

Hello we are...

Jessica & Thomas



Graceful
adoptions™



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We have had a long road to start our family including miscarriages and infertility treatments. While we didn't understand 'why' when we were in the middle of it all, we have always believed that everything happens for a reason. It was only when we took a few steps back we understood God had a different plan, a better plan.

Adoption! Now we see this amazing opportunity to experience the beauty and uniqueness of adoption. We now understand how fortunate we are to travel this incredible path so few get to experience. Meeting here at this point in both of our journeys is something we believe is truly special.

We take our decision and responsibility to adopt very seriously. We understand that for us to be adoptive parents that a mother must make an adoption plan for her child. The magnitude of that decision is not lost on us. While we will never know, we can only imagine the selflessness and love it must take to trust another with your child's future. We would be honored to join you in the place where vulnerability and strength meet to ensure your child has what you want for them.

Just as we have put great thought into our decision to adopt, we are sure you take choosing a family for your child very seriously. If you select us to parent your child, we will cherish and honor you by raising your child in an environment that will encourage healthy development and happy memories that shape your child's future. We will do our absolute best and use all our love, energy and dedication to care for your child.

Most important, we want you to feel comfortable and confident in your decision should you entrust us with your child.

Respectfully,

Jessi & Tom


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

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Our values and beliefs as parents...



Faith. We were both raised to participate in church and value the peace and guidance our faith brings us. Tom attended church from childhood through middle school, took a break during high school to play sports and went back during the college years. Jessi attended church services, Sunday school, completed a mission trip and was involved in the youth group. Our faith has brought us through the challenges of infertility and led us to the blessing of adoption. We will raise our child to be involved in church by attending Sunday school and participating in the youth programs our church offers. We believe it provides a crucial foundation for life and the decisions he or she will make in the future. We will lead our child by what we believe; however, when our child gets old enough we will encourage him or her to discover their own beliefs and their own truths.



Humor- We both love to laugh and encourage each other through our sense of humor. A gentle joke and a light attitude have often helped us keep things in perspective. Humor has gotten us through a number of tough times. We are enthusiastic to share a loving sense of humor with our child. To have our own inside jokes, things we smile about, and ways to create our own fun. We truly believe that a positive attitude and healthy sense of humor can take you a long way in life and we can't wait to help our child find their smile.



Relationships. We believe for us to have a strong family we must first have a strong marriage. Not only are we husband and wife, we are best friends. We love to spend time together, share interests, and simply enjoy each other's company. Our relationship is based on love, giving freely and supporting one another. We are committed to a long life together and use open communication and common ground to ensure we are always working together. We want our child to know that it's normal to disagree without being disagreeable and that with open dialogue we can work through anything. Our child will see that in how we maintain strong relationships with each other and those around us. We are excited to show our child how to build relationships with those they love and what it means to be a good friend.



Life Experiences. Both of us are lucky to have parents who believe providing a variety of life experiences is very important. We took family vacations, traveled to new locations, and participated in a wide range of artistic and athletic activities. For Jessi, they took a family vacation to a new destination every year. One year she traveled through a bunch of states to see the Grand Canyon, Mount Rushmore, Black Hills, Yellowstone National Park, and Old Faithful. She remembers picnicking and playing the license plate game while on the road. We want our child to experience the same type of memories. We believe that in order to find your place in life, you must experience what the world has to offer. We can't wait to create all kinds of varied life experiences and help our child discover the activities and type of places they enjoy.

Education. We believe, as parents, it's our responsibility to lay the groundwork for our child to be what they want to be in life, not what we may want them to be. It's our job to provide them tools so that they have options to discover who they are, their likes and dislikes. That means extra circular activities, support in school, helping with homework, and providing a higher education if that is the choice our child makes.

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Our home...

Our house is one of our favorite places to be! It is our place of comfort from a busy week, cold weather, and the noise of the world. It's the place where we can be our silly selves, have a good time, and put our feet up at the end of a long day. It's where we build forts, eat popcorn and play games with our nieces and nephews. It's a house we made into our home.

Movie nights, popcorn eating, fort building and game playing happen in the warm and cozy family room in the lower level. Just as 'the kitchen is the heart of the home,' the family room is 'the fun of the home.' Complete with a game table, children's toys and books, and a little nook under the stairs for secret hide-a-ways, it's the favorite place in the house where the kids and adults alike entertain themselves. Tom looks forward to having an excuse to play with toys and be silly without raising too many eyebrows.

Our main level has an open layout with our kitchen, dining room, and living room. All the rooms open to each other, which is nice for hosting family and friends. With comfy couches and a pleasant scent from candle warmers, it is hard to resist relaxing into warm conversations at the end of the day.

The nursery is almost ready. It has a crib, toys, children's books, a rocking chair, and cozy blankets. The dresser, which will also be used as a changing table, was Jessi's great grandparent's dresser they received as a wedding present. We love that it is being passed down to our child. If we are blessed with a girl, the room will have a soft and elegant theme with soft pinks, golds, light greys and cream colors. If we are blessed with a boy, the room will have an antique sophisticated look (maybe like a library) with blues, dark browns and creams.

We have a large back yard just waiting for a child to play in. We can't wait to watch our child chase our dogs around the fenced in yard. Soon we will add a play set complete with swings and slides. In the summer months a small swimming pool will fill the space so we can teach our child how to swim. We both enjoy the water and hope our child has a love for the water as well. A sprinkler is always fun and a great way for all of us, including our dogs, to cool off. During spring and fall our backyard is perfect for games, and in winter it's the perfect place to build snow forts and snowmen.

We have longed for our home to be filled with a child's laughter and fun. We look forward to pouring all of our love and attention into a child. We are excited to have a high chair join our table, baby gates to walk over, and a cradle near our bedside. Jessi especially looks forward to having an excuse to read through her children's library. Finally experiencing parenthood will warm our hearts and make our family complete.



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Music, singing, decorating our home, working out, reading, playing board and card games, watching movies, hanging out with family and friends, camping, hiking, and traveling.

Adoptive Father:

Buying and researching antiques from the Civil War, working out and running, reading playing board and card games, watching movies, hanging out with family and friends, camping, hiking, grilling, and traveling.

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Success Coach

Adoptive Father: Elementary Principal

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree



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Our family...

We have been together more than six years. We met through Jessi's mom who was the school principal where Tom taught his first year. Jessi was still in college and came back to work for her mom during breaks at the school where they both worked. She sent Tom an email to start up a conversation, while Tom responded to the e-mail, he left little room to continue the conversation. Finally, during Christmas break we began talking on-line and eventually set-up our first date.

Our first date was at Tom's house. He planned for us to cook meatballs from scratch and then watch the movie *Moulin Rouge*, one of our favorite movies. While we followed the recipe closely, we realized we missed something when the meatballs came out of the oven looking more like meat blobs. The date didn't lose a beat and while not structurally sound, the meatballs were very tasty! From that point on, we both knew we were meant to be!



We love spending time together and balance each other well. Jessi has a positive outlook, is loving, caring and giving while also being organized and driven. Tom is goofy, thoughtful, generous as well as reliable and intelligent. We still enjoy "dating," going to movies, seeing plays and musicals, testing new restaurants, or trying something new. However, we also love our nights in, eating dinner together, talking, or watching a movie while cuddling with each other and our dogs.

We like the idea of a smaller family to ensure we have the time to meet each of our child's individual needs. It won't be just us giving him or her time and attention. Our family is very close, geographically and emotionally! They are actually more like friends, and Jessi's cousins are more like sisters. Her aunt and uncle are like Jessi's second parents. In fact, her uncle is a pastor and married Jessi and Tom.

We can't wait to include our child in our current family traditions, and start new ones as a family. Both of our families enjoy traveling and camping. We love to visit new places, see new sites and experience as much of the world as we can. Another tradition is cooking our favorite recipes such as homemade rolls, homemade noodles, candies and desserts around the holidays. We can't wait to see the world through our child's eyes and have him or her help us make our favorite recipes by adding ingredients, stirring, and especially decorating cookies.

While we dream of including a child in all of our family traditions, we really look forward to everyday life with our child. Our family is excitedly anticipating the arrival of a new family member! They have been with us through our journey and cannot be any more ready to welcome, love and support our child.



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