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**COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS & ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES HOST
FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT 'DAY OF ACTION' ACROSS THE CITY**

Council Members Across New York City Will Be Handing Out Information on How to Become a Foster Parent

Those Interested Can Call 212-676-WISH (9474) for Visit www.nyc.gov/foster for More Info

(Bronx, NY) Today, New York City Council Member Althea Stevens partnered with the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to host a Foster Parent Recruitment "Day of Action" across the city. Council Member Stevens is Chair of the Committee on Children and Youth Services. Participating Council Members include Diana Ayala, Erik Bottcher, Gale Brewer, Jennifer Gutiérrez, Sandy Nurse, Lincoln Restler, Kevin Riley, Lynn Schulman and Dr. Nantasha Williams. ACS Commissioner Dannhauser, ACS Deputy Commissioner Ina Mendez, and foster care agencies from throughout the City also engaged New Yorkers about becoming a foster parent.

Currently, there are approximately 6,500 children in foster care. Foster parents provide a safe, nurturing and loving home environment for children and youth in need. Foster parents are provided with ongoing support from highly trained staff in addition to specialized training to meet the needs of children and adolescents, to partner successfully with families.

Foster families who are able to care for sibling groups, teenagers and children with special needs are most in need today. Any caring adult interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent is encouraged to contact the ACS WISH line at 877-676-WISH (9474) today or visit: www.nyc.gov/foster for more information. New Yorkers call also call 311 for information about foster parenting.

"Today's Day of Action is a reminder that it truly takes a village to raise and support our children. By coming together, Council Members, city agencies, foster care providers, and everyday New Yorkers, we are demonstrating what it means to build a compassionate and connected city." **Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair of the Committee on Children and Youth Services**, emphasizes, "Every child deserves to feel safe, loved, and supported, and foster parents play an essential role in making that possible. This Day of Action is just the beginning; we will continue taking the necessary steps to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home."

"We are grateful to New Yorkers who are interested in opening their heart and their home to a child in need, and I want to thank our partner, Chair Stevens, for hosting this event, and express

our gratitude to Council Members across the City, and the foster care provider agencies for helping us get the word out today,” **said Commissioner Jess Dannhauser**. “Foster parents are everyday heroes as they play the central role in caring for children and youth who have experienced trauma, partnering with parents to help preserve bonds and promote healing and becoming permanent family when children are not able to return to their parents. They are an inspiration to us all and I encourage all those who are interested to learn more by calling our WISH Line: 877-676-WISH.”

“When I first opened my home as a foster parent, I thought I was doing something good for a child who needed love and stability, and I was. But I never expected how much it would change me. It made me stronger, more compassionate, and gave me a sense of chosen family. Foster parents give young people the chance to thrive, but they also discover something powerful in themselves. If sharing my story inspires even one person to take that step, I’ll keep telling it. We say it takes a village but sometimes, it starts with one brave person, one brave family. My hope is that events like this help us find more of them,” **said Council Member Diana Ayala**.

“Foster parents provide a home for the children who need it most,” **said Council Member Gale A. Brewer**. “As a former foster parent, I’m especially grateful to be a part of the 2025 Foster Parent Recruitment Day of Action.”

“Thank you to Council Member Althea Stevens and her team for organizing the rest of the council to get involved in this important action. We’re proud to be part of it because becoming a foster parent is one of the most powerful ways to show up for our city’s young people. It’s not just about providing a home—it’s about offering stability, love, and a future. So many people don’t realize how large the network of care could be—and today is about showing them that they can be part of it,” **said Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez**.

“Our office is thrilled to participate in ACS’ Day of Action because every New York City child deserves to find a loving, supportive forever home,” **said Council Member Sandy Nurse**. “There are countless children in our city with more complexities who are especially in need of loving foster parents. Fostering is an enriching, life-changing opportunity for everyone involved, which is why we need more people to take part in it.”

“I am proud to stand with the Administration for Children’s Services and Council Member Althea Stevens for the Foster Parent Recruitment Day of Action to raise awareness and mobilize our communities across New York City,” **said Council Member Kevin C. Riley**. “In the Bronx and beyond, there is an urgent need for compassionate adults to open their homes to teens, sibling groups, and children with complex needs. Fostering is a powerful way to invest in our youth, strengthen families, and build a stronger, more caring city. I encourage Bronx residents and neighbors across the five boroughs to step up and be a source of hope, healing, and stability for our children.”

“Every child deserves a safe, loving, and supportive home — and foster parents play a critical role in making that possible. I’m proud to join Council Member Stevens and ACS for the Foster Care Day of Action to raise awareness and connect families in our community with the resources they need to open their hearts and homes to children in foster care. Together, we can

ensure that every child in New York City has the opportunity to thrive,” **said Council Member Lynn Schulman.**

“Becoming a foster parent is one of the most generous and deeply human things a person can do. It means opening your home and your heart to a child who needs stability, care, and connection. Families who take that step, especially for teens, siblings, or children with special needs are helping to rewrite the story for young people who deserve every chance to feel safe, supported, and loved. That kind of commitment deserves not just our thanks, but our support through stronger systems, better outreach, and a real understanding of what families need to succeed,” **said Council Member Dr. Nantasha Williams.**