

Hello we are...

Lisa & Michael



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

Our hopes and dreams are to have a family.

We have been happily together for more than 10 years; however, we yearn for our own family. We have so much love to give, we feel there is a hole in our life because we don't have a child. We want to impart what we love on another by sharing our beliefs, values and experiences with a child. We want to support our child by showing them the love we experienced growing up.

More than anything, we have always wanted to have children. We do not take our job of becoming parents lightly. We are not rushing into a decision to start a family. We have been married for eight years, and in those years we have planned and prepared a good foundation to start our family. Our child will see the love and respect we have for each other and will know family comes first. We want our child to be happy and will do whatever we can to make sure that happens. Family has been and always will be our first priority.

We were married for about three years when we tried to start building our family. We struggled with infertility and had talked about adoption, but kept saying let's try this or that to try to conceive on our own. Three years later we found out Lisa was pregnant. When we went for our first ultrasound we discovered Lisa was 8 weeks pregnant with twins. Unfortunately, neither twin had a heartbeat. This news was devastating, yet we knew God must have other plans for us. Once this happened we knew we didn't want to wait any longer to be parents and started looking into adoption. We now know God's plan is for us to grow our family through adoption. Our hearts are already full of love for our child to be.

We will offer our child unconditional love and support. Our child will always have food in his/her belly and a roof over their head. Every day our child will know how important they are to us and how much we love them. We will offer them support in everything they do. We want them to dream big and know that they can be whatever they want to be.

For all mothers considering adoption, we believe placing a child for adoption is the ultimate motherly act because you are putting your child's needs before your own. We believe you are caring, thoughtful and strong. We truly respect and admire you and your decision.

If you select us as parents for your child, we wish you peace with your decision. We want you to know your child will be loved unconditionally not only by us, but by our family and friends. Your child's every need will be met, and we will support them in whatever decision they make.

Sincerely,

Lisa & Michael


Graceful
adoptions™

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

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 GracefulAdoptions.com



Our values and beliefs as parents...



Family - Family are the people we surround ourselves with who love us unconditionally. They are our safety net for life's lessons when seeking new adventures. We celebrate the good times together and see each other through the storms. We know that no matter what life throws at us they will be there to hold us up when we stumble. Our family is extremely close and we know our child will experience the same love and support we did as children and still receive today. Growing up in a caring and supportive family will teach our child they are never alone.



Education - We believe a well-rounded and balanced education opens doors to many possibilities. Growing up, our school work always came before sports or playing with friends. As parents, we will promote those same principles. We look forward to fostering our child's curiosity from a young age by reading books, playing games and looking for teachable moments in everyday life. As our child continues to grow through the school years, we will take an active interest in the subjects they are learning and always be there to help solve those tricky word problems in math or help complete a science experiment. We will encourage and support our child to further their education by going to college or trade school; however, if they decide to pursue another avenue, we will be there to support whatever they choose.



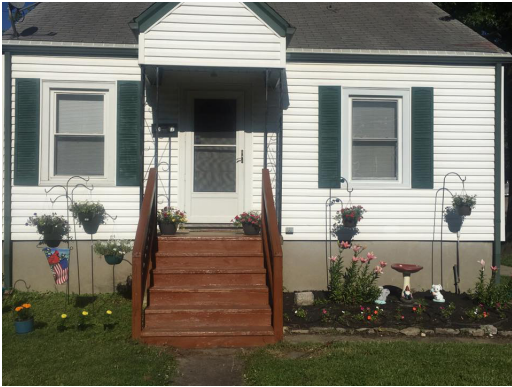
Positive Attitude - Life is full of choices and we make the choice to believe we will do something incredible every day. We think it's amazing we can wake up every day and decide what our attitude is going to be. We believe that everything happens for a reason, even if we don't understand the reason. When things are going great it is easy to have a positive attitude, but we also try to look at the bright side when they aren't going so well. We understand there will be times our child will be sad and upset, but we hope to teach them tough times don't last, but tough people do.

Openness - We believe being open is a mindset. To us it means being open and honest with others while being respectful and considerate of different ideas and opinions. It means being open to places and activities we haven't tried before. We want our child to feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and feelings honestly and openly. We will encourage them to listen with an open mind and heart to others. We want our child to be open to new adventures whether it be building an even bigger sand castle or trying a rollercoaster for the very first time. We will support our child in every new endeavor they seek, to ensure they feel safe as they explore their limits and learn to express themselves in healthy ways.



Enjoying Life - We work hard so we can play harder! We love spending time with friends and family, going out to dinner, going to movies, traveling, going to and participating in sporting events, and taking in local attractions. We want to show our child that even though we both work, there is still plenty of time to have fun each and every day. We look forward to sharing the activities we enjoy with our child, but we most look forward to doing the things our child may enjoy such as going to parks, exploring the zoo, and playing at home. We cannot wait to enjoy life with our child.

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



Our home...

We live in a quiet neighborhood in a large city known for world famous horse racing. We are a short drive from everything the city has to offer such as the zoo, museums and sporting events. Just outside of the city there are family farms where we pick apples, peaches and pumpkins.

We live on a corner lot with plenty of sidewalks, perfect for sidewalk chalk when our child is older. A good school system is just a short walk away. There are a lot of younger families in our neighborhood who play together in their yards and at a local park. The park has a playground with swings, slides, and a play set as well as basketball and tennis courts, a water area, hiking trails and an amphitheater that features free movies, concerts, and plays during the summer. Our families live close by.

Our house is warm and inviting. Being greeted by our dogs Jackson and Stubby makes everyone feel welcome when they enter the home. When family and friends visit, we spend time upstairs or in the living room. The upstairs has been converted to a loft type of entertainment room. It's a big open room with a table set up for playing games and has a big screen TV perfect for watching sporting events or movies. Michael's sports memorabilia is showcased in the room. If the weather is nice, we may spend time outside in our fenced in backyard, playing with the dogs, grilling and playing outside sports. We look forward to watching our child running and playing with the dogs in the yard.

Evenings are our favorite time. This is when we relax and unwind from the activities of the day. We enjoy cooking dinner together, talking about our day, watching TV and playing with the dogs. Some nights we bowl in a night league or play sand volleyball. We can't wait to include our child in all these activities.

The nursery is painted in a neutral and tranquil sea green. The furniture is cherry wood. We have a deacon's bench that was made by Michael's grandfather and a night stand made by Michael's dad that will be treasured pieces in our child's room. A baby blanket made by Michael's grandmother will fill the room with warmth.

We have longed for the pitter patter of little feet as our child runs down the stairs to a mountain of presents on Christmas morning. We look forward to watching our child grow and learn new things. We have yearned for the excitement of the first day of school. We look forward to spending evenings playing with toys and story time at bedtime. We look forward to making memories with our child by having birthday parties and family gatherings with our child at the center of it all. We look forward to friends and family coming over to spend time with us as a family.



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Spending time with family and friends, shopping, reading, baking, bowling, volleyball, playing card and board games, going to movies, going out to dinner, and traveling.

Adoptive Father:

Playing volleyball, running, bowling, going to sporting events, playing card and board games, spending time with friends and family, and traveling.

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Lead Retail Specialist

Adoptive Father: Tax Auditor

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: High School Diploma/GED

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree



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

Our family...

Our paths crossed for the first time when we, as children, played together. We had no idea we were soul mates and more than 20 years later our paths would cross again.

We met online through a local website to connect people in our city. We exchanged messages online for a couple days, then we started talking on the phone. We talked for a couple of weeks before our first date. On our first date we went to dinner and watched a movie. The conversation was easy as if we had known each other our whole lives. After our first date it was hard for us to talk very often because we worked different schedules. We would send a message online here and there and play phone tag constantly! After a few weeks of not being able to talk very often, we finally went on our second date, then a third and fourth and so on.

After a couple weeks of dating we went out to dinner with Michael's Mom and Dad. When we left, Michael's Dad looked at his wife and asked what she thought of her future daughter in law. He knew before we did that we would end up getting married.



After dating for a couple of months Michael went to a family gathering at Lisa's Grandma's house. Through conversation we learned that she knew Michael's parents. Michael's family also knew the family that lived across the street from Lisa's family when they were growing up. Both of us remember playing together, not knowing then we were soul mates.

As a couple, our strengths and weaknesses balance each other out. Lisa is thoughtful, headstrong, caring and she has a big heart. She always puts others before herself and does anything she can for anyone and expects nothing in return. Michael is caring, determined, patient, positive and funny. He knows how to make anyone laugh in any situation. As a couple, we work together very well, we communicate open and honestly with each other, and if we don't agree on things we are able to talk things through. We know how to have fun, but we also know when things need to be done.

Our family is larger than just the two of us. When Michael's dad passed, Lisa's family welcomed both Michael and his mom with open arms. Ever since, they have both been invited to every holiday, birthday, and summer time gathering that included all of Lisa's extended family. Every Sunday we go to Lisa's parent's house to have dinner, play games and simply spend time together. We also take a summer vacation together, sometimes to the mountains, the beach or a cruise. Every year at Christmas time we get together with our nieces and Lisa's sisters to bake. We make candies and cookies and whatever great (and sometimes not so great) ideas we can come up with. Every Christmas Eve we spend the night with the immediate family at Lisa's parent's house and all wake up together on Christmas morning. Christmas is spent with Michael's mom, we have dinner than exchange gifts and stay up late sitting around the table playing games. Our family has a great sense of humor so there are always many laughs to be had!

Our family is just as excited as we are to adopt. They all are ready with open hearts to show our child the love and support that they have shown both of us our entire lives. Our child will be blessed with the best grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins anyone could ever ask for.



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