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## **Stourport family 'modern-day Waltons'**

A STOURPORT family have been named outstanding carers and hailed as modern-day Waltons.

The Jones family have beaten off competition from hundreds of other candidates to be recognised in the Candis Magazine Outstanding Family of the Year Awards.

They will now go through to the final at Knowsley Hall on August 23, with four other category winners.

Winning families have all made an outstanding contribution to their communities and beyond.

Dad, Keith, mum, Janet and their three children, Wendy, 26, Martin, 28, and Ellie, 15, along with Wendys husband, Steve, and Janets brother, Malcolm and his wife, Sarah, have welcomed foster children with learning difficulties for more than 10 years.

Denise Longhi, Barnardos social worker, said: They are the modern-day Waltons.

Foster-sons Alex, 14 and Jack, 12, along with Samantha, 20, now live with the Joneses on the family farm, while the extended family provides respite care for other foster children.

Janet and Keiths son, Martin, has learning difficulties, while Ellie has Downs syndrome.

But we just felt we had more to give, said Janet, We love all of them and we would not change our situation for the world.

Debbie Attewell, Candis editor, said: The Jones family is amazing. The whole extended family is involved and we were so impressed by their energy and commitment. They are truly worthy winners of our carers category.

This is the third year of the awards. This year, judges include Lynda Bellingham, Pauline Quirke, Brooke Kinsella and Denise Robertson.

For more information, visit [candis.co.uk/familyaward](http://candis.co.uk/familyaward)

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