

Hello we are...

*John and Amanda*



*Graceful*  
**adoptions**<sup>TM</sup>



## *Our Hopes and Dreams...*

We are so excited and grateful that you are viewing our profile and getting to know our family. We understand that this decision does not come lightly and we are humbled by your strength and selflessness as you search for a loving home for your child. We pray that you will have hope and peace in your decision.

John and I met in high school in 2004 and had an instant attraction. We dated all throughout high school and college. We have been together for over 10 years. We consider ourselves extremely blessed to have a strong and happy marriage. We are best friends and soul mates who bring out the best in each other.

It has always been our biggest dream to become parents and raise a family together. I have had my heart set on adopting children since I was a little girl, I always knew it would be part of God's plan one day. The desire God placed on my heart to adopt a child was inspiring to John. While dating, we decided together to make adoption a part of our future. At that time we never imagined that we wouldn't be able to have biological children, but that is exactly what happened. What would typically be devastating news only helped us grow deeper in love. It confirmed God's plan for us to build our family through adoption and we could not be more excited to be on this journey today!

With several adopted children in our extended family already and many of our friends' adoptive families, we see adoption as a huge blessing and life-long commitment - merging two families through the love of a child. We cannot wait to be there for every smile, tear, laugh and scraped knee. We promise to cherish every single moment and share what this world has to offer with our child. We value a life of light-heartedness and fun and believe in being kind, patient and optimistic and we promise to model these values to our child.

We promise to love and care for your child unconditionally. We promise to provide a stable and secure home full of happiness. We promise to always be open and honest about their adoption so they are proud of where they come from and truly know and understand the selfless and loving choice you made. We will raise them to love you and know they are our miracle child, that they are the answer to so many prayers.

With all of our hearts,

*John and Amanda*

  
Graceful  
adoptions™

We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415

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## Our values and beliefs as parents...

We believe in a loving God who works all things out for good and who has a great plan for our lives. Our faith and personal relationship with Jesus has shaped us as individuals and as a couple. The hope we have in Christ encourages us to love others as we create a home filled with kindness, patience, and joy. We hope our child will one day see the joy that comes from following God and will raise them to know how special they are, that they are never alone and that they are loved more than they could ever imagine!



Of all the relationships we cherish in our lives, our marriage is at the top of the list! Meeting each other young gave us the unique opportunity to grow together into adults. We have so much fun together and genuinely enjoy each other's company. We respect each other for who we really are and do our best to put each other first and support one another always. Above all, we deeply love and trust each other. For we know that a family's stability depends on the strength of the marriage surrounding it.



We love to explore this great big world! In college Amanda lived in Italy for a semester. When John visited we traveled throughout Europe which sparked a deep passion for learning about other cultures. We love and appreciate the unique qualities in everyone that make up our amazing world and still travel to experience different ways of life first-hand. We hope to use these experiences to teach our child to explore the things around them like the shapes and colors of different building blocks, what sand feels like between your toes, or watching ants outside in the yard.

We believe in lifelong learning and look forward to all of the teachable moments we will have with our child. We want to ensure our child has a great education growing up and provide opportunities for them to seek higher education in the future. We are very appreciative of the sacrifices our parents made so that we could go to college and we look forward to doing the same for our child. We know that this life is full of amazing opportunities and we want our child to grow up with the opportunity to dream big!



We believe in living a laid-back, carefree, enjoyable life. We have fun spending a lot of time together, doing anything and everything! And we really appreciate the little things like meeting for lunch during the work week or running errands together. We love checking out a new museum, zoo or art gallery. We enjoy being on the water in the summer; kayaking, swimming, boating, tubing, and jet skiing. We also love to keep things low-key, stay in, cuddled up in front of a good movie. We know life can come with all sorts of ups and downs, so we don't stress easily. We believe in enjoying every bit of this life together and cannot wait to doing all of these things with our child as they grow.

We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.



# Our home...

We bought our home in the town where we grew up, only a few miles from our parents and siblings so we could see them regularly. It sits in a quiet neighborhood with lots of land and trees. There are many young couples in our neighborhood with children of all ages, so it's easy to picture our child running up and down the street playing with lots of friends. There is a pizza shop, ice cream parlor, and 2 parks within walking distance so there will always be someplace fun to go that is just around the corner.



Many people have told us our home has a very welcoming, calming and relaxing "vibe." Amanda has a degree in interior design and has used her training and experience to make our home have a light and fun feel. It's decorated in warm grays and blues with pops of white and brighter accent colors. There is a lot of warm wood and natural light streaming through the windows making the open floor plan feel bright and airy.

We absolutely love to share our home with family and friends and everyone is always welcome! We spend a lot of time with them playing games; euchre and monopoly are two of our favorites. We also love hosting a dinner with great conversations around our table. Oftentimes they'll come to watch a big game, or play pool in our bonus room on the lower level of our home. On warm summer nights we are usually lounging on our patio or screened-in porch, playing corn hole in the yard or enjoying a bonfire. Our nieces and nephews and friends' kids love playing in our large backyard, especially rolling down a small hill we have or chasing the dog around and playing flashlight tag.

Sunday is our favorite day of the week, because we never make plans. It's become a day dedicated to spending time together as a family. The day usually starts early for Amanda who loves to get up before John to start making breakfast. The smell of bacon always gets John up a few minutes later and we usually finish making the rest of the meal together. John makes the best pancakes and Amanda has mastered eggs! After breakfast we head to church and when we get home we sink into the couch to plan our day. Sometimes we stay in, sometimes we go out. Either way, we enjoy having that one sacred day to choose the pace and have real quality time together! We envision all of the fun things we will do with our child on our family day and we cannot wait for that day to come!

We are so excited to see our nursery come together. So far we have a gray and white matching crib and dresser- very cute and modern! We are painting the walls a neutral color and plan to use pops of bright colors to create a playful feel. The room will be filled with lots of fun toys and books, gifts to our child from our family and friends who have joined us on this journey. There will be many one-of-a-kind pieces that we make ourselves - a light fixture, wall hangings, and even book shelves - so that when our child gets older we can show him or her some of the things we made for them as we waited for their arrival.

We can't wait to hold your child for the first time. To experience every little wiggle, funny face and yawn of a newborn. We can't wait for bedtime rituals of snuggles and stories as our child falls to sleep. We can't wait to hear their laughter echoing through our home. We mostly look forward to spending every precious second with our child, watching them grow.

## A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Exercising, traveling and experiencing new places, spending time with friends and family, watching movies, walking our dog and of course spending time with John.

#### Adoptive Father:

Any sport, playing basketball, hanging out with friends and family, building things in my garage, seeing movies and most of all hanging out with my wife and our tiny dog Remington.

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Draftsman

Adoptive Father: Web Developer

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree



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# Our family...

We met in high school at the beginning of our junior year. That year we had multiple classes together; John first noticed Amanda in History class when she did terrible on a pop quiz he graded. Amanda noticed John in English class when he offered to buy her a muffin from a vending machine. Once we introduced ourselves to each other, we had an instant connection. We both had the same sense of humor, philosophy on life and similar goals. We loved the same music and movies and enjoyed each other's friends. Throughout the course of the year we became very good friends. John often drove Amada home after school. Every once in a while we would stop at best buy and browse CD's. Then one night while we were working on a history presentation we kissed and the rest is history! Our junior year of college Amanda attended a study abroad program in Florence, Italy. John came for a long visit and while on a weekend trip to Venice, he proposed. We've been married for 5 years now. It literally seems like yesterday we met. It's incredible to realize how deeply we love each other, now more than ever. It has been the biggest blessing of our life so far to grow up together and now we are so ready for the next chapter of our lives!



Amanda will be such a caring, fun and creative mom.

Amanda always has a smile on her face and is positive, kind and outgoing. She can always tell when someone needs encouragement or assistance and is often found in the kitchen baking pies or dinner for those who may need support. She's looking forward to caring for all of her child's needs as well. For the last two years she has volunteered at a crisis pregnancy center, showing genuine love and care to the people who walk through the door. This experience has taught her to be humble and to listen to those who need to talk. She has a deep, deep respect for the strength of those going through an unplanned pregnancy and it has made her love for the birth mothers and heart for adoption all the more passionate.

John is supportive, patient, and hard-working. All through college John worked for his brother and saw how hard his brother worked to be a good father and provide for his family. His brother would often go to work hours before the store opened so that he could leave early to go to his daughter's play or his son's soccer game. Seeing his brother's devotion instilled a desire in John to always be present for his family. John is the rock of our family; a wonderful provider and leader. He's handy around the house, intelligent and creative. He loves to have fun and cannot wait to cuddle up with his child, teach them to walk and talk and to one day build forts out of blankets and couch cushions in the living room. He will be the father that teaches right from wrong with a gentle word and a loving hug.

Our grandparents and parents have taught us a lot about creating strong family values and traditions. We spend a lot of time together and have great holiday traditions, like our white elephant gift exchange every Christmas where the gifts have to be homemade. Or on Thanksgiving where all 35 of our family members spend the day cooking together and then sit around a huge table sharing what they are thankful for before digging into an awesome meal. We can't wait to take our child to pick out the perfect live Christmas tree every year or find the perfect pumpkin to carve in the fall. Another tradition we have is our annual vacation. We are so excited to show our child all of the incredible places we visit. We dream about seeing their reaction the first time they step out into the ocean and the wonder in their eyes when they meet their favorite character at Disney World. But the tradition we most look forward to starting will be their 'Gotcha Day' when we celebrate our child and their mother for making us a family!



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