



Summit County
CHILDREN SERVICES
Building Families . . . Building Futures



The Fortner-Monegan Family

Laura and Jack Fortner-Monegan were certified as foster parents with Summit County Children Services (SCCS) in April 2024. Laura shares, “We weren’t ready to have children of our own, but we certainly wanted to support children in the community. Becoming foster parents was a way for us to do that.”

Shortly after being certified, a sibling group of two was placed in their care. The Fortner-Monegan’s jumped into action and helped arrange frequent visits with their two younger siblings placed in another foster home. When that

placement disrupted, the Fortner-Monegan’s didn’t hesitate in saying ‘yes’ to accepting placement of the younger siblings. Laura comments, “Watching the four siblings reconnect and be together was truly something special. We realized that our decision to become foster parents is making an impact in their lives.”

In July 2024, the Fortner-Monegan’s learned they were expecting their first child; she was born February 2025. They went from no children to caring for five in less than a year.

When asked about their roles as foster parents, Laura states, “Becoming foster parents means you are not only advocates for the children placed with you, but you become advocates for SCCS in helping to share the important message of the agency’s need for more foster parents.

“When people learn we are foster parents, oftentimes their first comment is, ‘oh, I could never do that,’” comments Laura. “I tell them (and I also tell the children in our care) that you can challenge yourself and recognize that YES, you can do hard things. Supporting children from hard places is not easy, but it is so special and rewarding. You grow just as much as the children do. And, along the way, you get to see and experience so much joy with them.”

Thank you for all that you do for the children and families in Summit County!