

Hello we are...
Mark and Holly





Our Hopes and Dreams...

Knowing the significance of your decision to make an adoption plan for your child, our goal is to show you an accurate representation of our lives. We understand that the situations and decisions you are facing are difficult ones. Our prayer is that God will guide and comfort you in this process. Specifically, we are praying that you will experience peace with your decision regarding who will care for your child.

We commit to love and nurture the child that God brings into our family. We will foster a lighthearted environment filled with laughter and intentional fun. Overall, we will provide for them, support them, and encourage them as an individual.

Our goal will be to initiate conversations about our child's adoption from the very beginning. We desire that this part of their life be interwoven into our family's identity.

If you wish to continue communication throughout the years, we will embrace that opportunity and gladly provide updates and pictures so that you can remain connected.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!

Sincerely,

Mark & Holly


Graceful
adoptions™

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

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 GracefulAdoptions.com



Our values and beliefs as parents...

Unconditional love is important to us because it is the way God shows His love, both to us and through us. Family members experience security in relationships with each other when love is not based on their performance or certain conditions. We have experienced this type of love with our own parents, and we anticipate that some of the most crucial times we will need to reinforce our unconditional love for our child is when they require discipline.

Our faith in God affects everything - from our eternal destination to our daily priorities. Currently, our priorities reflect our desire to grow in our understanding of God, teach His principles found in the Bible, and cultivate our relationships with Him and fellow believers. We hope to teach our child biblical truths and model these principles throughout our life, such as showing grace and forgiveness, telling the truth, and being kind to others. We will also strive to teach our child that God loves them personally and that even as a child, they can bring glory to Him.

Both physical and emotional security are important to thrive as an individual. We have both been blessed to experience the security our parents provided. As a result, we have learned how to receive and show secure love in our own relationships. We will strive to demonstrate that we have our child's best interest at heart. This will be demonstrated by providing for their physical and emotional needs, protecting them from harm, and encouraging them personally.

We recognize that education is important throughout all stages of life for intellectual growth as well as continual personal development. Education will begin here at home. We know the benefits of using daily experiences as teaching ones and have experienced this first hand with our young nieces and nephews. In addition, we both experienced the challenges and successes of having access to formal education. We both graduated from the same private Christian high school and we both pursued college degrees which prepared us well for our current careers. Even now, we pursue continuing education experiences to further our growth as individuals and professionals. We look forward to providing educational opportunities for our child to meet their needs scholastically and developmentally.

We consider family time important because the authentic interactions are essential for healthy relationships. Since we value family time, we prioritize these times within our schedule. Living close to many of our family members allows us to participate in each other's lives. For example we share Sunday lunches together, celebrate birthdays, and show support at athletic events. We also set aside time to visit family who live farther away, scheduling trips to their homes as well as coordinated vacations. We are excited to integrate our child into our family's events as well as develop new traditions with them.



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A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers
- Family dog

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother:

Photography, good coffee, volleyball, exercising, going to the beach, and making memories with friends and family

Adoptive Father:

Playing and watching basketball, running, playing with our dog “Mally,” making people laugh, and mentoring younger Christians

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Pharmacist

Adoptive Father: Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Doctoral Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelors Degree

Our home...

We live in a diverse neighborhood of single family homes with a range of ages. On warm evenings, you will often find families walking together or riding their bikes throughout the many neighborhood streets. We too enjoy taking our dog on walks, riding our bikes to the ice cream shop, as well as going for a jog through our lovely neighborhood. We look forward to spending time with our child at one of the local parks – pushing them on a swing and watching their eyes light up the first time they go down a slide.

Our home is on a half-acre lot with grown trees to which our hammock hangs during the warmer months. Our house is very open and bright with high ceilings and lots of windows. We enjoy the openness which allows us to stay connected regardless of the room we are in; while Holly is preparing supper, she can talk to Mark who may be in the living room watching TV or going through the daily mail.

Weekends are laid-back. On Saturday morning we enjoy homemade waffles with hot maple syrup and then we often have an intense game of virtual ping-pong on the PlayStation Move. In the evenings, you may find us watching a movie together, often after we have returned from dinner at one of our favorite restaurants. Regardless of what we do, we always enjoy our time together.

We are preparing the nursery for our child. The room will be brightly decorated with an abstract circle theme to illustrate unity. We look forward to reading bedtime stories and tucking our child safely into bed each night. We want our child to enjoy time at home and feel free to be themselves.

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Our family...

Because we attended the same school, we knew each other years before we started dating. When Holly was in 7th grade and Mark was a senior, she cheered at his basketball games. It was years later, when Mark began attending Holly's church and eventually taught her Sunday school class that they began "noticing" each other in a different light. As young adults, the age difference was no longer a factor. We began dating the summer between Holly's junior year of college and her first year of pharmacy school. After two years of dating, we were engaged, and after two more years, we were finally married. We have been happily married for 8 years.



As individuals, we balance each other. Mark's relaxed, playful personality balances Holly's more serious, thoughtful demeanor. As a couple, we are loving, giving, and committed. Having been together for more than 12 years, we have developed security in our own relationship, which allows us the ability to offer a child a stable, loving environment.

Our love and commitment to each other extends beyond our own relationship. Our families are an important part of our daily lives. With our parents living close by we see them regularly, often enjoying a meal or watching sports games together. We also enjoy the time we are able to spend with our siblings and their children, even if we have to travel out of state to see them, like for our nephew's graduation, Mark's sister's surprise birthday party, or a family trip to Florida to celebrate Holly's mother's retirement. When we are together, we enjoy baking, watching movies, reading books, and playing sports or other games.

Part of being a family is making memories together. Traditions we look forward to sharing with our child include dressing up for trick-or-treaters on Halloween, opening presents on Christmas morning, and favorite meals on birthdays. A new tradition we eagerly anticipate is celebrating our child's "Happy Day." Holly has two adopted cousins who also celebrate this day each year commemorating the day that each of them joined the family. Since prioritized vacation time has become a tradition for us, we plan to continue this as our family grows. We envision traveling with our child to the beach, the mountains, amusement parks, as well as historical and national landmarks.



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