FOSTER CARE AWARENESS
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately 2252 children in Maine are in the care of Maine Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, nearly all of these children have special needs because of physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, because they must be placed with other siblings, because they are children of color, or because they are school-aged; and

WHEREAS, these children need extra patience and support to help them overcome precious hardships; and

WHEREAS, approximately 217 children are currently in foster homes where they are expected to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, it is important to stress that a disability, low income or being single does not disqualify individuals from adopting; and

WHEREAS, approximately 153 children are waiting for adoptive families currently in the State of Maine,

WHEREAS, children waiting for adoptive parents, and families who are caring for these children or have decided to adopt these children require and deserve public and agency support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, Andrew MacLean, Mayor of Gardiner of Maine, do hereby declare, May 2007 as Foster Care Awareness Month within the City of Gardiner, Maine and in honor of this event, I encourage community agencies, religious organizations, businesses and others to celebrate foster care, honor families that grow through foster care, further an awareness of the changes and issues in foster care and focus attention on those who live in the shadow of an uncertain future while they await forever families.

Mayor Andrew MacLean	Councilor Bryan Blanchard
Councilor Jean Dellert	Councilor Phil Hart
Councilor Chuck LeBlanc	Councilor Martha Mentall
Councilor Richard Nickless	Councilor Richard Rambo