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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FAYETTE COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM HONORED**

**Uniontown, PA** – With Foster Parent Appreciation Month well under way in Fayette County, a Moon Area High School teen hopes to make foster families' journeys a little easier.

Senior Nicholas Morrow recently partnered with Together We Rise, a nonprofit organization that helps children entering the foster care system, to complete his senior project.

Morrow and organization representatives raised money to purchase duffle bags and comfort items for foster care families, as many children find their belongings packed in trash bags when transitioning from home into the system.

Morrow, 18, said he saw firsthand how foster children can be impacted, as his family recently became guardians of a child that grew up in the system. His duffle bags were delivered to several area child welfare agencies, including Fayette County Children and Youth Services.

State Sen. Pat Stefano, R-Bullskin Township, and wife, Tina, helped Morrow make the special delivery, which arrived right on time for Foster Parent Appreciation Month.

Last month, Fayette County Commissioners Dave Lohr, Angela Zimmerlink and Vincent Vicites issued a proclamation for the entire month of May, recognizing foster parents as protectors of neglected and abused children.

Commissioners called upon all citizens to continue supporting foster families in providing safe, secure and stable homes.

"Talk about unsung heroes," Lohr said. "Anyone deciding to become a foster parent has decided to have a major change in their lives."

Lohr said it takes a very special family to take on the endeavor without knowing what the future might hold.



"They may change the life of a child forever," he said. "God's blessing to all who choose this road. Thank you."

Vicites encouraged all county residents to consider becoming foster parents through Children and Youth Services.

"Foster parents play such a vital role in a young child's life," he said. "Their dedication and commitment is very much appreciated."

"Foster parents are a special group of people who give their love and support to children under extraordinary conditions," Zimmerlink said. "We should all show our support to these caring individuals."

In their ongoing efforts to celebrate the county's thriving child welfare system, commissioners issued a proclamation officially declaring June 4 - 8 Child Welfare Professionals Week in Fayette.

They recognized that child welfare professionals undertake significant risks to investigate instances of child abuse and neglect and stressed the need for professionals' continued dedication.

Commissioners urged all residents to recognize all child welfare professionals for selflessly protecting those in need and renewed their commitment to ensuring all children receive healthy, nurturing care.

Additionally, commissioners issued a proclamation officially declaring June 11 - 15 Child Welfare Providers Week, in recognition of the risks of intervention in potentially dangerous situations in which children in need must rely on those providers.

Commissioners applauded the substantial knowledge and skills required for child welfare providers to protect children and strengthen families. They urged all residents to acknowledge their unwavering commitment to the cause.

For more information on Fayette County Children and Youth Services, visit [www.fccys.org](http://www.fccys.org).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.info](http://www.fayettecountypa.info).

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