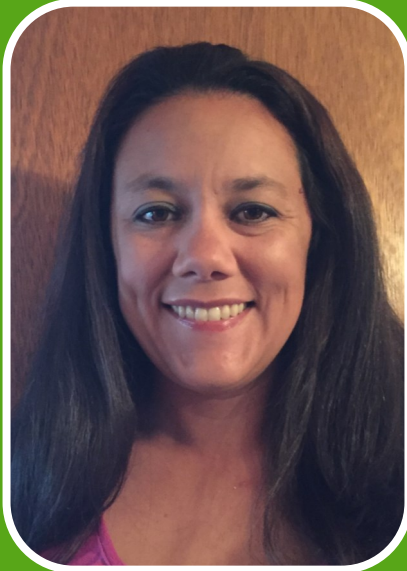


# Meet Your IFAPA Peer Liaison

## Jessica Leal



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

**Allamakee, Buchanan, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Jackson & Winneshiek**

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

**563-581-1119** Cell

[jleal@ifapa.org](mailto:jleal@ifapa.org) Email



Hello! My name is Jessica Leal and am a Peer Liaison with the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association in NE Iowa. I am originally from IL, but have lived in Clinton for 8 years now. I have two children, one biological and one adopted from foster care. I have been a foster parent for five years to approximately 30 children and have provided respite for many others.

My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in organizational management and sociology and a master's degree in social work. In addition to my Peer Liaison position, I am also a licensed school social worker. Previous to taking that position, I worked in the substance abuse field and in child welfare as a FSRP support worker. I have worked closely with the courts, Iowa KidsNet, DHS, as well as other supporting agencies both as a school social worker and foster parent. For the past year, I have been working closely with a group of other foster parents on building our local support group, becoming a non-profit, and establishing numerous supports for foster parents.

I am very passionate about helping children overcome the barriers of this society and grow to become successful, productive adults. I love being a foster parent and doing what I can to help children in my community and look forward to supporting other foster parents caring for these children.

I have lots of experience with behavior, IEP's, 504's, anything school related, subsidies, working with bio families, as well as transitioning for teens. Please do not hesitate to call me whenever you have a question or need support.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Leal  
IFAPA Peer Liaison

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