



QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE  
NEVADA

# Spotlight on Quality

## Pat Johnson

### Quality Caregiver

***Each month the Foster Parent Champion Program will highlight a caregiver, case manager, or other foster care team member who exemplifies the quality of care that we strive for as a community focused on the needs of children.***

Twenty-three years ago, Pat Johnson felt that she was called to become a foster parent. She began fostering in California and when she moved to Las Vegas, she continued fostering teenagers. Pat enjoys being a caregiver to teens because she understands they need a sense of love and belonging just as much as younger children in care. She has offered not only that for the teens in her home, but she has also provided them with guidance and direction.

Pat's success with teens can be attributed to the unconditional love and respect she gives them. No matter what they do, Pat is committed to never give up on any one of them. An example of this is one teenager who had been in Pat's home for several months. One evening the teen became verbally abusive toward Pat, called the police, stole money and ran away. Pat was determined to get this teen back on track and allowed the teen to return to her home. With the consistency of care and nurturing that Pat provided, this teen is now successfully living independently.

While teens are in her care, Pat considers herself their Mom. She treats them with the same respect and love that she would give to her biological child. What makes Pat special is that she is also willing to be their Mom after they leave her home. She always gives them the choice of maintaining contact with her and respects their decision. Pat feels that her reward is when they remember her and maintain contact even after they leave her home.

In addition to the relationship she maintains with her previous foster children, Pat extends that relationship to their children as well! Pat recently took six of her foster grandbabies (children of her previous foster children) to Knott's Berry Farm.

Pat shared that the best thing you can do for a teen is to "just love them and take care of them like they are yours, because while they are in your care...they are yours."

It is caregivers, like Pat, who demonstrate how working together in partnership promotes QPI and the DFS vision of *Safe Children, Healthy Families, and Caring Communities*.

***Submitted by Foster Parent Champion Julie Dahlen***



### **Do You Know a Quality Caregiver or Case Manager?**

To nominate a caregiver, case manager, or other foster care team member that you believe demonstrates quality care, please email your nomination to [DFSFPC@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:DFSFPC@ClarkCountyNV.gov) or call us at 702-455-1149. The Foster Parent Champion Program is available Monday – Friday, 9 am – 7 pm.