

# PRESS RELEASE

Dedicated Anchor Foster Care Carers Attend Buckingham Palace Investiture to Receive Rare Royal Honour

Thursday 21, February 2019

Two Anchor Foster Care carers, Helen and Colin Wood, received MBEs in an investiture ceremony in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace, Westminster today for services to fostering.

Foster carers for 37 years, the couple have shown extraordinary care for adults and children who have terminal illnesses and will receive an MBE each, an exceptional occurrence, as MBEs are seldom awarded to couples.

The pair helped to pioneer Derby City's first adult placement scheme, Shared Lives, and have seen six of the young people in their care outlive their diagnosed life expectancy.

Helen and Colin, who joined not-for-profit family-run fostering organisation Anchor Foster Care in 2012 said;

"During our time we have fostered 13 long term placements. Out of these, six became adult placements, two moved on, and five have passed away.

# ANCHOR



## FOSTERCARE

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We now have two adults and one foster child in the house and we would not change a thing. So many children are left alone in hospitals with no one to look after to them. If we can help just a few of them then we have done our job."

The couple continue to work with the adult placement scheme today, alongside fostering, a vocation that began initially with Helen in 1983 when a young man at the adult day centre where she worked suddenly lost his mother.

Helen offered to house the patron until a permanent housing solution could be arranged; that short-term agreement eventually turned into an 18 year stay as Helen refused to give up care of the young man until a suitable accommodation plan could be made. The adult placement scheme was borne out of the Woods determination to protect vulnerable adults.

Helen and Colin join a list of just 422 recipients of the MBE this year, having first been told about the award in November 2018. They join footballer Harry Kane, Triathlete Helen Jenkins, and Olympic rower Frances Houghton who will also receive their award this year.

The devoted duo highly anticipate today's investiture, in a ceremony usually attended by the Queen or other Member of the Royal Family.

Beneficiaries receive the honour, an insignia, in a regal ceremony complete with traditional routines, the national anthem, and the Royal in precedence flanked by the Yeomen of the guard.

Investees are entitled to use the letters 'MBE' after their name immediately after they are notified that they are to receive the award.

To receive an MBE, nominations are made alongside two supporting letters, the final decision being recognised in the New Year's Honours list and also published in the official newspaper of the Crown, The Gazette, following confirmation from recipients that they will accept the award.

Today's honour system replaces the pre-medieval classification, where outstanding services to the Empire were rewarded with land or monetary gifts.

The youngest MBE beneficiary in the 2019 New Year Honours list was Saeed Atcha, who at 22 years old gained the award for services to young people and the community in Greater Manchester.

Helen and Colin Wood are both retiring from fostering soon, but incredible carers like them are always needed.

With more than 8,000 foster families still needed throughout the UK, Anchor Foster Care are always looking for new applicants.

Visit [www.anchorfostercare.co.uk](http://www.anchorfostercare.co.uk) today and find out if you could become one of our remarkable carers too.