

How Parenting Again Changed Our Lives

Pam: “They call me ‘Grandma.’ The youngest one calls me ‘Mom’ sometimes, and the other kids look at her and she goes, ‘Oh, I’m sorry, Grandma.’

“So my husband and I adopted our two grandchildren and we are fostering two more of our grandchildren. Two are by our daughter and two are by our son. And is it tough? Of course it is. But it also brings a lot of joy to our life because the kids are absolutely pretty amazing. When they called for us to take them, my husband and I looked at each other and said, ‘where do we sign?’ I mean, we didn't even hesitate at all. Did it change a lot in our household? Yes, it changed our lives. I mean, we were going to move down south, live on the Gulf, live in North Carolina. We had a nice two-bedroom condo. Now we bought a four-bedroom house. But you do what you have to do to take care of them. And we wouldn't do anything different.

“My husband and I couldn't do this without each other. I work like seven-thirty to three-thirty. And I love working from home. Now it works out really well because I'm there. Grampa does all the appointments and the laundry and the cooking. And we're a team and it works. We make it work. That's the most rewarding job I've ever done. It's also the most difficult job I've ever done. But the rewards and the love that you get from the children outweigh any of the difficulties that you have.

“They make you smile. They make you feel young again. You know, they're willing to do things that I would never in a million years do. And I'm doing them! You know, I'm out trying to play soccer and basketball. It's not a pretty sight. But I am. And the kids just say, ‘this is my grandma.’ You know, they're proud of me. It doesn't make a difference how old I am. They love me unconditionally. It's one of the best things my husband and I have ever done together.

“The response that you get from them, it's like no other. And I wake up every morning and they run and give me the biggest hug they can give me. And that's all the reward I need is to know that they are happy where they are at and they're being taken care of.”