

**WHEREAS,** Every child deserves to grow up in a supportive, loving home where they can thrive and prosper,

**WHEREAS,** In the United States there are over 407,000 children and youth in foster care, and 34 percent were placed with relatives or kin,

**WHEREAS,** In Texas, more than 12,000 children are waiting for their "forever home",

**WHEREAS,** In Tarrant County, more than 2,000 children are in the foster care system,

**WHEREAS,** Children available for adoption are currently receiving foster care services. 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 and children of color,

**WHEREAS,** Relational permanency is fundamental to the well-being of children and youth. Maintaining relationships with relatives and kin can help provide a sense of belonging for young people in care

**WHEREAS,** Supporting foster care children, their foster families, biological families, and services that support foster children can change generations, break cycles of abuse, prevent exploitation, and give children the opportunity to thrive,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Michael Evans, Mayor of the City of Mansfield, Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2022, to be

**“National Foster Care Month” this 23rd day of May, 2022.**

In the City of Mansfield, we urge all community members to volunteer their talents and energies to help children and youth in foster care and to honor those foster parents and families who have selflessly opened their hearts and homes to nurture at-risk children and promote healing in their time of need.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I do hereby set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of Mansfield to be affixed this **23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2022.**