Mayor*

WHEREAS, Children represent our community's greatest asset and our hope for the future, and every child deserves to grow up in a safe, loving, and nurturing home; and,

WHEREAS, Shield North Carolina reports that according to FBI statistics, 60% of human trafficking victims had been in foster care or group homes in their lives; and,

WHEREAS, Shield recommends supporting children in foster care as a way to mitigate the increased risk of exploitation they face; and,

WHEREAS, In North Carolina, there are currently over 12,000 children in the foster system waiting to find their forever homes; and,

WHEREAS, As of November 2022, in Wake County, there are 503 children in the foster care system, but only 90 foster homes, which is half of the number of homes available in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Most of the children waiting to be adopted are school-age children, teenagers, groups of siblings who want to stay together, children with special needs, or children of color; and,

WHEREAS, Relational permanency is fundamental to the well-being of children and youth. Supporting foster care children, their foster and biological families, and services that support foster children can help change generations, break cycles of abuse, prevent exploitation, and give children the opportunity to thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim, the Month of May 2023, Foster Care Awareness Month in the Town of Apex, and encourage all residents to consider supporting the foster care system in Wake County and in North Carolina to help provide the love and comfort our children fully deserve.

I hereby set my hand and have caused the Seal of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, to be affixed this the 23rd day of May 2023

Jacques Gilbert, Mayor