



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Lori Jackson

### Regional Coordinator



My name is Lori Jackson. I was born with Cleidocranial Dystosis which is a genetic birth defect affecting the bones and teeth. We never used words like disabled or handicap in my family. I was pushed just like everyone else and never treated any differently. Due to my disorder being hereditary, I decided to foster/adopt and try to make a difference in another child's life. During my years as a foster mom, I had the honor of caring for children with autism, PTSD, Deaf/Blind, feeding tubes, shunts and teenagers! My son Landon was placed in my home at 2 days old and also has a genetic disorder,

2Q37 Deletion Syndrome, as well as Autism Level 3. Being non-verbal and severely delayed, it is a learning curve on how to reach him and communicate but he a very loving and mostly happy little boy. His older brother Kameron was placed with me at the age of three and has a diagnosis of ODD, ADHD and PTSD. While he still struggles with triggers and certain situations, he is now a very active and funny 8 year old. He is still trying to decide if he wants to be policeman or drive boats because according to him, crazy people drive on the roads.

I reached out to Parent to Parent looking for resources in my area when my youngest started school. I live in a small county surrounded by other small counties and resources are very limited so I know first-hand the frustrations that parents feel and the struggle that they go through. When a job became available with Parent to Parent, I saw it as an opportunity to help other parents like me and to give back to the special needs community. Due to the multiple needs of my two children, I am no longer an active foster parent but I still support the Foster Parent Community and actively look for ways to help foster families as well as all families with children with special needs.



Landon (L) & Kameron (R)

A supporting and listening ear makes all the difference in the world to a parent with a child with special needs. That is what Parent to Parent is to me – showing parents that they are not alone, that there are people out there who understand and that help is only a phone call away.

I fully believe that your outlook on life affects not only you, but your children and everyone that you come in contact with. All any parent wants is for the rest of the world to see what they see when they look at their child – a wonderfully unique individual with potential and worth. Our children are going to change the world for the better and Parent to Parent of Georgia helps make that change happen.