

Hello we are...

*Matt & Jessica*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

We have loved each other unconditionally for nearly ten years and are ready to share that unconditional love with a child.

We have been happily married for more than eight years and we each consider the other to be our best friend. We genuinely enjoy spending time together and do almost everything together when we're not at work. Our life is centered on strong family values and Christian beliefs. We have been blessed with an amazing support system, financial stability, an emotionally stable marriage, and a forever commitment.

Although we always knew we wanted children, we spent the first few years of our marriage building our family's foundation. Unfortunately, once both of us were ready to expand our family, we were unable to conceive. Eight years into our marriage, our desire to have children and to be parents hasn't changed.

We have always been open to adoption for as long as we could remember. Recently, we have felt God lay it on our hearts to pursue adoption as a way to grow our family. We see this as a normal way to build our family. We have family members who have been adopted and others who are adopted parents.

We can't wait to be parents. We want to be a good example to our child of what it means to be a follower of Christ, a good husband and wife, what it is to have a happy marriage, and to be kind and loyal. We want to help our child see that they are beautiful, strong, loved, and important. We want to offer a place for our child to grow and explore the world in a safe comfortable environment. We want to share our love and family life with a child.

We look forward to the sounds of a child's laughter and delight, playing outside, sharing holidays and family events, seeing our child discover things for the first time and sharing in that excitement. We look forward to rocking him or her to sleep, all the kisses and snuggles, their first words and first steps, and teaching them how to ride a bike.

We understand that for us to become parents a mother must make the selfless decision to create an adoption plan. We believe you are courageous by putting your child's needs before your own. If you select us to be the parents of your child, you will always hold a special place in our hearts and in our life. We hope you will be filled with peace and a deep sense of well-being.

Blessings,

*Matt & Jess*



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

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 [GracefulAdoptions.com](http://GracefulAdoptions.com)



# Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Faith in Christ.** Our faith in Christ is at the very core of who we are. We both treasure our salvation in Christ and see it as an amazing free gift. We have incredible joy and peace knowing we are loved by God. We pray throughout the day, are a part of a local church body, do family devotions in the evenings and consider God in our day-to-day decisions. Our child will grow up living our faith with us as a family. We will read the Bible to our child, engage our child in simple discussions about God and share our own life stories of coming to know Christ. However, we will encourage our child to choose their faith, as we did, when they grow up. Jess made this choice in 11th grade and Matt did in his 20's. We want our child to make this decision for themselves so it will, or won't, become their own faith.



**Family.** We understand that for our family to be stable, our marriage must be a priority. We are committed to a healthy and happy marriage where divorce simply is not an option. We try to express how we feel in a kind and loving way, even uncomfortable feelings. We show our unconditional love for one another in lots of different ways such as small surprises, encouragement, listening, written notes, and thoughtful gifts. We believe spending time together as a family is crucial and we genuinely enjoy each other. We look forward to sharing our commitment to family with our child by spending quality time together. We will continue to protect that time together and not over commit to other pursuits in our life to make sure we have a strong marriage and close family.



**Education.** We believe a good education opens doors for financial stability. The fact that Matt has his master's degree has had a direct and positive impact on our family. If it wasn't for his earnings, Jess wouldn't be able to work part-time or be a stay-at-home mom. We will make sure that our child has the best education so that they can achieve success throughout their life. We will take an active role in our child's life and learning. We will explore our child's gifts and their interests. We will read to them, play with them on the floor, encourage extra circular activities, and when they get older, work with them on homework.



**Travel and Experiencing the World.** We believe that travel, especially international travel, provides a unique view of the world and the people in it. We believe that this experience, along with an open mind, can lead to more compassion for those around us. For example, if you have traveled to countries where a language other than English is spoken and you aren't easily understood, you may have more compassion for the person in this country in front of you in line trying to order when their primary language is something other than English. Through Matt's business trips, we have been blessed with the opportunity to take several international trips. These turn into vacations of a lifetime that we only dreamed of when we were young. We will teach our child about other places around the world and share beautiful stories about the people in them. We will take our child on trips with us so he or she may experience the amazing places and different cultures around the world for themselves.

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



# Our home...

We live in a great neighborhood with wide sidewalks and tall trees. There are 3 parks within walking distance, a water park, walking trails, a lake and state park, and a library within a short drive. The area also has a zoo, science center, farmers market, and museums!

We bought our home two years ago and love it. There are tons of kids in the neighborhood. Across the street from our home in the cul-de-sac there is a large open community greenspace where the kids gather. It's great to hear their laughter as they play.

One of our favorite memories is when our family came to help us paint the entire inside of our house before we moved into it. There was so much to do! It took two full weekends of their time and they made countless trips to the store to help us buy more paint! It was great to have them all make our house our home!

Our home is filled with natural light from all the windows and has an open floorplan making it feel open and airy. It's a home to live in, it's comfortable and welcoming. During the winter, visitors are greeted with the warmth of the fireplace; in Spring and Summer they are greeted by the scent of fresh flowers. Jess is an amazing cook and always has a dessert or appetizer to share. We laugh easily and smile a lot. Our life is pretty relaxed and happy.

The kitchen is the heart of our home. Our home is often filled with the aromas of fresh baked goods or a savory meal. Our favorite dessert is chocolate peanut butter pie. Jess is a very adventurous cook and typically tries 3-4 new recipes each week with great results. While Jess is creating the meal, Matt is usually chopping and preparing the ingredients and of course taste-testing. We can't wait to pull up a chair for our child to stand on and help us measure and taste as we create all the yummy dishes.

We can't wait for a child to fill every bit of our home and lives. The baby's room has white furniture and fresh blue walls. The accent colors will depend if our child is a boy or a girl. Jess currently works part-time and will transition to be a stay-at-home mother. She looks forward to playing, teaching, and sharing our child's day. Matt works about 10 minutes from our home so during the week we look forward to sharing his lunch break together at home or meeting at a near-by park for a picnic.

Matt is so excited to be a father. He will be a very involved father and looks forward to sharing his interests with his son or daughter, as well as sharing in our child's interests. He will be one of those fort-building, block-playing, book-reading, floor-wrestling dads. We can't wait for the sounds of a child's laughter and delight to fill the house. We can't wait to rock him or her to sleep, all the kisses and snuggles, and their first words and first steps. We can't wait to discover the world for the first time through the eyes of our child.



- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Shopping, letter writing, playing with dog, bike riding, reading, cooking, talking on the phone, working out, blogging, traveling, photography, singing, going on walks, spending time with family and friends.

#### Adoptive Father:

Reading, working out, playing basketball, going to events around town, playing with our dog, traveling, sports, spending time with family and friends.

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Sushi Chef

Adoptive Father: Senior Staff Engineer

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Professional/Vocational

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree



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

# Our family...

Jess and Matt met when Jess moved for an internship as a photographer at a local newspaper in the city Matt lived. Jess remembered her mom had once said “when going into a group, think before you just rush in, most people stay in the same seat week after week.” Jess walked in, looked around, and saw all 6’8” of Matt with an empty seat beside him. Jess sat down beside him and hasn’t left his side since! It started as a crush, then a date, then more dates and then meeting each other’s families.

Our first date was a minor league baseball game. The choice seemed like a gamble at the time because it could be a long date if you don’t have a lot in common with the person. We were just getting to know each other, so at the time we didn’t know if we would have enough to talk about. The concern was short-lived. We stayed in the stands long after the game was over and until they turned the lights off in the stadium. That was more than nine years ago and we are still by each other’s side.

Matt is an athletic, kindhearted, responsible, authentic, and loving man. He is hard-working and a devoted husband. Jess is loving, sensitive, compassionate, adventurous and loyal. We are dedicated to our relationship and marriage which we both see as a lifetime commitment. We enjoy our time together and can’t wait to see each other at the end of our work days. We like to go on walks, ride bikes, Kayak, go to Farmers’ market, and play cards and board games.



Our families are great. We are quite a mix of personalities from introverted to downright boisterous. Everyone is encouraged to be themselves. We moved away from our family for two year and now that we are back, we cherish the time we have together and we don’t take for granted how close we live to one another. We hug our parents and say ‘I love you.’ We joke around with our brothers and sisters and play silly games with our nieces and nephews.

We can’t wait for our own family to expand from two to three! We look forward to all the things we will do together as a family, as well as traditions we will share and those we will start for our own family. We have enjoyed trips with grandparents, parents, siblings to Disney, Louisiana, Lake of the Ozarks, and we will continue these multi-generational vacations. We have spontaneous backyard barbecues and last minute day or weekend visits. We spend every holiday with groups of our family and cook, eat, and clean up as a team for special events.

We plant flowers in the yard in Spring and bake with apples in Fall. We have egg hunts for the children in our family on Easter and at Thanksgiving we go around the table saying what we are thankful for. At Christmas, Matt’s mother comes to help decorate our house and Jess’s mother bakes lots of cookies. We look forward to incorporating being a blessing to others in our family traditions, such as; serving, sharing, and including others. We would like to add food, language, and learning about other cultures and countries in our traditions as well.

Most of all, we want to add a child. We want to care for, teach, protect and love our child unconditionally. We want every aspect of our life to be filled with the blessings only a child can bring.



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