

NEWS RELEASE

Mission WV, Inc.

Frameworks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: ## ## #####

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MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Over 513,000 American Children are in foster care – approximately 4,000 of those children live in WV. During the month of May, we recognize the compassionate people who make a difference in children’s lives by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers. Thanks to these people, many children and teens will either safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families.

Like all young people, youth in foster care deserve a loving permanent family. No matter what their age or situation, every young person deserves a loving family. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 WV children who are legally eligible to be adopted and are waiting for a forever family.

Across the nation, caring individuals are helping foster children build brighter futures by serving as their foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers. But much more help is needed. If nothing changes by the year 2020:

- Nearly 14 million confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect will be reported
- 22,500 children will die of abuse or neglect, most before their fifth birthday
- More than 9,000,000 children will experience the foster care system
- More than 300,000 children will age of our foster care system, in poor health and ill-prepared for success in higher education, technical college or the workforce
- 99,000 former foster youth, who aged out of the system, can expect to experience homelessness.

For more information about foster care, please contact Mission WV, Inc. at 866.CALL.MWV or by emailing adopt@missionwv.org

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