

# Meet Your IFAPA Peer Liaison

## John Smith



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

**Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Humboldt, Ida, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster & Woodbury**

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

**877-305-3396** Toll-free

**712-665-4011** Lake View area

**jsmith@ifapa.org** Email



Hello! My name is John Smith (really) and I am your Peer Liaison with the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association (IFAPA). My wife, Connie, and I live in Lake View. We have five children and one grandchild. We have been foster/adoptive parents for 27 years. During this time, not only have a number of children sat at our table, but we also have seen a number of changes and trends in the way that foster care services have been delivered and the expectations that are placed on foster parents. I believe that one of the most positive things that IFAPA has done to respond to the needs of children and foster/adoptive parents is our Peer Liaison Program. This is an awesome program that everyone needs to know about and all of us should be using.

I can still remember that afternoon when two young girls were dropped off at our house. Connie and I were confident and ready for anything, because we had been trained, we were already parents and we were both teachers. How wrong we were! Shortly after the girls arrived, we looked at each other and wondered who we should ask our simple, silly, dumb questions and who was out there that had a shoulder we could lean on! I don't know if the Peer Liaison program existed at that time, but it does now! And I don't want any of the parents that I work with to ever think that any question/concern is too trivial to ask or share with me. I will not say that I have all the answers, but what I will say is that I can sure find out and get back to you. No issue is too large or too small and anything you share with me stays with me until you tell me different.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know each and every one of you. I encourage you to feel free to contact me at anytime about anything. I am not only interested in your concerns and questions, but also your celebrations. As foster/adoptive parents, the children to whom we provide a home may offer some tremendous challenges, BUT when we look into their eyes and see that smile, the rewards are PRICELESS.

Take Care,  
John Smith, 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.**