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CONTACT:

mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES CELEBRATES SEPTEMBER AS
'NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH' RECOGNIZING THE RELATIVES & FAMILY FRIENDS
WHO PROVIDE LOVING CARE FOR NYC CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

*As the City Foster Care Population Continues to Decline, Approximately 43 Percent
of Youth in NYC Foster Care Are Being Cared for By People They Already Know*

NEW YORK, NY– The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) today recognized "Kinship Care Awareness Month" by spotlighting the city's grandparents, aunts, uncles, other relatives, and close family friends who have stepped up to become kinship caregivers to children in foster care. Research shows that, when placed with people they already know, children in foster care experience less trauma, and have greater overall well-being. Currently, 43 percent of youth in New York City's foster care system are placed with people they know.

"We mark September as kinship care month and extend a special thank you to all those relatives welcoming a member of their family into their home. More than 4 in 10 young people in foster care are with a relative a figure that has gone up in recent years. We know that having children and young people be with a family member helps reduce trauma and increases stability. Thank you to ACS for their work in helping both raise the kinship care rate and decrease our foster care census; all of this work is part of the agency's prevention work that has had significant impact in recent years," **said Suzanne E. Miles-Gustave, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services.**

"Placing children in foster care with grandparents, relatives or close family friends helps to keep them connected to what and who they know, and that's why we do everything we can to place youth with kinship caregivers. We are proud of the fact that we have been able to safely reduce the foster care census and keep approximately 43 percent of those young people living with people they know. The Administration for Children's Services takes this opportunity to thank all of the city's kinship caregivers who have opened their hearts and homes to children in foster care," **said ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser.**

As a result of ACS's strategic efforts and caring loved ones willing to step up, 43% of children in New York City's foster care system are living with kinship caregivers – up from 31% in 2018—

even as the total number of NYC children in foster care continues to decrease. At the end of May 2025, 6,434 children were in foster care, and 2,768 were living with kin.

The agency has successfully implemented a plan of action and policies designed to increase the proportion of children in care placed with kin, including intensifying efforts to find and work with kin once it becomes clear that a child cannot remain safely at home and must come into care. ACS and its partner foster care agencies are committed to searching for kin who can care for a child, if they were not found initially. Kin must meet all the foster care requirements, safety standards and training requirements as non-kin foster parents.

They work closely with foster care case planners who certify their home as a foster home and connect them to resources. They receive the same financial support and other assistance that non-kinship foster parents receive. ACS and its community partners strive to support kin, so that children can stay closely connected to their families and the people in their lives whom they are closest to.