



FREMONT COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Fremont County is steadfast in its commitment to promoting the safety and well-being of our children that includes providing a stable household for all youth in which they can feel safe, be nurtured and succeed; and

Whereas, in 2022, across the nation, 3% of all children, more than 2.5 million, were in kinship care; in Colorado a monthly average of 3602 children and in Fremont County a monthly average of 49 children were raised with kinship families such as grandparents or relative caregivers who had stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for their young relatives, providing them with a sense of connection, security, ties to their cultural heritage, their family, and their community; and

Whereas, kinship caregivers reside in urban, rural, and suburban neighborhoods across Fremont County, and children, grandparents, and other relatives in kinship families face certain challenges. Therefore, partnerships among the educational, legal, social services, mental health, Chemical Dependency Counselling, Judicial, Law Enforcement and other systems are important for ensuring access to services that can assist children and youth that are placed in kinship care be provided opportunities to flourish in all facets of their lives. Furthermore, Fremont County residents are asked to join in honoring grandparents, relatives, friends and community members who step forward out of love and loyalty to care for at-risk children during times in which biological parents are unable to do so, and

Whereas, Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of countless children and youth throughout Fremont County who, with the unconditional love and support of grandparents and other relatives, have successfully navigated the emotional difficulties that beset the separation from their parents; all Fremont County citizens are encouraged to raise their awareness and understanding of the importance of positive family environments that kinship families offer for many Fremont County children;

Now, Therefore, we, the Fremont County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September, 2023 to be *KINSHIP CARE MONTH IN FREMONT COUNTY*.

Kevin Grantham, District 1 Commissioner

Debbie Bell, District 2 Commissioner

Dwayne McFall, District 3 Commissioner