

Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents

Home for the Holidays

In 1985, my parents took in a boy to care for him. Although we didn't know it was called foster care, my parents cared for him. Over the years, I had three sisters and a brother who became foster parents. My husband and I had two children but we always wanted more. After they were grown, we opened our home and decided to become foster parents ourselves.

The social worker called us to foster a 4- and 12-year-old African girls. We kept the 4-year-old for 2 years and the 12 year old for 6 years. Caring for them was a delight. We went on vacations and spent a lot of family time together, enjoying food from their country.

After the girls left, there was a void in our home and they were missed. They always say they come back for my delicious cooking.

We have been called by the social worker for several teenagers, who we raised and went on to college. It was tough at first getting to know them. They struggled to trust in us but once we started listening to them, it got easier. They began following the rules and being responsible. We kept our word and frequently had meetings at the round table, as we called it, showing them love and understanding.

We presently have a 14 year old that is a joy to have! She has gained a special place in my heart. She enjoys vacations and being with the family. After a few weeks of struggling, she gained encouragement and love. She has learned that struggles can make you stronger. She is smart, respectful, funny, and has achieved everything she strives for. She is an honor student and has won a 4-year scholarship at Seton High School. I am in the process of gaining guardianship.

We stay in touch with all the girls we've cared for, and they always comeback for holidays. They call frequently, which makes me feel very special. We are proud that we have been able to make a difference in their lives and the world.



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