For the love of children

Foster Care: Arnaudville couple working to help

By Dixie Simon
Staff Writer

Roy and Eunice Bergeron of Arnaudville have sheltered seven foster children during the 3½ years they have served as foster parents.

"Attending MAPP classes doesn't obligate anyone to take a foster or adoptive child," Bernard says. "If you treat foster children like you treat your own, it works out OK," she said.

They do need extra attention, points out the Bergerons, as siblings and adoptive parents decide if caring for children with special needs is for them.

"I learned a lot in MAPP classes," says Eunice, "things I wish I'd known when raising my own children, like how to listen and alternative ways of discipline."

Though Bernard emphasized the need for dedication by those interested in applying for MAPP classes, she said some start the program and drop out, while others complete it, then change their minds.

"We take 'no easy,'" she explained.

Regrettably, for those who do end up in the state's care, adds Richard, there are fewer like the Bergerons volunteering to become foster parents.

"One reason may be the common misconception that these kids are nothing but trouble," says Eunice, "but they're not. They just need a home and someone to guide them.

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