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Sun Prairie foster parents recognized by Lieutenant Governor, First Lady and DCF Secretary-designee

(MADISON) – In recognition of Foster Care Month, Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, First Lady Kathy Evers and Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary-designee Emilie Amundson honored foster parents Jennifer Dickman and Hudson Doolittle for their incredible commitment to the children of Dane County who have needed a temporary, safe place to call home by presenting them with a 2019 Governor's Foster Care Award.

Dickman and Doolittle, along with four other outstanding foster families and one foster youth, received special recognition today during the 2019 Governor's Foster Care Award ceremony in the Assembly Chamber of the State Capitol.

"Providing care and love to children who cannot remain in their home is an incredible act of kindness," said DCF Secretary-designee Amundson. "Foster families step in to provide a safe, nurturing, and loving environment for children to call home, and we cannot thank them enough for the important role they play in strengthening our communities."

Jennifer Dickman and Hudson Doolittle opened their heart and home to a sibling group that needed a little extra care and love. Through Jennifer and Hudson's eternal love, support and care, they have helped three siblings not only remain together, but also overcome challenges and thrive. They also have a unique ability to connect with their placements and their biological parents, resulting in successful reunifications.

Today's ceremony also highlighted the need for additional kind, responsible adults to step forward and care for foster children and youth who are in need of a temporary place to call home. Currently in Wisconsin there are about 8,000 children living in out-of-home care. For more information on becoming a foster parent, visit <u>https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/fostercare/become</u>.

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