

### “You do what you need to do for family”-Connie

From the moment that Connie brought her nephews into her home as a relative caregiver, she set forth a mood of perseverance and dedication to the boys. Prior to taking her nephews into her home, Connie was a single parent to her two daughters. She was familiar with caring for children with emotional and behavioral impairments, and was confident that she would be the right person to provide care for her nephews. When placed in her home, one of her nephews was behind in his development and experienced behavior issues. Connie was quick to request an IEP, was in attendance as his advocate, and encouraged the birthmother to attend the IEP and advocate for her own child. Connie has gone above and beyond in ensuring the children received the necessary services since being in her care. She has also been proactive in requesting additional services and tests to ensure her nephews are receiving the best care possible.

The biggest impact Connie has had on one of her nephews is teaching him to hug. When he was first placed in her home, he would often act out or avoid physical touch, but he now seeks hugs from Connie. This touch has become the healing point for her nephew.

