

Letter to the Editor:

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to come together on behalf of the nearly 500,000 American children who are living in foster care because their own families are in crisis. Over 10,000 of these children live right here in North Carolina.

Through our work with these amazing children and teens, we know how resilient they can be. Children have an extraordinary capacity to overcome many challenges – but only if they have the support of caring adults in their lives.

Foster parents play a key role in the lives of these children. They willingly open their hearts and homes while providing safety, love, and support for children with a wide variety of needs. They advocate for the children's health and well-being as a permanent plan is made for the child – to either return to their birth families or begin the search for an adoptive family. They become the child's ally and touch their lives in so many different ways.


During National Foster Care Month, we take time to honor the dedicated foster families, volunteers, and child welfare professionals who are serving children. The foster care "system" is only as good as the people who choose to be a part of it. With the help of more North Carolinians, the lives of these children will change for the better.

However, without permanent, nurturing relationships, children and teens that grow up in foster care are far more likely to endure homelessness, poverty, poor health, unemployment, incarceration, and many other adversities in their adult lives.

Nearly every community is suffering from a shortage of foster families. More and more children are in need. Children in foster care feel more secure and are likely to do better in school when they are able to stay in their home community. The simple truth is that the larger the pool of qualified foster parents, the easier it is to ensure that children can remain in their own neighborhoods and schools, and to place sibling groups together in foster homes.

No matter how much time you have to give, you have the power to do something positive that will change the life of a child in foster care. Call 1-800-632-1400 to find out how you can make a difference today.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'Ken Tutterow' and the second signature on the right is 'Sandy M. Cook'. Both signatures are written in a cursive style.

Ken Tutterow - CEO/President of Children's Home Society of NC

Sandy Cook - Executive Vice-President of Children's Home Society of NC