

Foster Parent's Dedication Spans 50 Years
85-year-old Has Cared for More than 100 Children

At 85 years old, foster parent Marjorie Porter has not slowed down, nor does she have any intention of doing so. Recently, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) held an appreciation ceremony to honor Porter for being remarkable caregiver, caring for more than 100 children during the last 50 years. She was presented with a plaque, reception and a framed picture.

Porter has also become a legal guardian and an adoptive parent to a number of her foster children. During this time, she and her late husband became legal guardians to four children and adopted four others. Her first adopted child is now 52 years old.

Currently, the youngest child in her care is about 18 months old and the oldest is a blind, deaf, wheelchair-bound, mentally-challenged 25-year-old who she has cared for since he was four days old. Many of these children still call her house "home," even though they have reunified with their families or left the system.

Porter also continues to be very active in her community. She shares her experience and leadership skills by serving as President of the Long Beach Foster Parent Association of which she was an original founder.

In addition, Porter is active with the L.A. Council Resource Families Coordinating Council. Porter's unflagging commitment to Los Angeles County foster youth has not gone unnoticed over the years. In 1998, Porter was honored with the Director's Award during the Foster Parent Association State Conference.

Porter goes above and beyond to care for her foster children. In her care, children have taken numerous vacations and she has purchased yearly passes to Disneyland and paid \$400 dollars for a prom dress for one child. Porter purchased a van for a young man while providing the environment and financial wisdom so he was able to save more than \$10,000 while employed part-time at in just two years.

With her long years of service, Porter has fond memories of many DCFS staff. According to her, numerous outstanding social workers have been supportive to her throughout the decades.

"Marjorie Porter is a remarkable person and an example of how one person can change the lives of so many children," said DCFS Director Patricia Ploehn.

For more information on becoming an adoptive or foster parent, please call DCFS at 1-888-811-8811.

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