MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff
From: Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes
Date: May 28, 2020
Subject: Wear **Blue** for Foster Care Month

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As we wrap up the celebration of **Foster Care Month**, we ask all of you to wear blue **on Friday, May 29** to thank and recognize the wonderful parents who provide loving homes for the children in foster care.

We all are grateful to the heroes - the essential workers in the healthcare field and others who are enabling the rest of us to stay safe at home -- Their sacrifices during the pandemic have not gone unnoticed. This gratitude is extended to the **"Heroes at Home"** Foster parents open their homes to children at this most difficult time. Our foster parents too are enabling children to **Stay Safe at home**.

To recognize the incredible contribution of our foster parents -- relative, kin therapeutic and core -- we worked with partners to create this video: Heroes At Home.
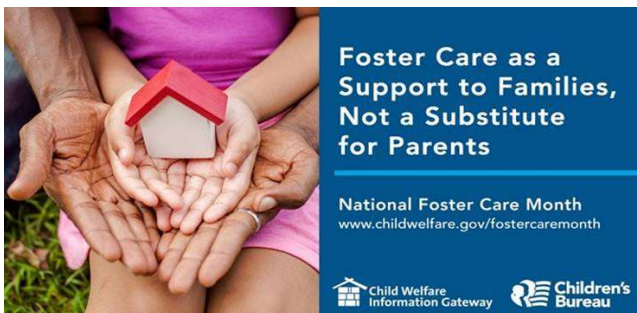
Typically, during **National Foster Care Month**, the Department hosts events to celebrate foster parents, but the current health crisis has disrupted many of these plans.

We need your collective help!

With your commitment to **WEAR BLUE on Friday 5/29/20**, we will demonstrate that our bravest and most valuable heroes -- our foster parents -- are always in our **hearts**. Please snap a pic of yourself all decked out in **BLUE** to our DCF.COVID-19@ct.gov mailbox so we can share this effort.

As a demonstration of of how wonderful our foster families are, let me share this story, beautifully reported by **WTNH reporter Sara Cody**, about a foster parent who, at the time of greatest uncertainty, opened her home to a child. Please take a few moments to review the video here: "She Needed Me to Say Yes"

Please join us in thanking the **Heroes at Home** by **wearing blue tomorrow** and sending us a photo!

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" I do my best because I'm counting on YOU counting on me…"
m angelou