



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer

(928) 871-7000

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Navajo Nation recognizes the month of May 2021
as “Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month”**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Saturday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation to declare the month of May 2021 as “Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month” to recognize and commend all people who devote their resources, love, and care to provide for Navajo children through foster care.

“The month-long observance is an opportunity to draw attention to the need for temporary caregivers for Navajo children and youth who enter foster care. Children come into foster care when their parents or family members cannot safely care for them and no other alternative placements for them. We extend our appreciation to all foster parents who opened their hearts to provide a safe and welcoming home for vulnerable children and youth. The successful future starts with foster parents who step in to help,” said President Nez.

On the Navajo Nation, hundreds of Navajo children and youth receive foster care services each year, and there is a need to increase more foster families.

“With many children and youth facing increased isolation over the past year, it is more important than ever for communities to work together to establish a meaningful connection for children and youth in foster care. We need to ensure families and youth have meaningful involvement in court hearings and case planning to make it possible for children to stay connected to their parents and support systems while in care. Family stabilization and reunification should be our goal,” said Vice President Lizer.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also encourage citizens to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care. The Navajo Nation continues to need additional foster homes so Navajo children can remain in their communities and siblings can stay together. If they cannot become foster parents, they can help children by being a support to a foster family.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY 2021 AS “NAVAJO NATION FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH”

WE recognize and appreciate all Navajo Nation citizens who devote their resources, love, and care to provide for our Navajo children through foster care. We encourage our Navajo people to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care. If they are not able to become foster parents, they can help children by being a support to a foster family during this month and throughout the year.

WHEREAS, the Diné family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our community; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of Navajo children and youth who receive foster care services each year; and

WHEREAS, foster families, who open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role helping children and families heal and reconnect; and

WHEREAS, there is a huge need to increase more foster families on the Navajo Nation, and serving our Diné children in the states of Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and other parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, children and youth in foster care deserve the happiness and joy every child should experience through family life and a safe, loving home. Families provide children with unconditional love, stability, trust, and the support to grow into healthy, productive adults; and

WHEREAS, during the month of May, we recognize the promise of children and youth in foster care, as well as former foster youth. We also celebrate the professionals and foster parents who demonstrate the depth and kindness of the human heart.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021 as “Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month” throughout the Navajo Nation.

PROCLAIMED THIS 1st DAY OF MAY 2021

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION