



## *City of Riverside Proclamation*

WHEREAS, adults and families serve as the foundation which supports a child's sense of being loved, as well as their sense of self and identity; and

WHEREAS, as of July 2007, 5,625 children were placed in the Riverside County foster care system and as of now 723 foster youth in Riverside County are awaiting adoption; and

WHEREAS, research states that more than 90% of foster youth who are not adopted, or have a permanent family placement, and "age out" of foster care at the age of 18 or 19 end up homeless, incarcerated or dead within two years of leaving foster care; less than 50% graduate high school; less than 10% attend college, and of those who attend college, only 2% finish; and

WHEREAS, 24,000 foster children "aged out" or were emancipated from the foster system in the United States in 2007, and approximately 350 children did the same in Riverside county in 2007; and

WHEREAS, many foster children are being provided with safe, secure, loving, and nurturing environments by dedicated foster families; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Riverside community as a whole supports foster children and these individuals and families in every way possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronald O. Loveridge, Mayor of the City of Riverside, do hereby proclaim the first Saturday in May as

### **Foster Care Awareness Day**

in Riverside and on behalf of the Riverside City Council, urge all residents to come forward to work to improve the life of a youth in foster care.

Ronald O. Loveridge, Mayor  
City of Riverside, California  
May 3, 2008

