

Placement stability

When Jeff came to Montcalm County MDHHS to inquire about fostering last year, he already had a great resume of experiences supporting kids and teens in the community. Prior to being licensed through Montcalm County MDHHS last year, Jeff had previously fostered quite a few years ago through a private agency. He is an adoptive parent to three young adult sons, a CASA volunteer, a teacher in a local school district, and a youth/high school soccer coach. So much of Jeff's life has centered around his passion for helping kids. Jeff was interested in fostering younger school-aged children when he began this journey of fostering again last year. During the licensing process, it came up that a teenager in a residential placement was in need of a foster home. As the agency was struggling with finding a home for him, the licenser approached Jeff about potential interest in expanding the age range he was being licensed for to consider placement of this teen. Jeff agreed to begin a relationship with this teen as a supportive adult and once he was licensed, he transitioned this teen to his home for placement.

Jeff has been an outstanding advocate for this teen. Jeff did not give up on this youth even when things were hard. This just highlights one way in which Jeff is in tune with the needs of youth in foster care and is willing to meet kids where they are without setting unrealistic expectations. Jeff has a true passion for helping kids in need. His licensing worker states that Jeff "has been a great addition to the Ionia/Montcalm MDHHS foster parent team."

