



Foster Care

When Vescenta learned that she was to become the foster parent to a sibling group of three boys, she was more than a little nervous about whether she could handle the job, but three years later, the four are still together and have become a family in her suburban Baltimore home.

“I never dreamed I would have them this long, but we’ve been doing pretty good so far,” she says. Vescenta is one of more than a dozen treatment foster care parents who work with the Board of Child Care to provide loving homes to children and youth, ages 8 to 18, who need intensive care and treatment outside of their own biological homes.

For Vescenta, who is retired and a widow, Adam, 19, Simon, 16, and Kyle, 13, have helped to make her four-bedroom home come alive with activity. In turn, for the brothers, she has provided a stable, caring environment where they have been able to remain together. Adam and Kyle, in particular, have grown “very close” over time, Vescenta has noticed. “Vescenta has also been a bridge between the boys and their extended biological family,” adds her BCC Clinical Social Worker, Camille Henderson.

The Board of Child Care provides the family with ongoing support, including therapy sessions for the boys and ongoing training for Vescenta. Adam’s social workers at BCC recently helped him enroll at a local community college. And Vescenta has learned a great deal from the foster parent trainings. “It helps a lot with disciplining the boys and understanding them and handling crises.” Camille works closely with Vescenta in assisting the boys with their educational goals and independent living and social skills.

After three years together, life has settled into a routine for the family. The boys have their favorite meals—macaroni and cheese, spaghetti and pizza—and on Saturdays they go to McDonald’s and on Sundays they go to church. The holidays are spent with Vescenta’s cousin who lives nearby and cooks big meals.

Vescenta says what she enjoys most about being a foster mom is “the joy of being a mom in my old age. I do enjoy taking care of the kids, cooking for them and seeing them off to school and waiting for their return. They are good kids.”

