Testimonial: Lynda and Gene

FALL 2019

When Gene's daughter became unable to care for her four children, Gene was afraid that he might lose contact with his grandchildren. He wanted to do whatever he could to ensure that his family stayed together. But four children is a lot of children!

Fortunately, Gene's partner Lynda was willing to be part of the solution. Gene and Lynda live separately but are in a committed relationship. Lynda has four children who are young adults, with two still living at home. She wondered if she could add Gene's young grandchildren into the mix. Would her own kids be okay with it?
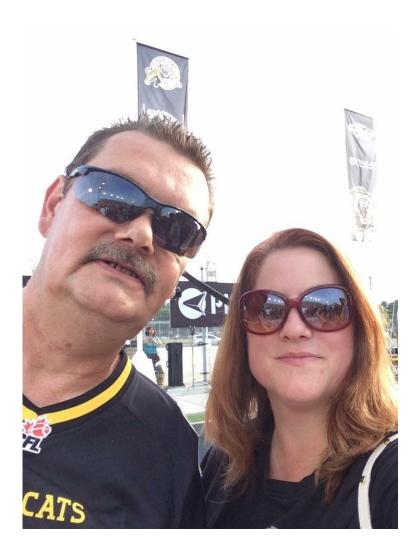
Lynda and Gene came up with a unique solution that works well for everyone. Two of the children live with Gene and two live with Lynda. They all get together frequently and behave like one family, but the responsibility of always parenting two children is easier to manage than four.

Lynda and her grown children enjoy having youngsters around the house; her children contribute to household responsibilities. Gene loves having his grandchildren around, and says they keep him young. Both Gene and Lynda acknowledge the challenges that have come with parenting later in life, but they both say they couldn't imagine a better arrangement for them and for their grandchildren. The grandchildren are with people they know and love, and they are enjoying their new and familiar homes.

Their advice to other grandparents who find themselves in a similar position?

- Do it.
- Reach out to your family and friends for support.
- Don't feel that you have to create society's idea of a perfect family.
- Give things time to settle.
- Engage the children in the things that you love.

Gene and Lynda are huge Ticats fans and are taking their grandchildren to their first game later this month. Everyone is super excited! Thank you Lynda and Gene for creating space in your homes and hearts for children in need.