

Hello we are...

*Courtney and Chad*



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



## *Our Hopes and Dreams...*

We've dreamed of having children for as long as we can remember. We both grew up in close-knit and involved families who were dedicated to each other and to helping those in their communities. My mom was a nurse before she became a stay-at-home mom, I was a nanny before becoming a teacher, and we all help and support the youth of our community.

Long before Chad and I we were married we talked about adopting a child as a way to grow our family; we thought we would first have biological children and then adopt. It took us a bit to figure out that God had a different plan. After trying to conceive, surgery and two miscarriages, we finally got it. His plan was not for us to have a child by birth, but to adopt. We know that our child doesn't have to be born to us to be a part of us. We don't believe unconditional love is something that is defined by blood.

We're an active couple with a stable marriage. We have an incredible relationship and support system with our family, friends and those in the community. We give love unconditionally and will do the same for our child. We're committed to making our child's life fun while we provide a secure environment for them to explore their interests and pursue their dreams, whatever they may be. We will help them work toward their own goals and let them choose their own path.

For you, we pray that you have peace while making this very difficult decision. Regardless if you select us, we have much love and gratitude for you.

Sincerely,

*Cortney and Chad*



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

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## Our values and beliefs as parents...

Our faith has played an important role in our lives since we were young. We grew up going to church with our families and still attend as a family even today. Our faith has helped us through the good times, as well as those that have been a challenge. While it was difficult at the time to understand why we weren't getting pregnant, now we understand that God had a much different plan for us. Our faith has brought us peace, comfort and gratitude. Now, rather than praying for understanding, we pray daily for our child and his or her mother. Our child will see our faith through our bedtime prayers, helping others in need, and daily interaction with those around us.

While our parents didn't attend college as young adults, they did understand the value of a higher education. They instilled in us the desire to learn and the importance of going to college. Knowing this, both of Cortney's parents went to college as adults. Now Cortney and her dad are both working on their master's degrees and are almost done. While our child's college education is years away, we will start a college fund for our child immediately after he or she comes home. Of course both sets of grandparents will contribute to the fund. It's important that, if our child has the will to attend college, that they have a way! In the meantime, we will support our child in all their learning activities from playtime to formal classroom settings to organized sports and activities.

We love to travel! There is something to be said about changing the day-to-day routine to interject different sites, smells, foods and surroundings. Not only do we like it, but we feel we need it. It's refreshing and energizing. We enjoy taking trips to places like Yellowstone National Park, Walt Disney World, and the beach - all of which are totally different experiences. We love driving through the beautiful mountains and seeing all of the wildlife, the relaxation and tranquility of the beach, and the non-stop energy of Disney World. We also enjoy weekend get-a-ways. It's not unusual for us to decide on Thursday to spend the weekend at a nearby zoo or go to a Vikings or Kansas City Chiefs game. Our child will live this value with us as he or she will travel by our sides whenever and wherever we, as a family, will go.

We want our children to know that it is ok to have fun and be silly. We both are very outgoing people and do silly things all of the time. It's just who we are! We like to play, be active and we believe that any activity and any day can and should be fun. We don't go to bars like many other couples our age who don't have children. Instead we enjoy doing almost anything outside. You name it, we do it - boating, tubing, wake boarding, swimming, skiing, fishing, camping, hunting, going to farmers' markets, spending time in our yard, etc. Although the specific activities may change, we are committed to our child growing up in a fun-filled environment where they know it's okay to laugh, have fun and be silly!



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## Our home...

When people visit our home, they often describe it as warm and inviting. The inside is painted with warm colors and depicts our love for the outdoors. The kitchen shows a whimsical side, decorated with red chili peppers.

We take pride in our home and though we like to travel, home is our favorite place to be. We spend our evenings cooking together, dancing while we pick-up, and taking our two dogs for a walk. We enjoy grilling out and eating dinner on the back deck. When our friends and family come over we play board or yard games while eating appetizers and having dinner together. Simply put, we just enjoy each other's company.



Of course our child will initially sleep in our room in a bassinet. Once the child moves into their own room it will be just steps from our bedroom so we will always be close by. The nursery is already complete with furniture and anything else we may need to care for our child. We have a huge living room which will be perfect for our child to play and explore. We have a large, fenced-in back yard with an area to play T-ball, fly a kite, and a tire swing hanging from a strong tree. The driveway and sidewalk are perfect to decorate with sidewalk chalk and to ride tricycles, bikes, and scooters.

### A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers

#### Hobbies:

##### Adoptive Mother:

I enjoy hosting and cooking for friends and family, scrap-booking and making crafts. I especially enjoy spending time outside. Chad and I love camping and traveling.

##### Adoptive Father:

I love anything and everything outdoors. I like to camp, hunt, and fish. I like to grill and build stuff for Cortney. I also love traveling around the U.S. to different zoos and national forests.

#### Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Special Education Teacher

**Adoptive Father:** Territory Sales Manager

#### Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelor's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelor's Degree



The elementary school our child will attend is only two blocks away, and there are many other activities nearby. There is a library with different clubs (the Lego Club), indoor and outdoor swimming pools, indoor and outdoor skating rinks and parks, dance studios, science centers and amusement parks all close by.

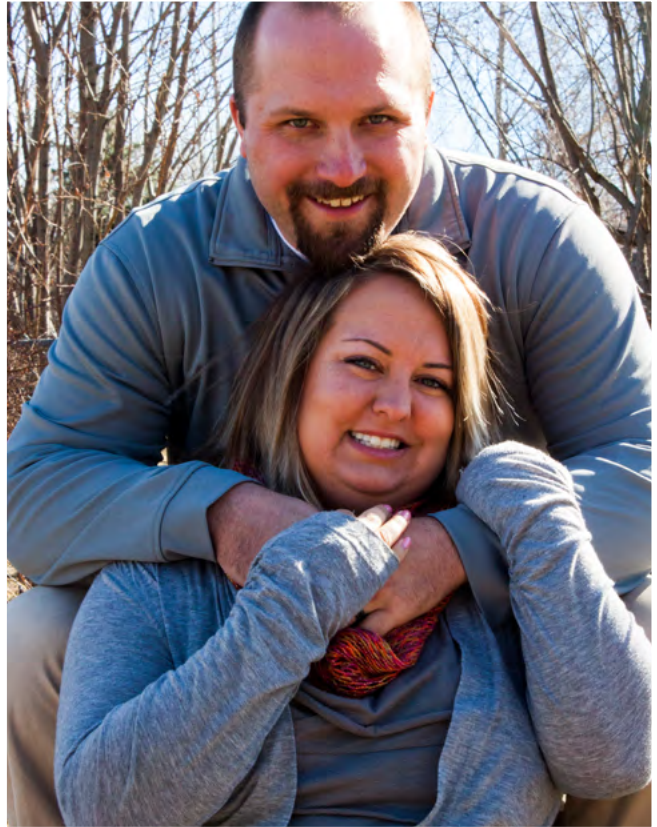
We can't wait to have our home filled with all that a child brings. The sounds of their voice filling the air when they are hungry or wet, sleepless nights while their tummy grows to hold more than a couple ounces at a time, and even the laundry - we look forward to it all. For we know that with it comes holding and singing to our child when a little comfort is needed and cuddling them day and night so he or she can hear our heart beat.

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# Our family...

We met on New Year's Eve in 2009. I went to a friend's house to hang out and play games. Although my friend told me that Chad was going to be there, I didn't have any plans on meeting someone. I had just left a long-term relationship. Apparently Chad had different plans. Someone mentioned to Chad that I liked to go hunting with my dad - you know, so I could spend time with him - that was all he needed to hear! He insisted on taking me on a date and we have been inseparable ever since. We were married 2 years later.

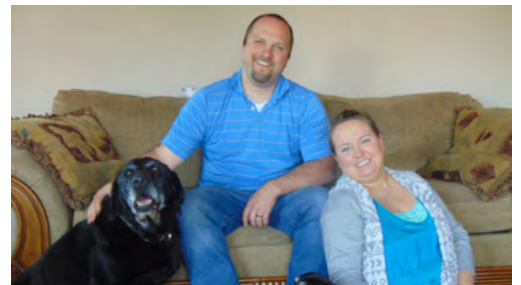
Both of us were only children and brought up with involved parents. My mom stayed home and while Chad's mother worked, she ran the house and made dinner for the family every night. Our fathers were active in our lives and we spent a lot of time with them doing anything they did just so we could tag along. Our parents taught us right from wrong, to work hard for the things you want, and to take care of the things you have. Both of our mothers were "caretakers" volunteering their time and energy to help family, friends or those in the community. Challenges brought each of our families closer together rather than tear us apart. These experiences molded us into the adults we are today.



We spend a lot of time mentoring youth in the community. We frequently spend Saturdays at my students' football and basketball games, being their familiar face in the crowd. Chad mentors two students from the school I work at, being a positive male role model in their lives. Together, we lead the junior high youth group at our church.

We also spend a lot of time with our families. Chad and my dad spend a lot of time together doing things outside, and Chad enjoys doing projects with his dad, such as; building a workshop and building a play set for our child. My mom, Chad's mom and I are all "crafty." My mom and I go to craft shows together and for those that ask, we create wedding flowers (bouquets, center pieces, etc.) together. With my mother-in-law, I enjoy quilting and sewing things. We all get together for dinner, often grilling out on the back deck.

Special occasions are spent with family and are focused on celebrating. Our traditions include spending Christmas Eve night at my parents' house and on Christmas hiding a special ornament on our Christmas tree. Whoever finds it gets an extra special gift. Also, everyone gets a Piñata for a fun birthday tradition. At Easter we decorate eggs and have a big Easter egg hunt for the children in the family. At Halloween we carve pumpkins and go trick-or-treating. We are just two big kids and can't wait to share our life, family, friends and fun with a child.



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