



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the family is the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support for children and adults, and provides the foundation of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the bond between child, parents and family members provides the nurturing and security that is critical for personal growth and development; and

**WHEREAS**, parents can encounter problems that require attention and assistance to ensure the safety and caring support of their children and their family; and

**WHEREAS**, because of this important bond, reunification with parents and family is the best option and preferred outcome for children removed from their homes and placed in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, thousands of parents work hard through the dependency process to improve and grow, and thousands of children are successfully reunified with their parents and families; and

**WHEREAS**, family reunification also takes investment by extended family members, social workers, foster parents, service providers, attorneys, courts and the community; and

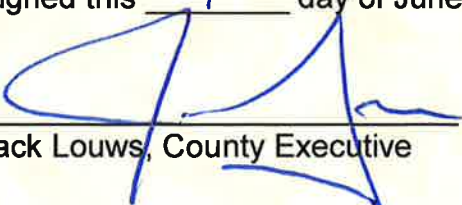
**WHEREAS**, celebrating Family Reunification Day is an opportunity to recognize and support families who have successfully reunified with their children, those families currently working through the process, and the many support persons who help these families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, do I, Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, hereby proclaim June 27, 2019 as

### ***Family Reunification Day***

in Whatcom County, and urge all residents to join us in this special observance in support of families.

Signed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019

  
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Jack Louws, County Executive

