



*Stanley the 20+ year old pony is a favourite with all children – here with Zoe and Emma in front, foster baby 'Michael' in Niki's arms, Isaac on the pony, 'Adam' held by John Grant, Janine Grant and Caleb.*

## Always Somebody with the Time to Love

How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers”: Mother Theresa

Adam is nearly two. He stretches out his hand to greet me at the door, quiet and serious, but happy to see a stranger. He gazes into my eyes, searching for a sign he can trust. His deep eyes sparkle, but the steady gaze hides 'a knowing' far, far older than his meagre months of life. Adam's life took a change when he was 15 months old, when he came into the care of an extraordinary family. He arrived withdrawn, barely able to sit, and able to eat only pureed food. He did not know how to cuddle.

Seven months on, Adam is happy and settled in his new world. He is learning to talk and toddles about confidently, breaking from his play every now and then to seek a cuddle from Janine or John or his new siblings. The couple have eight children of their own, and this close, loving family is the key to Adam's transformation.

“It was Adam and children like him who made us decide that more could and should be done to prevent children being born into situations where so much damage could happen so early on,” says Janine. “If women can be given support from the time they become pregnant and after their babies are born, no child should have such a hard start in life.” This couple are offering their home and their hearts to women considering an abortion or who feel they won't be able to cope with a baby.

“So many women are under pressure to have an abortion. Far from it being their choice, they are pressured into it by people around them or by financial problems. Nobody should have to take the life of their baby because of money. The pain of being pushed into an abortion can remain for life.

“We started seeing a need when a friend had a mental problem and couldn't cope. She knew she needed help and that she couldn't look after her children, but didn't want to have them taken away. We want women to know that they have a loving place for their children in emergencies until they are able to take over parenting again. We want people to spread the word, to notice where there is need and to tell them there is help available. We also want other families to make themselves available to support pregnant women. It's a very lonely situation, very hush-hush, when women can't cope with pregnancy or are considering an abortion.”

John and Janine's own children range in age from 21 to four,