

Hello we are...

# Dayna and Jeremy



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## Our Hopes and Dreams...

It seems like we have known each other all our lives. We can remember playing together when we were in grade school. But it wasn't until one summer during college that our friendship turned to something more and three years later we were married. It's hard to believe that was 14 years ago, time flies when you are having fun!

After getting married, we were excited to start a family and went through a long process of trying to conceive our first child. We really feel that our journey to parenthood has made us who we are today. While we were undergoing infertility treatment, we had many heartbreaking days. That's the time when we learned how to communicate so we truly "heard" each other. We also learned how best to support and respect each other's needs. When we decided to leave infertility in the past and embrace adoption, we could not have been more prepared to be parents - with a strong marriage as our foundation.

Although we had grown so much while we were trying to conceive, it was our adoption journey that forever changed us. We were completely humbled when we met our son's mother and she chose us to parent her sweet child. Understanding the magnitude of her decision and the responsibility she gave us, we knew that we would never let her down. More than 8 years later she is still part of our daily thoughts and prayers.

Two years later we were surprised to find that we were pregnant and our second son was soon born. We understand that many mothers wonder if we can love our adopted child as much as we love the son born to us. The truth is that we love both of our children more than we ever imagined was possible. Getting to experience the journey of adoption, as well as the birth of our son, has given us a unique perspective on how selfless and difficult the decision is to place a child for adoption. Having this perspective is one of the reasons why we're choosing the journey of adoption to become parents again. Not only are we committed to embracing another child, so are his/her 8 and 6 year old brothers.

If you select us to parent your child, we promise to love your child like we do our other children. Your child will be loved unconditionally and will learn to laugh and love life. We will keep your story alive in our home and will embrace teaching him/her about you and the journey that led you and your child to becoming a part of our family. While we cannot put ourselves in your place and feel the emotions you are going through, we are empathetic and pray for peace and reassurance that you are making the right choice for yourself and your child at this time in your life.

Humbly,

*Jeremy & Dayna*

  
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# Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Family:** We both grew up in large families with generations of long stable marriages. Each of our parents have been married for over 47 years so far and each of their parents were married for over 50 years. We grew up in hardworking families surrounded by support and encouragement. We were always told we can reach our dreams. We want our children to grow up with the same sense of security, thus we spend a lot of time with our children. We dreamed of being parents for so long and do not want to miss out on our time with them.



**Open Minded:** We view the world as one place and don't judge those who may look, think, speak, or live differently than we do. We know that people will not agree with each other all the time, but we also know we can respect different opinions and the individuals who have them. Our first son is from Guatemala and we embrace his culture. It is very important that our family and friends also embrace cultural diversity within our family and around them, thus our friendships are selected based on their open mindedness, character and personality. We have ongoing conversations with our children about accepting differences of opinions, thoughts and deeds of others and understanding that if they are open to this that at the very least they will learn patience and tolerance.



**Faith:** We were raised in strong Christian homes and believe in God. Growing up, we attended church on a weekly basis with our families. We continue to follow the example we were shown by our parents, grandparents, and extended family. We pray with our sons daily and attend church and religion classes with them. As they grow up we know that they will make their own decisions regarding their religious beliefs. We understand that they may not choose our current religion or even to be a Christian. Regardless, we will support them in the choices they make for themselves and their families.

**Education:** There are many educators in our family including Dayna who is a teacher in middle school. While being a teacher certainly has its advantage, like having the summers off, the number of educators in our family is a testament to how important education is to us. We love watching the growth that our sons make in school and look forward to them learning something new each and every day. But we know that education and learning happens outside the classroom too which is one reason we take such an active role in our children's lives. We know that every experience, whether it's playing sports or playing with each other, there is a chance to learn. We also know that every child learns differently and may need different support. We will utilize any and all resources we feel will benefit our children. Also, we will encourage our children to attend college and will support them in however they dream of using their education.



**Fun:** At the end of the day we want all of us to go to bed with smiles on our faces. It is very easy to get wrapped up in everyday tasks, you know - go to school or work, do homework, make dinner, clean the kitchen, put away toys, get ready for bed - that sometimes we forget that life is to be lived. We **MUST** have fun to stay balanced and healthy and we take our fun seriously! ;o) You name it, we do it with the kids...when it's nice out we go boating, golfing, horseback riding, play in the lake, or play in the haystacks of our parents' ranch. When it's too chilly we go sledding, snowboarding, visit museums and travel to warm places. Regardless of what we are doing together, we know we will have fun.

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# Our home...

We love being together in our home and enjoy having friends and family over. When people come into our home, they instantly feel comfortable. We are very calm and laid back; everyone knows they are welcome to anything we have without having to ask. Our house is always clean, yet lived in and looks like memories are being made here. If the boys aren't leaving toys out, our mischievous cat is dragging toys around. When people come to visit us we usually are gathering around a meal or playing games.

Our house sits on a large lot so there is plenty of room to grow and play. Our development is new and filled with families with children of all ages. The neighborhood is filled with the sound of giggling children, our children included. On any given day you can find the children playing basketball in our driveway, riding bikes, and skateboarding. In the summer months since Dayna is at home and we have a pool, our house tends to be the gathering place for all the kids in the neighborhood. And when it gets later and all the kids go home, we go inside for a bit and then sneak out the back door to spend some quality time with our children alone. Our favorite backyard activities are touch football and baseball, the bases made out of rocks or sticks from the yard.

## A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Spend time with family and friends, watch movies, ride bikes, yard games, reading, riding horse, working with middle school students and nurturing their growth and development.

#### Adoptive Father:

Sledding, snowboarding, and golfing with sons, helping coach sons' baseball teams, working in the yard and golfing with my friends, dad, or brothers, and investigating new technology.

### Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** 7th Grade Teacher

**Adoptive Father:** Director of IT

### Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Master's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelor's Degree

Besides our time playing together, we truly enjoy eating supper together. This is when we share our best and most challenging parts of our day and talk about what's happening in the upcoming days. Sunday is probably our favorite day of the week - we eat our favorite meal of spaghetti for supper and often wear our pajamas all day. We love our "jammy days" around here - especially during the winter months when we hang out in front of the fireplace watching movies.

We can't wait to hear the sounds of another child in our home. At first, he/she will sleep in our room in a bassinette. The older boys have already moved into a bedroom together so once the baby gets a bit older, he/she will move to a bedroom all their own. While the hope is to keep the boys from "playing" with their sibling when he/she is trying to sleep, I think this is going to be a challenge. The boys can't stop talking about how they look forward to having another sibling to play with, to be part of "the kids," and frankly to having another sibling to get mischievous with.



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# Our family...

We have known of each other for most of our lives. Our dads went to high school together and Jeremy's younger sister and Dayna were best friends growing up. When Dayna visited, Jeremy usually let his little sister and Dayna tag along with him. One summer, when we were both in college, we found ourselves living in the same town not knowing many other people. We started to spend a lot of time together and as our friendship evolved it turned into a love story. We dated for three years before getting married and we'll soon celebrate our 14th wedding anniversary.

When we tried to start our family we discovered we had infertility issues and decided to adopt. At that time Guatemala was one of the largest countries for international adoption and offered many benefits. For us, the most significant benefit was that we would meet our child's mother and have ongoing communications with her. We loved our adoption experience which brought our oldest son home. Surprisingly, two years later we discovered we were pregnant. The boys are now 8 and 6.

Our lives are incredibly rewarding, but not complete. We have two wonderful children that we absolutely adore, yet we know there is something missing. We know that is another child to join our family!

We truly have the best family ever! Not only are we happily married, we both come from a long line of families with a history of long happy marriages. We all value family and understand family is our priority, we believe that only with a strong marriage can our family unit thrive.

We do thrive - together. With more than 100 people in our immediate and close extended family (including nieces and nephews), we are there for each other - although obviously not all at the same time! We do see some part of our family at least once a week. Dayna's parents still live on the family ranch complete with barns, horses and cows. This is one of the family's favorite places to gather for outdoor fun, and a hot spot for the cousins as they play hide and seek in the barns, climb on the bales of hay and enjoy feeding the animals. We love that our children get to make memories with their cousins. One of Dayna's brothers has a smaller ranch that we fondly call the "hobby ranch" because it's the home to more than 10 horses that they use to barrel race. The adults often ride together through the open fields among the fresh air and blue skies - it's a great way to start or end any day.

We can't wait to share all this and more with another child. Traditions like our big family blow-out with more than 45 people on the 4th of July complete with a potluck and fireworks. Or smaller traditions that involve just our immediate family like dying Easter eggs, making cut-out cookies together at Christmas, and our family favorite of putting on our pajamas, getting hot cocoa and driving around town to look at Christmas lights. These are a few of the things that are special family moments that we cannot wait to share with another child.



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