

Hello we are...

*Kevin & Amie*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

Our hopes and dreams are to lead happy and healthy lives, making the most of the gifts God has given us. We wish to leave a positive impact on the world and those we encounter, particularly the next generation. We are excited to become parents and look forward to the successful, spiritual, and close-knit family we will raise.

We have wanted to raise a family for some time. Family is very important to us, and we are excited to start one of our own. We have been unable to conceive, but had often discussed adoption as a great way to start or grow a family, even before we were married. We feel we have a lot of love in our immediate and extended families and want to share it by bringing up someone else in the world.

We want to offer a child a nurturing and loving environment full of opportunities so they can utilize the talents they've been given. This includes a stable home life full of compassion, education, and world experiences. We want to give them the confidence to know they can do whatever they set their minds to, while still providing a sense of humility and gratitude. We hope to provide a multitude of fun memories and daily laughter and silliness. Most of all we want our child to know that they can always count on our love and support, and that they have so very many people who love and cherish them.

We look forward to kissing little feet during diaper changes, playing airplane with a spoon during feedings, and rocking our child to sleep each night. We can't wait to read bedtime stories and snuggle, field questions of why and how, and hang artwork on the refrigerator. We think about the day when our child will ride their bike for the first time and take pride in their school work; share in our sense of humor and be excited for a surprise family vacation. We smile when we envision the changes our house will take on with little jackets and shoes in the mudroom and toys sprinkling the family room. We look forward to seeing how our child will grow and develop over time - witnessing the impact of the little things we teach along the way coming to fruition as they become young adults. We look forward to the little chatter and sounds of excitement while they are playing. We are very excited to teach our child about so many things and can't wait to see what he or she will teach us. Most of all we look forward to all of the love that our child will add to our lives.

For the mother that selects us to parent her child, we hope that she has peace of mind with the decision she has made and knowledge that her child will have every opportunity at a successful life, both in childhood and beyond. We will do our best every day to earn it by being the best parents we can be. We hope she will know the gratitude and the admiration we have for the brave and selfless decision she has made, and how much we care for her and have prayed for her. We hope she has happiness and success and to accomplish everything she aspires to in her life.

Blessings,  
*Kevin & Amie*



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## Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Faith** - We both grew up with a strong background in our faith and it's a large part of who we are and the life we lead. It impacts the decisions we make and the way we react to events in our lives. We try to live out our faith in the way we treat others and how we conduct ourselves. We pray daily, both individually and together, and seek God's guidance through our journey of life. We also attend weekly church services, and are active in our parish community. In addition to helping with seasonal and holiday decoration of the church, we also lead a group of high school youth in deeper understanding of their faith. Because our faith is such a significant part of our lives, it is important to us that we raise our child to have a close relationship with God. We feel it's important to know that you're never alone with God in your life, and there's nothing you can't handle with Him on your side. Our child will come to church with us and will be encouraged to get involved in parish activities as they get older. Volunteering in the community is another way we choose to live our faith and we hope to instill the importance of this on our child as well.



**Family** - We are very close to our families and they are an important part of our lives. Our siblings are our best friends, and we hope our children will have the same close relationships we have had. Our family gatherings don't happen just during holidays. We spend a great deal of time with our loved ones and cherish the memories we make. Our families are so excited to love our child, to provide support and watch our family grow. We have another child to love and support and watch grow. With our close-knit family, our child will grow up knowing that family extends beyond the walls of our own house, and is a wide web of support you can always count on.



**Education** - School comes before sports and other extracurricular activities. We've been fortunate to be raised in households that emphasize the importance of education. We believe that education does not stop after graduation; it is a lifelong process. We believe in always putting forth the best effort - you don't have to be a genius, but try your best and work to improve. Our nearby high school of choice has a 100% graduation rate, and 99% of students attend post-secondary education. Our child will have the opportunity and preparedness for a post-high-school education, as far as they want to go. They will also be raised to value different types of learning and education—formal and informal that can take many shapes and forms. We also believe that as parents, we will be the primary educators and teachers to our children and do not take this responsibility lightly.



**Kindness/Compassion** - We have both been raised with the gift of appreciating kindness. We believe that it takes very little to be a kind person but the effect it can have, is enormous. One of our core philosophies of parenting is to teach our children genuine kindness and compassion toward others. This includes people they are close to and see every day, as well as people they will only meet for a brief moment. We believe that kindness and compassion toward others is something that is not only lacking in our world today, but is also undervalued. We try to remember the old adage that "someone is always fighting a harder battle than you" and treat others that way - with compassion and kindness.

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# Our home...

We live on a very quiet street without any through-traffic. Our house sits on a corner of a cul-de-sac that is bustling with kids of all ages. It is common to see children riding their bikes together and playing in their yards. Some of the younger kids set up a lemonade stand in the summer; we are their top customers. Our neighbors take pride in their houses and yards and look out for each other, even shoveling each other's snow.

There are plenty of public pools and parks, including an aquatic center just a couple miles down the road. Our town has a Science Center with IMAX theater, an art museum offering children's classes, a large amusement park with roller coasters and a water park, as well as a delightful zoo. We grew up with the opportunity to participate in all these activities around town, and intend to do the same with our child.

This is the house that we intend to stay in for the next 30+ years and look forward to so many memories to come. We have a large yard on a corner lot with plenty of space for our child to play. The backyard is fenced in and we have the perfect spot for a swing set, like the ones we grew up with. We have two small gardens where we grow vegetables in the summer and a small patch of berry bushes with blueberries and raspberries. We are excited for the day where we can pick tomatoes and berries and will have little hands to help. We both spent countless hours playing outside when we were kids and our child will have the same opportunity for outside play.

We have good work-life balance where our professional lives do not intrude inside the home - we're never "on call" or expected to answer emails after hours. We enjoy listening to Frank Sinatra while prepping homemade dinner. Italian dishes are among our favorite. We received a cookbook of homemade pie recipes last year and have been eagerly trying out as many as we can. Our favorite so far was a s'more pie, but we haven't been bold enough to try the avocado pie yet! The rest of the evening is spent reading near each other, or binge-watching the occasional TV series that sucks us in. On weekends we might attend a nephew's sporting event, or watch our favorite college football team play. We may get together with family or friends, or have a date night just the two of us.

Once we have a child Amie will cut back her hours to part-time. We have started to prepare the nursery but are still in the early stages. The walls are painted a light neutral grey so we can easily add gender-specific accents. We will have a crib, dresser/changing table, and a rocking chair. There is a ceiling fan, we are adding a dimmer switch to allow for low light during nighttime visits. Kevin's mom is excited to make a personalized quilt that we will have forever.

Believe it or not we look forward to the days of 2am feedings, waking up earlier to get a little one ready for the day, make sack lunches for school, and to start our turn in the carpool. We have room at our kitchen table for an extra place setting with a high chair and kid-sized spoon and fork. We will take our child along with us to church and family gatherings, and have play-dates with our friends' kids, both hosting at our house and going to visit them. We look forward to linking little pieces of our home to our child as new memories are made.



- Both non-smokers

## Hobbies:

### Adoptive Mother:

Spending time with family/friends, golfing, home improvement projects, reading, exercising

### Adoptive Father:

Spending time with family and friends, playing sand volleyball, golfing, playing cards, attending college sporting events

## Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Physical Therapist

**Adoptive Father:** Financial Advisor

## Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Doctoral Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelor's Degree

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# Our family...

We met when Amie went out with her sister and brother-in-law one night when they were meeting up with some old friends from college. Kevin and Amie's brother-in-law were friends in college. We hit it off and spent a large part of the night talking and getting to know each other. A few weeks later we had our first date. As we shared stories we learned that our paths had crossed more than once over the previous years, including Kevin being a guest at Amie's sister's wedding. We often look back at this and use it as a reminder of the importance of timing.

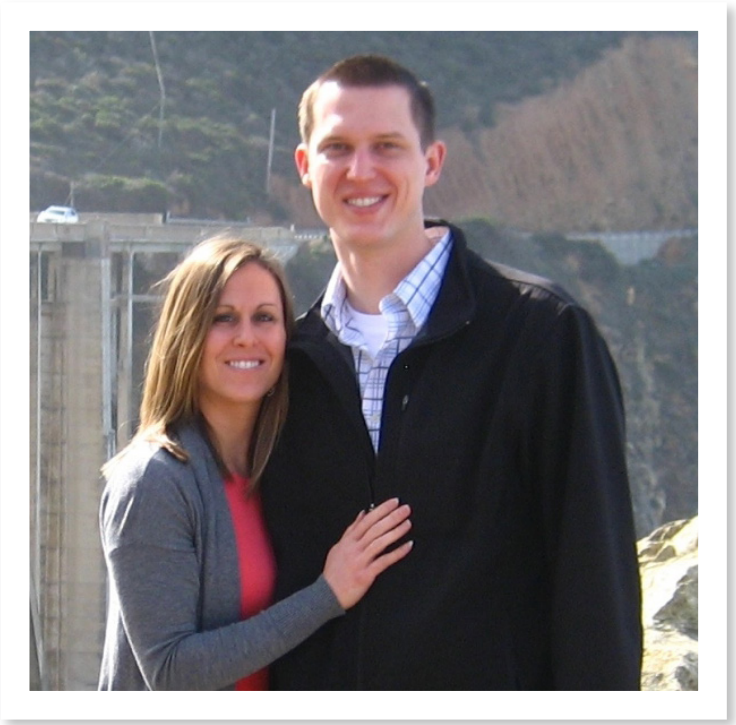
We dated for one and a half years before we got engaged and were engaged for a year before we married. Kevin proposed on a random Tuesday night after we walked to a local ice cream parlor on a warm night in early fall. He told Amie all the reasons that he loved her and their relationship together and why he wanted to marry her. It was the perfect night for Amie who had always envisioned a spontaneous, low-key, and personal proposal.

We have several fun memories from when we were dating and engaged, including going out to dinner, football games, short weekend getaways, and meeting each other's family and friends. One of our favorite memories is taking ballroom dance lessons together. We learned to waltz, tango, fox-trot, swing, rumba, and cha-cha. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We still attempt our old "routines" in the kitchen once in a while, and always find time at weddings we attend to get out on the floor.

We are positive minded people who try to see the good in every person and every situation. We have found that times of adversity have helped shaped us as individuals and as a couple. We have used difficult times to deepen our faith and spiritual relationships. These times have also strengthened our marriage and drew us closer together. They have taught us to shift our ways of thinking and welcome God's creative plan. We learn there are things we can control and things we can't, and it's important to roll wherever life leads you with a positive outlook for whatever lies ahead.

We feel incredibly privileged to have such a huge support system in our families. We believe that it is pretty remarkable that both of our parents have been married for over 38 years. Kevin and his brothers like to attend sporting events and take trips together. Amie's sisters are all very close and consider each other best friends. They talk almost every day and regularly get together for special "girls' days" to truly catch up on anything they might have missed. We have six nephews that we adore, and love to watch them grow up. They have brought such an entertaining and fun dynamic to our families. Not only are our families very close emotionally, we are also fortunate enough to be close geographically. We both love the unique and special bond that siblings share.

Of course we are together for birthdays, holidays and other special occasions. A favorite is Easter. The day before Amie's mom has all the grandchildren over to dye eggs and have a big Easter egg hunt. Kevin enjoys helping hide the Easter eggs. Kevin's extended family has been gathering every couple of years at a Minnesota lake and golf resort. This includes catching sunfish off the dock, making campfire s'mores, driving a golf cart with grandpa, and calling out Bingo! We can't wait to create all these memories with our child.



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