

# Cookie & Warren's Story

## Could I be a foster mom?

This was the question Cookie Purvis asked, over 20 years ago. As a single parent and mother of 3 college-bound biological children, Cookie found herself in discussions with friends around becoming a foster parent. She hadn't really considered the idea because she assumed her divorced marital status, "already raised" bio children, and recent relocation to Indianapolis excluded her from being eligible to foster; all of which are myths.

Cookie's remarkable devotion to providing disadvantaged children with the feeling of family quickly drew her through foster parent training and she began providing short-term "emergency" foster care in 1990.

As Cookie's confidence grew, she began fostering children for longer periods of time and her journey eventually connected her with Adult and Child Center. Adult and Child's program focuses on supporting children with emotional challenges and while Cookie admits this presents a unique set of parenting challenges, she is also very proud of the success her foster children have found.



Cookie and Warren Purvis have fostered over 40 children. Each day, families like yours **help Foster** children in need.

[www.IndyFosterCare.org/foster-stories/](http://www.IndyFosterCare.org/foster-stories/)

"I encourage my children to figure out what they like to do most in life and go do it. So many times, these kids come to our family having never been encouraged or experienced love or affection. Before any child comes into our home, we discuss it as a family, but once they are here, we treat them like family regardless of color, gender, or disability. We are just a family that has no love boundaries."

Today, Cookie is married to Warren, and the couple continues caring for foster children. When asked about the challenges around caring for children who have emotional challenges, Warren referenced a t-shirt he owns which says "set no limits". This phrase is much more than a t-shirt for Warren, it is his philosophy (Warren is the proud father of 7 adopted teenage girls). He proactively includes each of their (foster) children in family games, activities, and home projects regardless of gender, ability, or project type.

Cookie and Warren have lost track of how many children they have fostered, but they estimate it to be well over 40 children; 7 of whom they have adopted (and they aren't finished). The Purvis family is truly a remarkable Hoosier family. Their ability to embrace and accept traumatized children into their family, without judgment, is encouraging.

*"Whether they have a mental disorder, or physical disorder, or they are just traumatized, all these kids want to feel is safe and loved." -- Cookie Purvis*