



Using the power of relationships, research, and knowledge to help kids thrive

The Callan Family

Bruce and Kathie Callan have just celebrated their 23rd anniversary. As a blended family, they have two children each, from previous marriages; two boys and two girls, who are now 25 to 43-years-old, and three grandchildren. They are a proud foster family that has cared for many teens in the past five years, and are looking forward to their next experience of providing a loving home to a young person at a time of need.

Oakville residents for over 20 years, Bruce and Kathie have busy work schedules that they balance with as much family time as possible. Over the past two years the whole family pitched in to build a cottage in Tobermorey, Ontario. Summer time is now spent with the entire family, including three dogs, up at the cottage, paddle-boating, relaxing by the water and around many campfires. The fun continues through the winter with snowmobiling.

Their relationship with the Halton Children's Aid Society began a couple of years ago when Kathie participated in a fundraiser, specifically for teenagers, at her workplace. This resonated with her because she had been in foster care as a youngster. Although her placement was relatively short, it had an extremely positive impact on her life. She still cherishes the memories of that childhood experience and felt she wanted to give another child, specifically a teen, that opportunity. On her own and a mom at 15, difficulty through the teen years was something she knew about first hand. So, after much discussion with Bruce and the rest of their family, everyone agreed about getting involved.

Shortly after signing up, they received a call about a 15-year-old boy who was living in a group home. They met Kyle on Friday and the connection was so immediate that by Monday he was living with them.

“It was love at first sight and we never looked back,” Kathie said. “He fit in so well with our family and it was wonderful to see him enjoy all that we had to offer. Kyle became engaged in school, training, and his own future. He taught us about resilience and how important adaptability is to success. He has now graduated from his college apprenticeship program, has a good job, and is working towards a degree in business administration!”

As foster parents with Halton Children's Aid, Kathie and Bruce continue to open their home to children and youth who need temporary care and support. They are very sensitive to the fact that these times are extremely difficult for these children and youth, and their families. They also realize that in providing guidance, support and unconditional love, even for a short time, that they can help children to excel and become warm, caring and responsible adults.