



## In Memory of Eileen Allard - Her Door Was Always Open..... March 10, 2021



"Kasserian Ingera," "And how are the children?," is the Masai Warriors traditional greeting showing the high value placed on the well-being of children.

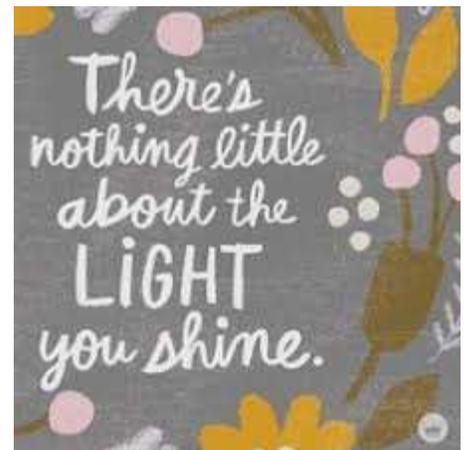
Perhaps no one embodied this spirit more than Ms. Eileen (McGann) Allard of Bloomfield, who passed away in February 2021.

As we mourn those lost over the past year, we also celebrate the incredible memories they leave behind. Ms. Allard touched hundreds of lives as a foster parent - her legacy of ensuring the well-being of children will forever be with those whose lives she embraced.

In August 1996, Ms. Eileen Allard received a license to parent children entering the Department of Children and Families (DCF) care as result of being separated from their parents. Over two decades, she welcomed little ones, but mostly teenagers - teenagers with reputations of having very challenging behaviors. However, once those teens crossed her home's threshold, the cloak of labels and narratives was gently removed with kindness, understanding, judgment free and simply being beheld as children, simply children.

She was not a replacement to parents, but merely a person to provide covering, a lighthouse in a temporary storm. Her door always open, no matter what time of day.

Over two decades, Ms. Allard extended unwavering love to over 400 children, sustained those relationships and today, that love extends to those children and their children's children and their parents.



To the many DCF staff, Ms. Eileen Allard is a most honored parent who fostered the most vulnerable. Upon hearing of her loss, staff commented that her leaving is "heartbreaking; what a wonderful human being, always ready to help; a beautiful soul; a wonderfully compassionate lady and she embodied the QPI principles."

Ms. Allard set the standard. Hands down, Ms. Allard is one of the G.O.A.T parents who foster.

Kasserian Ingera Ms. Allard, Kasserian Ingera. Rest in peace.