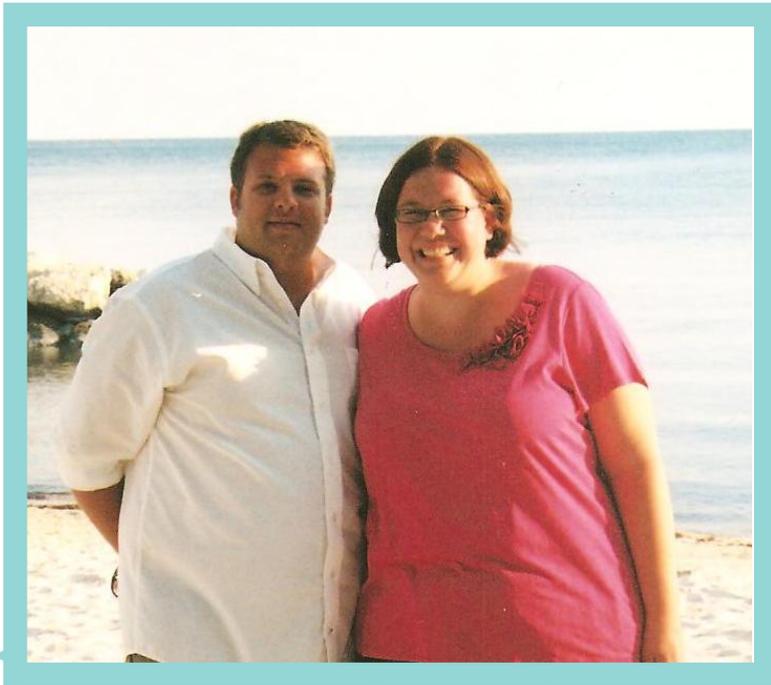


Hello we are...

Kelly & Amy



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We met 13 years ago at work and have been together ever since the day we “spotted” each other. We were married two years later.

Ever since we were married we wanted to be parents. After seeing a specialist, several tests, medications, and a surgery for Amy, we discovered that we had less than a 5% chance we would ever conceive on our own. Rather than trying aggressive infertility treatments, we knew we wanted to create our family through adoption. For us, it’s love that makes a family. You see, when Amy was 3 years old, her biological father (who she now has a relationship with) terminated his parental rights and she was adopted by her step-father.

It was easy to choose adoption.

Two years ago we did just that. We adopted our daughter, Sophie. We had a friend who knew Sophie’s mother was considering adoption. She needed a family who would raise her daughter with unconditional love. Needless to say it was a perfect match.

When we met her mother, she was 35 weeks, Sophie was born at 38 weeks and we brought her home from the hospital. We have an open relationship with her mother and we see her every few months. The adoption experience - and being parents - has been an amazing journey. We can’t wait to do it again.

We have so much to share! We will provide unconditional love, regardless of health or disability, race, sexual orientation, or anything else for that matter. We are emotionally and financially stable. Having been together for so long, we’ve learned that while we are strong individuals, we are even stronger as a couple. As parents, we know that it’s our responsibility to provide support throughout our child’s life and we are ready and willing to do so in a laid-back, fun-filled environment.

We know that it’s a privilege to be chosen as adoptive parents. Only a mother can make us something no one else can - parents. It’s such a selfless choice and shows a great deal of love. If you choose us to raise your child as our own, we promise to provide the life you want for him or her. We promise to provide unconditional love and a stable home. And, we commit to you that you will always be in our lives as well.

Sincerely,

Kelly & Amy


Graceful
adoptions™

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

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GracefulAdoptions.com



Our values and beliefs as parents...



Acceptance - We believe in accepting everyone, even if their lives, opinions, sexual preferences, or race may differ from ours. As nurses, we model this every day as we work with our patients with compassion and care. Kelly started a nurse-based clinic at a homeless shelter to care for those who didn't have regular access to medical care. He provides care, makes referrals, and even organizes rides for those who need to be seen at other facilities. At home our friends regularly visit - friends of different races, socioeconomic backgrounds, and sexual preferences. We will continue to show acceptance and compassion for those in our life, modeling that acceptance and inclusion is a way of life.



Fun - Life is what you make it and we believe it's important to have fun each and every day. We don't tend to take ourselves too seriously, often playing practical jokes on one another. Kelly may throw cold water, or even ice cubes, on Amy when she's in the shower. Once Amy was asleep in the car during a road trip. Kelly parked the car behind a parked semi and screamed like he was going to hit the truck. When Amy woke up to see the semi right in front of the car she screamed too. Kelly couldn't stop laughing. While the extreme of the practical jokes have decreased a bit now that we are parents, we still have a carefree and playful nature. We will encourage our children to find fun in everything they do. Today that means playing at the park - swing, zooming fearlessly down the slide, fetching balls that our daughter throws for us just like she does for the dog, and chasing her. As our children get older we will continue to show them how to have fun each and every day.



Education - We believe in being life-long learners and that learning starts at an early age. By reading to our children, pointing out and explaining items as we go for walks or as we shop at the grocery store, we will help our children learn. So will traveling to new places and experiencing new environments. Our city has a Spanish Immersion Program, where children start to learn Spanish in Kindergarten. We hope our children will learn Spanish and much more. We will always support our children in their activities and education, and hope that they go to college. But if they decide college isn't what they want, we will support them in whatever makes them happy.



Courage to do the right thing - Sometimes it's hard to do what is right. It's often easier to fade into the woodwork or ignore what's going on around us. We believe that it's important to stand up for what you believe is right. As nurses we both stand up for what we believe in. We trust our gut and advocate for our patients when we think a doctor has missed something important. We will model this to our children so they will stand up for what they believe is right as well. For example, if our child sees another child being bullied, we hope that they would stand up for that child because they know bullying is wrong.

Travel - Growing up we didn't have many opportunities to travel. But some of our fondest memories are of the times we went on family vacations. For Amy, it was trips to the Black Hills with her family. We believe vacations are a great time to relax, unwind and bond with others. We see it as an adventure to experience other places that are different from our own environment. We love going to Chicago and riding the L transit system to get where we are going, and Key West where they take being "laid back" to a whole new level. We can't wait to share these experiences and create lasting memories with our children.

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

Our home...



We live in a great city, just large enough so there is a lot to do, yet small enough to be very safe. It's the regional hub for shopping and medical care with more than 70 parks and 20 miles of trails for biking, jogging and walking. There are a couple of colleges and technical schools providing opportunities for advanced learning.

We moved into our home a couple of years ago. Amy remembers hanging out with friends who lived nearby when she was a teenager. It's in a quiet neighborhood full of young families where the children play together in the front yards. It's located close to schools, the neighborhood pool, and it has easy access to main streets so it's always simple to get anywhere we want to go. One of our closest friends lives just around the corner making it easy to spend time with them at one of our houses or meet at the nearby pool, the library, or the zoo.

We are the first owners of the home so everything is new and fresh, a blank slate to make our own. We like the ranch-style with most of the living space on the same floor so everyone is always close by. The open floor plan allows for easy interaction and conversation between those in the kitchen, dining room, and living room. We absolutely love our home.

Our door is always open to our friends and family and we hope they feel welcome. When they visit we often grill and hang-out on our covered patio where the dogs and children run and play in the fenced-in backyard. The kids really enjoy the swing and slide on our playset.

We try to keep in mind that we can't get the days back when children are young, so we try to enjoy our time together. Since we are both nurses, we have a lot of flexibility in our work schedules which allow for less child care and more time with our daughter and future child. And each week we have a family date-night to do something fun together, recently we went to an apple orchard, but the Wiener dog races and the Children's Museum are always fun too. Our favorite time together is our evening meal because it's our time to put all distractions away and come together to catch up on our day and spend quality time together. Some of our favorite meals are tacos, fajitas, enchiladas, and spaghetti and meatballs or lasagna - all made from scratch with fresh ingredients.

We look forward to having another child to share our love with and it will be amazing to see our children develop a relationship with each other. It's said that a sibling is the longest relationship we have in our lifetime. Their rooms will be close by each other's, the nursery will have a recliner that belonged to Amy's grandpa and needlepoint made by Amy's mother which says, "if only you would stay this small and sweet, a teddy bear dreams while a baby sleeps." The cherry wood crib shines when it's hit from the sun coming in the southern exposure windows. We envision the children jumping on each other's beds, chasing balls, playing catch and tag when the weather is nice and building forts and a snowman when winter comes.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Reading, knitting, going for walks, spending time with family, friends and pets.

Adoptive Father:

Throwing pottery, spending time outdoors, volunteering, spending time with family and friends.

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Registered Nurse

Adoptive Father: Registered Nurse

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree



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Our family...

We met at a retirement home where we were both working as nurses. We were immediately interested in each other. Kelly asked someone, "who is THAT?" Amy told her roommate there was a new guy at work and when her roommate asked if he was cute she just shrugged casually acting like she wasn't interested and said, "he's ok." A few days later we had our first date, a movie - "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." After that we started hanging out more and more, both with friends and by ourselves.

We dated for a year and then lived together for a year before we got married. Kelly proposed at home one night after Amy got off work. Although Amy was expecting it because they had picked out the ring together, she didn't expect it so soon. He had only picked up the ring earlier that day and couldn't wait! We couldn't be happier. We met 13 years ago and we've been together ever since.



Amy is a caring and compassionate person who likes to help others. She's a good listener and is very empathetic. Kelly is outgoing and friendly, and always willing to stand up for what's right and to help others. Together we are a solid couple. We don't sweat the small stuff and are quick to use humor to get through tough times.

Together we adopted our daughter, Sophie, who is now 2 years old. Her mother selected us as her adoptive parents prior to her delivery. We have a great relationship with her mother! We see her every few months to share stories and allow them time to play and interact. Sophie is an active 2 year old (as most are) who enjoys coloring, playing outside and reading books.

We value each other and our family. Both of us grew up close to our families. When Amy was young, she and her mother lived with her grandmother Elsie until she was three years old. This created an unbreakable bond which still exists today. We grew up with siblings and loved that we had life-long friends. It's an unconditional love that is different from any other relationship we have. And we continue to invest in these relationships. Every week we all meet at Kelly's mom's house for Sunday dinner. It's a great time to catch up with everyone. And when Kelly's brother got married in Key West, FL, about 30 of us went to celebrate with him.

This is what we want for our children. To be surrounded by family - aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents - who will be there for them no matter what.



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