

Hello we are...

*Leiah & Jonathan*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

It seems like we've known each other our whole lives. Leiah played on the same sports teams with Jonathan's sister. But it wasn't until the summer after our high school graduation that our relationship began to develop. That was 18 years ago. Having met so young, we wanted to be certain that we knew who we were as individuals before we came together in marriage. So we waited. And after dating for 10 years, we knew we were ready for marriage. This summer we will celebrate our 8 year wedding anniversary and we are more in love now than we were then. Our marriage is built on faith, friendship, honesty, trust, and commitment.

When infertility became a factor, we knew that it was confirmation that adoption was God's plan for us. Even before we were married, we talked about our 'future children' and even then, knew that we wanted to grow our family through adoption. Infertility only changed it from 'growing' to 'starting' our family. It makes no difference, whether adopted or biological, we find it an honor and privilege to love and raise a child.

Two years ago we adopted our son through Graceful Adoptions. As first time parents and new to adoption, we were nervous and scared. We soon discovered the adoption process was more of a blessing than we could imagine, our son's mom is truly amazing. Being first time parents has opened our hearts in ways we didn't know possible. We will do anything to love and protect our child.

We know we have so much more love to share with another child. If you select us as the parents for your child, he or she will be raised in a loving, stable, safe, and nurturing environment. We promise to love unconditionally, lead by example and foster his or her dreams as they grow. He or she will have an involved network of extended family and friends, a community that is supportive, opportunities to see and learn new things, and the opportunity for a great education.

We look forward to watching them grow, helping them learn, seeing them figure things out with help or on their own, learning through play, teachable moments, hugs and kisses, "I love you", giggles (and tears), providing new experiences...all of it!

As a family of faith, we feel God has a plan for all of us. You know what brought us here, we look forward to learning your story. We admire your courage and respect your decision to consider adoption. If it is your desire, we would like to share in this journey together. From the very beginning, your child will know how special adoption is to our family. He/she will grow up knowing the amazing and strong women that you are. We pray that God gives you strength, peace and wisdom during this time. We wish you comfort in knowing your child is being loved and cared for by a nurturing family. We wish you peace with your decision and hope you will fulfill all of your dreams.

Blessings,

*Leiah & Jonathan*

  
Graceful  
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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** - Our faith and trust in God is the foundation for our lives. We believe everything happens for a reason and God has a master plan for each of our lives even though it may not be the same as OUR plans. Throughout our lives, there have been many ups and downs and things that we have not understood. It is through our faith in God we have found comfort and hope. It is important to us that our child is raised in a faith-filled family and is an active member in the church. We hope our child will recognize the importance of God in their life.

**Family and Friends** - Our family and friends mean the world to us. They are who we go to for love, advice, encouragement, accountability and laughter. We value our relationships and never take them for granted. They have helped mold us into who we are today as individuals and as a couple. We are excited for our child to experience the bonds between siblings, cousins and best friends. We will encourage positive friendships that will give our child a network of people who will share in their joys and sorrows. We want our child to know that no matter what happens in their life, they have the reassurance that in addition to us, our family and friends will always be there to welcome and love them.



**Learning** - We both pride ourselves in being lifelong learners and will continue this lifestyle with our child. Simple every day experiences can lead to the greatest learning opportunities. We will be very active in our child's education, both in school and life at home. We will use daily opportunities, whether it be a walk on the farm, a drive in the car or mealtime, to teach our child about life. We believe fostering a love of learning begins as an infant and will give our child a variety of experiences to broaden their knowledge with each stage of growth and development.

**Respect** - We believe it is important to have respect for oneself and for others. Being respectful does not mean you must agree with others' views, but rather being considerate to others' beliefs, opinions and differences. We hope to instill self-confidence in our child so they do not need approval from the world or depend on others for their happiness. Through guidance and positive feedback we will encourage our child to be an independent and confident individual. We will shower our child love and respect. We will listen to them, encourage them, nurture their goals and dreams and go above and beyond to make them feel valuable and respected.



**Work Ethic** - We were both raised with a strong work ethic. We watched our parents work hard at everything they did and have taken that with us into adulthood. Growing up we worked hard alongside our parents and siblings to reach a common goal. This carried over into our academics, sports, and jobs. Being active and working hard at whatever our child does will be strongly encouraged. That said, we also believe playing hard is a must. We take pride in getting our hands dirty and in enjoying our accomplishments. Not only will we be our child's biggest fan, but we will work alongside them to make sure they never give up.



**Kindness** - Speaking kindly and showing kindness to others is a value we will model for our child. We believe a simple smile or a kind word can make a difference. Putting others needs before our own, using manners, speaking positive about others, and encouraging one another are just a few ways that we show kindness in our daily lives. In addition to everyday opportunities, we will seek out chances to serve others through volunteer work and mission work within our community and throughout the world. Our child will see and feel kindness through our actions to them and to others.

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



# Our home...

Our home and our community is the perfect place to raise a child. Having both been raised here, it is a town where everyone knows each other and everyone looks out for one another. We love the close-knit community that surrounds us, which is one of the main reasons we decided to move back when we married. Regardless of where you go, the post office, grocery store, school or gas station, you will see a familiar face and are always greeted with a smile. It is a very friendly and safe community.

We live on Leah's family's farm in the home where her father grew up. The home holds many special memories and there are more to create. It is surrounded by hundreds of acres of farm land. The yard is a great place to play. The open space is a perfect backdrop for any child's imagination, curiosity and sense of adventure. There are trees to climb, fields to run in, creeks to walk along, places to picnic, nature to enjoy and fresh air to take in. We have a play house on the back deck and a swing hanging in the tree. The barns are behind the house. There is a blacktop floor in one barn that is perfect for the riding toys and for the basketball goal. As long as the weather permits, we spend lots of our time outside on the farm. It is a simple and beautiful life that we live.

We are a relaxed family who enjoys having family meals together, playing outside when possible, story time before bed and just hanging out. Jonathan loves to grill out and we always incorporate fresh vegetables from our garden or in the winter, we use vegetables we canned. Early evening when we are preparing dinner we often are in the kitchen listening and dancing to music. Easton is playing with his toys or dancing with us. It is just a fun time being together.

We enjoy having family and friends over to hang out any time of year. Leah's sister and her family live on the farm too, just down the lane. Our home always has the sound of children laughing. We love Easton's cousins stopping by to say hello and to grab a snack. We take the dog for a walk, play ball in the yard, or just sit and talk. Both of our parents live within a mile of our house. There will be very few days our children will not see their grandparents. We feel very blessed to have the opportunity to live so close to them. We often get together for cookouts in the spring and summer, hayrides in the fall, and sledding in the winter. We can't wait to share our close relationships with our child.

The babies room has light grey walls and crisp white, with grey trimmed, curtains and matching rug. The crib and changing table is in place, along with the hand-stitched blanket made by 'Grammy'. A dear friend is patiently waiting to find out if the baby is a boy or girl to create wonderful pieces of art to add to the decor. There is an over-sized comfy chair in the corner by the bookshelf and Leah's baby rocking chair is in another corner and will hold his/her first stuffed animal. The room is very cozy and sweet.

We are excited to experience this life that we live through the eyes of another child. It is the little things: watching their reaction to the calves playing in the fields, listening to the birds, looking at the bright stars in the open sky, sharing stories at bedtime, dancing in the kitchen, providing comfort when it is needed, teaching them right from wrong, seeing them learn and grow, teachable moments, hugs and kisses, "I love you", giggles. We look forward to it all!

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Being outdoors, running, boating, water and snow skiing, golfing, traveling, hanging out with family and friends

#### Adoptive Father:

Being outdoors, farming, golfing, boating, water and snow skiing, hunting and fishing, hanging out with family and friends, traveling

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Director, Education

Adoptive Father: Production Supervisor

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree



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# Our family...

We have known each other our whole lives. We are more in love now than we were seventeen years ago, when we started dating. Our marriage is built on faith, friendship, honesty, trust and commitment.

Jonathan is strong, kind, giving, patient, and hard-working man. He is quick to listen and slow to speak. He's very laid back and does not let too many things get to him. He is a child magnet. All children feel his acceptance and flock to him. Leah is a social butterfly. She enjoys visiting and spending time with all people. She is always willing to help others and very seldom meets a stranger. Her love of children and their love for her is evident. Together, we make the perfect team. Leah brings out Jonathan's personality and Jonathan keeps Leah grounded. We both love children and find joy in our lives every day.

We can't wait to add to our family. We both have siblings and value our relationships with them and want the same for our children. Our son, Easton Ross, was adopted through Graceful Adoptions. We were there for his birth, it was a very special time for us. While we were very nervous and scared, those feelings went away the moment we saw him. He is now two years old and is a very social, active, and loving little boy. He will be such a great big brother!



We spend a great deal of time with both families, vacationing each summer, holiday get-togethers and weekend dinners. Traditions we love and are continuing with our own children are baking and painting Christmas ornaments at Thanksgiving with their thirteen cousins; pajama party Christmas Eve at Leah's parent's house where everyone sleeps in their childhood bedroom (yes, it is getting a little crowded for the families of five), and all the grandkids opening Santa's presents Christmas morning; Fourth of July consists of a fun lake trip where we all tube and ski and Easter tradition is having an egg hunt at Jonathan's family's house.

We can't wait to share these traditions with our children and add some new ones of our own. Taking our children to the pumpkin patch and hay rides each fall with their friends, summer lake trips with extended family, winter ski vacations, and college sporting events are all fun times we look forward to sharing. We want to encourage positive relationships with our family to give our children a network of people who will share in their joys and sorrows.

What we look forward to the most is the just the everyday things. Simply put, sharing life together. Sunday morning pancakes, playing on the farm, and bed-time stories and prayers. We are a loving family who counts each day as a blessing. We have so much to be thankful for. We have great family and friends, a wonderful community, a comfortable home and a great relationship that is built on kindness and respect! We truly can't wait to share this life with another child.



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