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*Child and Family
Services of Michigan, Inc.*

Celebrating 120 years of service to children and families...

PRESS RELEASE

Foster Care Is an Important Facet of Every Community

May Is National Foster Care Month

OKEMOS, MICHIGAN—May 3, 2011—More than 400,000 children in the United States are currently living in foster care because their families are in crisis or otherwise unable to provide for their essential well-being. In Michigan, alone, more than 15,000 children live in out-of-home placements. Most are in temporary foster care settings because of parental abuse or neglect.

May is National Foster Care Month. This month and throughout the year Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc. (CFSM) encourages everyone to play a role in making Michigan a better place for our children. By becoming a foster parent, individuals and families can make a difference in the lives of Michigan's youth – one child at a time.

All children deserve a safe, healthy, and stable home environment. No matter what their age, all children in foster care need a meaningful connection to at least one caring adult who can be a supportive and nurturing presence in their life.

While the number of foster care placements has leveled off over the past few years, a severe shortage of foster homes continues to exist.

“May is a time to celebrate the important role that foster parents play in protecting and nurturing children affected by abuse or neglect,” said Sharon Vichcales, administrative director of Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc. “If you’ve never thought about it before, now is a great time to consider taking on a new and rewarding role as a foster parent.”

Visit www.michigan.gov/dhs or www.fostercaremonth.org or to find out more about the many ways you can get involved and make a lasting difference for Michigan's children.

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For Immediate Release