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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GOVERNOR GIBBONS PROCLAIMS MAY
NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH**

Carson City—Governor Jim Gibbons has issued a proclamation in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month, part of a nationwide celebration emphasizing the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents.

“Children in foster care require secure, stable places to call home until they can either safely reunite with their parents or establish other lifelong family relationships,” Governor Gibbons said. “A good home will help prepare our greatest resource, our children, with the skills they will need to thrive as adults.”

Fernando Serrano, Administrator of the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, said, “Like all young people, youth in foster care deserve and benefit from enduring, positive relationships with caring adults. We hope to inspire and engage many more individuals to take action in support of these children and their families. There are so many ways a person can positively affect the life of a child in foster care.”

To help promote National Foster Care Month, a **ribbon-tying event, hosted by First Lady Dawn Gibbons, will be held on May 12, 2007, on the State Capitol grounds, at 2:00 pm.** A blue ribbon representing every child in foster care in Nevada will be tied to a tree branch, paying tribute to the foster families who provide safe and supportive homes for youth in crisis.

For more information about foster care and/or Foster Family Appreciation events to be held statewide during May:

- Nevada Division of Child and Family Services Systems Advocate Unit, (775) 684-4447
- Nevada Division of Child and Family Services Rural Region District Office, (775) 687-4943, Suzanne Wright (ext. 240) or Tawnya Robertson (ext. 262)
- Sierra Association of Foster Families, Michalle Shown-Rodriguez, (775) 828-9977
- Washoe County Department of Social Services (775) 785-8600
- Clark County Department of Family Services (702) 455-5444

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