



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, all New Yorkers recognize that children represent our greatest hope for the future and that keeping them safe and healthy is of paramount importance, therefore, we join to acknowledge the community of professional child welfare caseworkers who strive toward this meaningful goal through their work within our State's system of services and programs that ensure children's well-being; and

Whereas, child welfare agencies assign child welfare caseworkers to families that come to the attention of the child welfare system and they work with these families by conducting regular visits with intact families and with children in foster care, and by facilitating visitation between family members when children are placed outside the home; and

Whereas, the child welfare caseworker addresses reports of child abuse, investigates allegations of abuse and neglect, assesses children's safety and risk of harm, evaluates a family's capacity to participate in services, coordinates services and interventions for the child and family, and institutes measures for prevention and early intervention and, at each stage of the process, the caseworker determines the support services that children and families need to ensure that children are protected from potential physical and emotional harm, and have a permanent home in a safe and healthy environment; and

Whereas, in New York State, the child welfare system focuses on our most vulnerable children and families through a government and not-for-profit partnership that is vigilant in its monitoring and oversight of children and provides them with a solid foundation of support in order for them to become educated, confident and productive citizens; and

Whereas, the relationship between a child welfare caseworker and children and their families is key to the success of the child welfare system, and while acting in the best interests of children is the primary objective of the caseworker, our whole society shares a moral responsibility to report known or suspected acts of child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities; and

Whereas, the work of a child welfare caseworker is challenging in that it requires a personal sacrifice of time and energy to investigate the home conditions of children, and it is also demanding in that it requires a full-time commitment to a child's care and services – yet it is rewarding work in that it enables the caseworker to help families and young people enjoy a safer, healthier quality of life; and

Whereas, "Caseworkers Make A Difference" is a year-long campaign being observed throughout New York State to increase awareness and understanding of the professional role of child welfare caseworkers, and this entire community of dedicated caring individuals deserves our collective support, encouragement, and recognition for the significant contributions they make to the lives of children and families in New York State, each and every day;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim 2009 as

YEAR OF THE CHILD WELFARE CASEWORKER

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twelfth day of March in the year two thousand nine.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Lawrence Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor