



News Release

Jefferson County Human Services
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May is National Foster Care Month

(Golden, CO) - [National Foster Care Month](#) is a time to honor foster families who open their homes to temporarily care for children who have been victims of child abuse or neglect. Foster parents embrace children, value family connections, and provide a safe home until a child can return home, be adopted or live independently. May is also a time to raise awareness of the need for foster families and actively recruit - particularly for families interested in older children. On any given day in 2010, Jefferson County had approximately 450 children in out-of-home care.

The primary goal of [Jefferson County Human Services](#) Division of Children, Youth and Families is to protect children by strengthening families and utilizing community services and supports. When a child cannot safely stay at home, kin or appropriate caretakers known to the children are contacted before seeking foster families to care for them. Searching for families who will open their hearts and homes to children in need is always a priority. "There are many, many families who have stepped up to be foster families, but there is always a need for more," states Mary Berg, Director, Division of Children, Youth & Families.

Jefferson County joined with Arapahoe County through the Collaborative Foster Care Program. By streamlining resources, improving training and recruitment opportunities, and increasing support for foster parents, together, these two counties are better equipped to place children in the best possible out-of-home experience. Between Jefferson and Arapahoe counties, 230-250 licensed foster families cannot provide all the homes needed for children of both counties.

Throughout May, the Collaborative Foster Care Program will be sending thank-you cards and planning ways to recognize foster families. In addition, Jefferson County Commissioners will honor this month with an official proclamation on Tuesday, May 24. Governor Hickenlooper will honor and recognize six outstanding foster parents during a luncheon. All of these efforts will highlight some of the best and most dedicated foster parents and draw attention to the hard work foster parents perform on a daily basis.

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a foster child please attend a monthly informational session. The next session will be held Wednesday, May 11th from 6-7 pm at the Arvada Public Library, 7525 West 57th Ave, Arvada. To learn more visit www.collaborativefostercare.com, call 303-636-1KID, or click the link below to view a [Jefferson County Foster Care Video](#).



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