

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2026

SEVEN NORTHEAST OHIO FOSTER CARE AGENCIES LAUNCH “EVERYDAY HEROES EVERYDAY HOMES” CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT AND BOOST NUMBER OF FOSTER CAREGIVER HOMES

Canton, Ohio - May is National Foster Care Month, a time to raise awareness of the needs of children and youth in foster care and to recognize those who support them.

In recognition of the month, seven public and private agencies across Northeast Ohio have joined forces to address a critical shortage of licensed foster caregivers. Together, they are launching a one-day awareness and recruitment campaign, “Everyday Heroes. Everyday Homes.”

On Wednesday, May 27, 2026, Stark County Job & Family Services will host a special event from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Perry Sippo Branch aimed at educating prospective foster caregivers. The event will provide guidance on how to become licensed, explain the foster care process, and address common misconceptions about the system.

“We are always happy to answer questions from our community,” said Tricia Mayle, Deputy Director of Children Services. “Our goal is to increase the number of licensed foster caregivers within the same neighborhoods where children are being removed from their homes—through no fault of their own. These children need loving, stable, and safe homes right here in Stark County.”

According to State of Ohio’s latest data, more than 1,700 children and youth across Summit, Stark, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, and Trumbull counties are currently in foster care. The need is urgent: infants, young children, and teens are entering foster care every day, yet there are not enough foster families available to support them.

As part of the “Everyday Heroes. Everyday Homes” campaign, each participating agency will host its own uniquely designed event on May 27. While formats may vary, all events share a common purpose—to connect with community members and inspire more individuals and families to consider becoming foster caregivers.

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COLLABORATIVE PARTNERING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES:

