



Testimonial: John and Cora

FALL 2018

**OUR SHARED
VISION**

**Safe and
thriving
children and
youth**

**Empowered
families**

**Stronger
communities**

Fostering children for 50 years builds a lot of relationships and a lot of memories, which Cora and John cherish as they retire from their fostering career.

The child always comes first

John and Cora fostered boys and girls of all ages, but eventually chose to foster teenaged boys. "I got along well with the boys," says Cora. "I could relate to them easily." At holiday times, Cora always made a fuss over the boys, buying them eggs and bunnies at Easter, and taking them for photos with Santa at Christmas — even when they were six feet tall and over 200 pounds! "They always seemed to enjoy it," remembers Cora.

New foster children received a formal introduction to their household and its members, and were encouraged to make themselves at home, which they did quickly, according to Cora. They acknowledge that there were good times and some very difficult times. Asked how they maintained their commitment to fostering during the difficult times, John states that "we always remained close to the boys, and could talk things out with them." Cora's approach was to take a step back and "remember that the child always comes first."

A Child Service Worker who worked with Cora and John for over 10 years, states, "I am always thrilled when I get to work with Cora and John again because I know the youth in their home will be treated with respect, have strong supports and vocal advocates, and be well cared for. They will be served delicious meals (including Cora's famous cheese buns), will laugh a lot, and will feel like part of the family."



John and Cora with their son at the 2018 Foster Parent Recognition Dinner.

Staying connected

Many of their foster children have kept in touch with them over the years. For example, their second foster child, Kathy, who came to live with them in 1968, is like a sister to their daughter Kim. Kathy now brings her grandchildren to family gatherings. Cora describes her as "the greatest gift the CCAS of Hamilton ever gave" to her family.

Just recently, John and Cora's son was speaking with identical twin brothers, and in the course of conversation, it came up that they had been fostered by a family on the mountain. Sure enough, it was the John and Cora's family, and reintroductions quickly followed.

Fostering across generations

John was a foster child himself, with a foster mom that Cora describes as "an absolute angel". She was responsible for getting John and Cora involved in fostering. And now, their daughter Kim and her husband are foster parents as well.

We are so grateful to the whole family for all they've done to support children and youth in Hamilton for over 50 years!