

## Nomination form for 2015

### Details of the foster carer or couple being nominated for an award:

Surname: Foster		First names: Irene and Ian	
Preferred name:			
Date of Birth: 1/1/1969	Gender: F & M	Ethnicity: NZ European	
Street address: 36 Children's Grove			
Suburb: Kindness	City / Town: Caretown	Postcode: 1234	
Daytime contact number: 07 123 4567		After hours contact number: 07 123 4567	
Email address: ifoster@xtra.co.nz			

### Details of the person nominating a foster carer or couple for an award:

Organisation (if relevant): Child, Youth and Family			
Surname: Smith		First names: Mary	
Relationship to the foster carer(s): Caregiver social worker			
How many years have you known the foster carer(s): 6 years			
PO Box or Street address: 7 Caregiver Avenue			
Suburb: Hope	City / Town: Caretown	Postcode:	
Daytime contact number: 02 987 6543		After hours contact number: 02 987 6543	
Email address: Socialworker@cyf.govt.nz			

### Foster carer(s) to complete

#### Please tell us about your current foster care status

We are current foster carer(s)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
We have been foster carer(s) for 13 years			
We provide foster care for Child, Youth and Family	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Site: Caretown
We provide foster care for an NGO Agency	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name:
We provide foster care for family / whānau	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Please demonstrate your commitment to ongoing training by listing relevant courses**

<b>Course names:</b>	<b>Year attended:</b>
Attachment and Resilience	2011
Legal Issues	2011
Working with Adolescents	2010

**Please tell us why you chose to become a foster carer** (You can also attach any additional documents to support this if you wish.)

I enjoy working with children and I wanted to be there for children who needed support. I felt that my family could make a positive difference in a child's life.

**If successful, do you wish to be identified?** (E.g. in the media as part of a good news story, or in a Child, Youth and Family or Fostering Kids printed publication or on their websites. If you wish to remain anonymous, it will not affect your nomination).

Yes       No       Not Sure

**Attending the awards ceremony in Wellington**

All travel, overnight accommodation, entertainment and meals are included as part of the award. There will be a range of activities over the two days, including the awards ceremony.

We will be available to attend the awards ceremony in Wellington and stay overnight. The awards ceremony will be held during Foster Care Awareness week which runs from 6-12 March 2016 (dates to be confirmed).

Yes       No       Not Sure

**Applicants approval for submission of nomination for an award**

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Foster carer applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Foster carer applicant)

**Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_



child, youth  
and family

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## Person nominating foster carer(s) to complete

**Please tell us what special qualities the foster carer(s) has including any training they have undertaken?**

Both Irene and Ian are exceptional people; they welcome children into their family time and time again. Not only have they offered a home for life to two children they also support other foster families by offering respite care as well. They make children feel like they belong (see attached letter from Paul who has lived with them for 10 years).

**Please describe how the foster carer(s) you are nominating provide a positive image of fostering in your community (E.g. mentor, leader, support to other foster carers, has positive relationships with social workers and other stakeholders)**

Ian and Irene are active members in their local Foster Care Association. They attend regular support meetings and trainings and can always be seen encouraging other caregivers to attend trainings as well.

Irene was instrumental in organising the "care for families" programme which encouraged a community of fostering families to come together once a month with a positive focus on solutions for challenging behaviours in children. Foster Carers who attend this have written a letter (Attached) regarding how Irene has supported many families through difficult times and the difference she has made in the community.

Irene and Ian are always willing to speak to new foster carers at induction trainings and share their experiences.

**Please list ways this foster carer(s) has demonstrated commitment to children and young people in care, (E.g. being non-judgemental and providing advocacy for children?)**

There are many examples but one that springs to mind when thinking of Ian and Irene is when Jane was first placed with them. Jane was 13 and stayed with them until she was 18.

Throughout this time they demonstrated a strong commitment to this girl who took them on a journey through a raft of developmental, academic, emotional and sometimes very challenging interactions. At all times Ian and Irene demonstrated a high level of integrity, commitment and willingness to walk alongside her, advocate for her at school and work closely with her social worker.

There would have been many times through the five years they had Jane, where anyone would understand if they had decided to give up on her, but they didn't. Irene and Ian continued to hang in there with her despite the many times she ran away, showed them disrespect, made inappropriate choices that caused significant distress to them and their family. Ian and Irene chose to maintain a stable placement for her until she chose to leave their care. The care they provided enabled Jane to gain enough success academically to be able to go on to complete tertiary courses at the local Polytech. (Please see the letter attached that Jane has written and photos of Jane holding her certificates at her graduation)





**Excellence**  
IN FOSTER CARE AWARDS

**Please list any additional support information included as part of this nomination**

(This may be letters of support from friends, people in the community or children and young people in your care.)

- A letter from Paul's teacher talking about the difference in Paul since he was placed with Ian and Irene.
- A letter from Irene's friend supporting this nomination.
- Family photo's.

**Please print this completed nomination form and post by Friday 14 August 2015 to:**

**Andeana Pilalis  
Fostering Kids  
PO Box 30188  
Lower Hutt 5040**

**Or, you can email your nomination along with scanned copies of all supporting documentation to:**

[nationaloffice@fosteringkids.org.nz](mailto:nationaloffice@fosteringkids.org.nz)

**Thank you for nominating an outstanding foster carer you know.**



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