

May 15, 2020

Dearest Durhamites,

I am Deborah Cousin, a foster care family recruiter in Durham's Department of Social Services. As we continue to heed stay-at-home orders due to the current health pandemic, we want to highlight **International Day of Families** and **National Foster Care Month**.

The United Nations designated May 15 as International Day of Families to celebrate the importance of families and to promote awareness of the socio-economic issues affecting families. **#InternationalDayofFamilies @UN**

The Children's Bureau, an office within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, notes that "COVID-19 can put additional pressure on already vulnerable children, youth and families, [and that] the child welfare field is uniquely positioned to support families in this time of increased stress."

Foster Care supports families and according to the **@ChildrensBureau**, there are more than 437,000 children and youth in foster care nationwide, over half of which have a case plan goal of reunification with their parents or primary caregiver.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services lists several agencies across the state, including local departments of Social Services, that provide [families who desire to become licensed foster parents](#) with information regarding upcoming meetings, training sessions, and potential fees. Additionally, the **CDC** provides guidance about [frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19](#) for children and families.

To learn more about foster care in Durham, contact Durham County DSS by calling 919-560-8092 or by visiting dconc.gov/dss. Remember, you do not have to be perfect to be a perfect parent! Raise Hope. Foster Dreams. **#NationalFosterCareMonth**

Census data informs decisions about federal funding that supports the [Foster Care Title IV-E program](#) which provides board and care payments for children in foster family homes.

While sheltering in place, and attending to personal, professional and academic responsibilities, remember to complete the Census **online, by mail or by telephone.**

On average, it takes less than 10 minutes to complete the Census questionnaire. Completing the Census is an opportunity to continue to positively impact our community! Everyone Counts! Including You! **#DurhamCounts #MakeNCCount #2020Census @NCCensus @NCCounts**

Due to COVID-19 the deadline to complete the Census is extended to **October 31, 2020.**

Go to my2020census.gov to complete the Census online.

Call 844-330-2020 to respond to the Census by phone in English.

Call 844-468-2020 to respond to the Census by phone in Spanish.

Warmest Regards,

Everyone Counts!