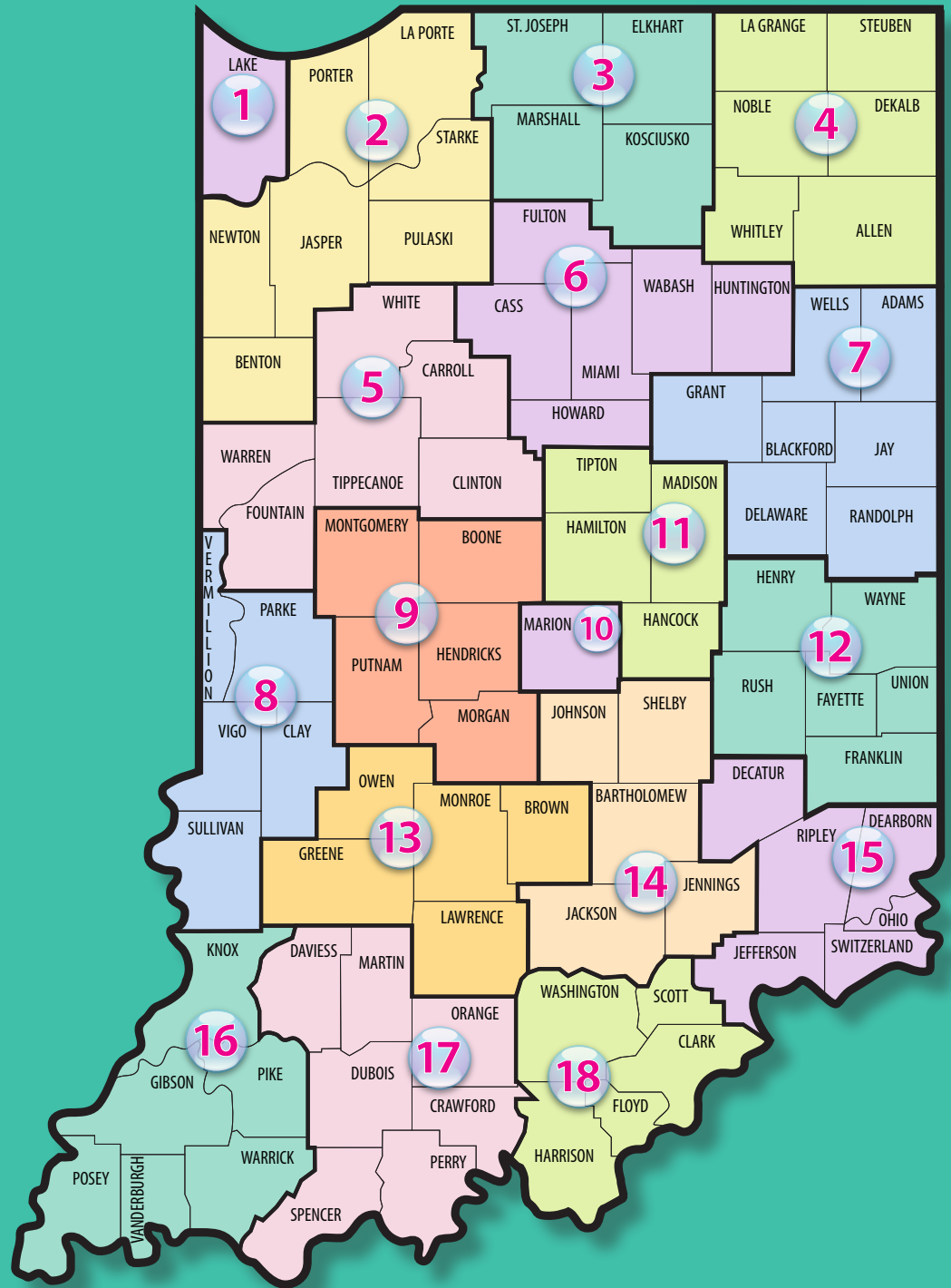


Click the number to see how DCS is celebrating Foster Care Month in your region.



National Foster Care Month
May 2021

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Region 1

May 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

This will be a drive up affair, they will have box lunch, special gift for each foster parent and other special tokens. There will be decorations that consist of pictures on poster boards from past events and a special memorial for the foster parents who are gone but are not forgotten. This will be held in the parking lot in one of the churches they have partnered with in the past.



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Region 2

May 29, 12-1:30 p.m. – Iroquois Park in Rensselaer *(date may change)*

June 5, 12-1:30 p.m. – Bluhm County Park in Westville

At both of the above events, they will pass out lunches and gifts to foster families. Their community partner, Geminus, has been a big help with these events.

Region 2 will be saying thank you to our families in addition to the events. Local office directors will send personalized thank-you letters to foster parents. Family case managers and foster/relative support specialists will give handwritten cards to foster parents thanking them for fostering or helping with a particular child or situation. They will ask local businesspeople and community offices to take pictures wearing foster care awareness ribbons. They will then send the pictures to the foster families to show that their community as well as DCS is thankful for them and appreciate what they have done.



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Region 3

May 2, 12-3pm

They will be hosting a meet-and-greet event at Potato Creek State Park. Families will be able to participate in a scavenger hunt and be entered into a raffle for great prizes. Local offices within Region 3 are writing thank-you letters to show their appreciation, and staff have participated in a survey to help populate a word cloud for the statewide appreciation event. Those surveys have generated some incredible shout-outs of foster families that will also be shared.



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Region 4

May 19

Region 4 will be raffling off appreciation items. Foster parents who win will be notified by mail.

May 21, 6-8 p.m.

Noble County will be hosting a Foster Parent Appreciation Fair and Watch Party at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville. There will be vendors of community resources, including community mental health providers, library and Camp Lutherhaven among others. There will be door prizes as well. At 7 p.m. there will be a viewing party of the statewide virtual appreciation event in the auditorium of the Community Learning Center.



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Region 5

The first week of May

They will be sending out thank-you cards for each foster home.

The third week of May

They will be sending out appreciation letters with gift cards that have been donated by local businesses.

June 19

The local baseball team will be hosting a foster parent night.



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Region 6

The first two weeks of May

They will be distributing “pasta baskets” to all DCS licensed homes. These baskets have been put together by staff from each local office, including directors, supervisors, family case managers and the entire foster care unit.

May 10

The foster care unit will be completing a drawing for Vera Bradley luggage for lucky foster families in the region.



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Region 7

May 2, 12-3 p.m.

They are holding an appreciation event at Ouabache State Park. Will include food, activities and door prizes. Each county will be either hosting an event (dinner or pick-up event) or delivering appreciation gifts to each home. Each county will be emailing the invitation for each event to the respective foster homes.



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Region 8

Information coming soon.



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Region 9

Dates and times to be determined

Will be hosting an outdoor movie night in the park for foster families throughout the region. Along with a child-friendly movie, they will provide a variety of fun snacks for everyone.

By May 15

Field staff, supervisors and upper management will be completing thank-you cards for their local foster parents.



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Region 10

May 12, 7-9 p.m.

They are hosting a virtual foster parent appreciation game night through Microsoft Teams. This event will consist of different games and several raffle drawings with the chance to win gift baskets, a 30-minute massage, a professional outdoor photo shoot, and a cake or cupcakes made to order.



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Region 11

May 1

Foster parent appreciation event.



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Region 12

May 13, 6 p.m.

They will be hosting a virtual event through Microsoft Teams to show their appreciation for local foster families. Families who attend will be able to play games and winner will win prizes. Prizes that remain will be raffled off to the attendees.



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Region 13

Throughout May

Each local office picked their own themed basket to be raffled off by the Foster Care Team. There will be 5 lucky families who will receive a basket. The Foster Care staff will also be sending out thank you cards and a hero window sign to each foster parent in Region 13.



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Region 14

Throughout May

They are mailing out thank you cards to their families.



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Region 15

Mid to Late May

Will be distributing themed gift baskets to each foster home in the region.



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Region 16

Information coming soon.



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Region 17

Early May

Every licensed and unlicensed foster home in region 17 received a letter and a single use coupon code for a free large specialty pizza from any Papa John's in Region 17.



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Region 18

Throughout May

Mailing out thank you cards to their families.



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