

Hello we are...  
Jon and Alisha





## *Our Hopes and Dreams...*

It has always been our dream to parent and we've always known that we could fall equally in love with a child born to us or a child entrusted to us. We know that we can provide unconditional love, a stable home, and a life full of laughter to any child.

We truly are blessed. We have been together for more than seven years, we have completed our formal educations and both have stable jobs in fields we love. We have traveled across North, Central and South America. While the places we visited were truly amazing, it was the people we encountered and the experiences we shared together that touched our hearts and lives forever. We have so much fun together, just the two of us. But, when we can share our love, life, and adventures with the three of us is when we will feel complete.

We want to be there when our child takes a first step, scrambling to catch it on video camera, and then beaming with pride and joy as we call to tell our family, friends, and anyone who will listen. And we want to be there when that second step ends in a bumped knee, to kiss away the pain and wipe away the tears. We look forward to the nightly bedtime stories and cuddling when our child isn't feeling well. We look forward to counting shooting stars while lying on a blanket and eating S'mores made with Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. And, when our child gets older we want to ride roller coasters with our arms in the air while making goofy faces at the camera and support them in their extracurricular activities.

For you, possibly the mother who blesses us with this child, we cannot imagine what you are going through, but we pray daily for your peace. If you choose us to parent your child, we promise you that your child will always feel safe, loved, and cherished and know that it was your selfless love that made us a family. And to be loved by two families in a lifetime is a pretty special thing!

Warmest wishes,

*Jon & Alisha*

  
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## Our values and beliefs as parents...

Our faith in God is the compass we use to guide our lives. His grace and mercy carry us through the uncertainties in life and have given us the most beautiful illustration of unconditional love. We want to raise our children in a faithful environment that provides security, stability, and hope when life hands us lemons. It is because our lives are committed to following Him that we can love each other and our children with a deeper, purer love.

We were fortunate enough to grow up in families where “I love you” was heard daily and laughter filled the house. The love of our families has shaped us into who we are today. The relationships we have with our parents have been anchors that we could depend on whether we had something to celebrate or cry about. Alisha’s mom and sister are her best friends and Jon is always up for a round of golf with his dad and Alisha’s dad. We know that a family is made of people who choose to love each other, not by blood. We can’t wait to share the love that has been instilled in us with our child, and to fill the huge shoes in our son or daughter’s life that our parents wore so well with us.

We know the doors to better opportunities are opened by an education and that’s why Jon is finishing his second master’s degree and Alisha is working toward her first. However, we also think it is important to not just have a formal education, but to find what you are passionate about and run with it. We love our careers and the fun things they allow us to do, like the time Jon presented at a conference in San Diego and Alisha interpreted for American Idol! It is important to us for our child to find the passion of his or her heart and pursue it. From becoming a veterinarian at a zoo to an astronaut who flies around the moon, the sky is the limit and we will be there supporting and cheering our baby on the whole way!

Some of our best memories as a couple have come from traveling together! From standing on the equator in Ecuador to climbing an active volcano in Guatemala, we love discovering the beauty God has infused in the world and its people. We are excited to see the world from our child’s eyes and to enjoy our family’s sense of adventure as we fly through the Jamaican jungle on a zip line and pick coffee beans on a South American plantation. We want to make fun memories that will knit us closer as a family, while we ride a raft down the Amazon River and pick up seashells on the beach. Our child will always know that he/she can go enjoy the world, and we will always be there.

Because we have been blessed with abundance, we feel it is our privilege to share what we have with others. We have partnered with an all-girls orphanage in Guatemala and visit at least once each year to see the girls who have stolen our hearts. We also help carry flour, beans, and hope in burlap sacks to widows in the surrounding Guatemalan countryside. They make us want to be better people. So, Jon teaches at an impoverished school and Alisha is a sign language interpreter for deaf students at a community college, giving a voice to those unheard. We want our child to understand that making a positive difference in the world is the greatest legacy and that we receive the greatest joy by bringing joy to the lonely, the broken, and the forgotten.



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## Our home...

We can't wait to bring our child into our lives and our home! Our town is small enough for everyone to care about each other and know their neighbors by name. Main Street contains quaint storefronts decorated from another time and has a busy farmer's market on weekends during the summer. However, just down the road is a larger city with an aquarium, a zoo, and a wonderful children's museum.

When you walk in our home, you are greeted by natural light flooding through the picture windows. It gives our living room a light, airy feeling and warms the dining room, making it the best place to drink our morning coffee that was brewed in the nearby kitchen. The vaulted ceilings are perfect for our tree during the Christmas season! We are preparing our child's nursery, decorating it in vintage blue, yellow and red with some of our favorite items from our own childhoods. We are handwriting letters to our child that will be framed on their bedroom walls; we hope to add one from their mother so that our child will be surrounded by the love of family, literally and figuratively.

## A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers
- Family dog

### HOBBIES:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Crocheting, kayaking, traveling, learning Spanish, reading, hiking

#### Adoptive Father:

Running, golf, board games, hanging out with friends, traveling, fishing

### PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Sign Language Interpreter

Adoptive Father: Teacher

### EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelors Degree

Adoptive Father: Masters Degree

Alisha's parents, who will be called "Nana and Poppa," live next door which is great for so many reasons. One of our favorite things to do at our parents is to play board games or cards...really anything that allows us to interact because we love to be together and laugh. Alisha's parents also have a pool, so in the warmer months we have lots of family celebrations in and around the pool. Alisha's father will watch our child during the day when we go back to work. Having our child with family and next door is such a blessing.

Abby, our dog, is also excited to have someone to throw her ball at the park close to our home. And when we tire of playing fetch, there is a huge playground with countless swings and twisty slides, then off to the ice cream shop! When the weather is nice, we will take apples and sugar cubes to feed the horses at the nearby horse farms before we go on trail rides. We go fishing at the lake in spring, kayaking down river in the summer, cheering at the hometown college football game in fall, and running a 5k through tons of Christmas lights in winter. Our sense of community and belonging is what ties our town together and makes it feel like home.

One of the larger nearby cities has a huge children's museum and Nana and Poppa are eager to get season passes to go explore. They said we could come with the three of them on occasion! When our child gets older, Jon is excited to share peanuts at a local baseball game and Alisha is ready to get cooking at a Mommy and child cooking class at the cooking school. After a hard day's play, we'll come home and make Poppa's secret pizza recipe, while playing a board game and laughing at the memories of the day.

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## Our family...

When Jon got to the gym with his roommate seven years ago, a run was the only thing on his mind. When Alisha agreed to go to the gym with her friend, she had no idea she would meet the love of her life. Luckily for Jon and Alisha, Jon's roommate and Alisha's friend had been dating since high school and knew a good match when they saw one! So, after some sheepish flirting between workout machines and stolen glances around the track, Jon and Alisha were smitten. Jon called and asked Alisha on a date. She said yes, and then tried on fifteen different outfits. Although Alisha showed up late because she had tried on so many outfits, Jon waited. After Jon let her beat him at air hockey (which he finally admitted the night before their wedding), she let him win her a stuffed animal. After the movie, Jon, out of respect and nerves, shook her hand goodnight. It was only seconds after the door closed that Alisha called her mom and recounted every detail of their date. He says it was her good looks, and she says it was his smile. One thing is for sure: with his dimple in his right cheek and hers in her left, we were a pair destined to meet!



Since that time, we have had fun and worked hard to get where we are today. When we bring our baby home, it will be a dream come true, as we've always wanted to be a mommy and daddy! Our dream is to adopt one to two more children. We can't wait to go hiking, picking our own pumpkin and going for hayrides at the nearby pumpkin patch, taste testing at the Fireman's chili cook-off during the local festival, and cheering our Chicago Bears to victory with our little one! While we are Bears fans, Alisha's parents are Packers fans, so we always get together for the big rivalry game at Nana and Poppa's home next door for our favorite finger foods and some good-spirited smack talk, while Poppa wears his cheese head.

While our family has many traditions, one that we want to continue with our family is "Anything Can Happen Day." Once in a while, when the weather is nice and everyone is itching to break out of the routine, everyone gets a day off from work or school and we go in search of fun. Some days that means we end up at the aquarium where we pet horseshoe crabs and eat at a pizza place on the wharf. Other days we will head to the movie theater, where we will have the whole place to ourselves during the day, and we watch three matinee movies, armed with popcorn and Sour Patch Kids. The great thing about "Anything Can Happen Day" is the most important thing on our schedules is that our family is together and having fun. At the end of the day, we will take a picture that will go in the "Anything Can Happen Day" Hall of Fame on our refrigerator.

We are all excited for our child to come home! Nana and Poppa are already planning our first trip to Disney World as a family and Nana is helping to paint the nursery. And Great-Grandpa is already bragging to his friends about his great-grandchild!



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