

# Meet Your IFAPA Peer Liaison

## Michelle Johnson



**I provide peer support to families living in the following counties:**

**Adair, Adams, Madison, Ringgold, Union, Warren and Polk\***

\*Only zip codes: 50009, 50035, 50073, 50169, 50237, 50301, 50305, 50312, 50313, 50314, 50315, 50316, 50317, 50320, 50321, 50327

### **How to Contact Me:**

**844-627-8303** Toll-free

**515-619-9927** Dsm area

**mjohnson@ifapa.org** Email



Hello! My name is Michelle Johnson and I am your IFAPA Peer Liaison with the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. I would like to thank you for your dedication to children and opening your hearts and homes to them. It is not easy being a foster and/or adoptive parent but it is definitely rewarding. I have been a foster/adoptive mom since 2009. I have five children in my home that joined my family through birth, foster care and adoption. I understand many of the trials and tribulations as well as the joys and love that come from fostering. I would like to thank all of you for helping be a ray of hope to these children who desperately need it.

I am available to answer questions and provide information on trainings, policies, support groups, and other concerns. I am a great listener and I am able to empathize with you. All of our conversations will be confidential, and I am an excellent person to come to if you need to vent frustrations. One of my areas of expertise is with parenting children with difficult behaviors. I have experience with parenting children who have a variety of diagnoses and mental health concerns. I have experience caring for drug affected babies and teen moms. I do not pretend to know all the answers, but I will work hard to find the answers you need.

I understand the importance of maintaining positive relationships between birth families, foster families and the social workers involved. I have worked closely with DHS and Iowa KidsNet to help children in the best ways possible. I strive to help biological and foster families bridge any gaps in communication to become allies who work together for the benefit of the children. It is important that everyone work together for the best interests of the children. I often imagine myself in the child's shoes. When a child is trying my patience I take a deep breath and try to imagine how terrifying it would be to have your whole world turned upside down.

Please feel free to call or email me. I look forward to talking with you soon and working as your IFAPA Peer Liaison.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Johnson  
IFAPA Peer Liaison

**FACT: IFAPA's Peer Liaisons and Resource Information Specialists provide support to an average of 2,000 foster, adoptive and kinship parents each month.**