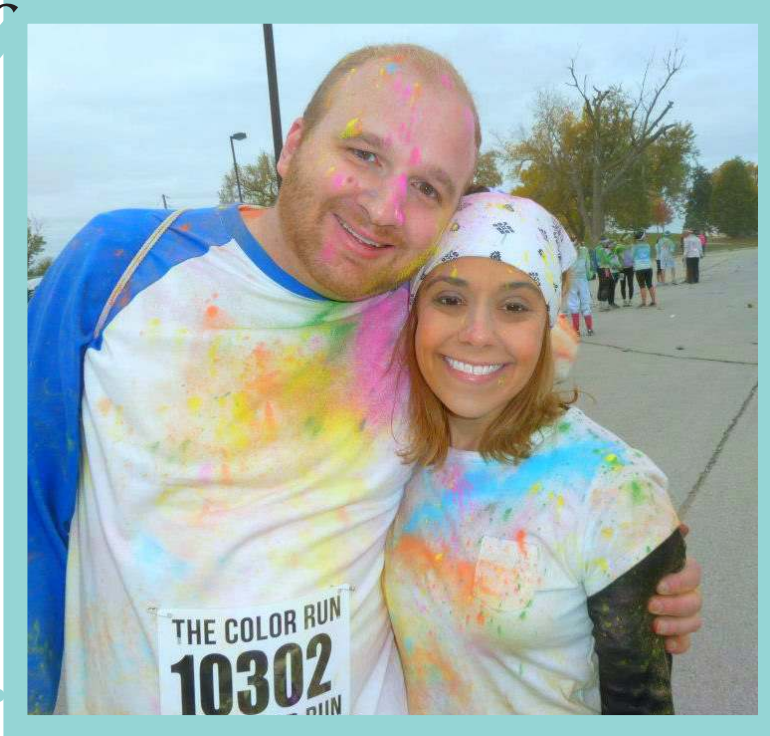


Hello we are...

Mike & Krista



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We want to provide a loving, nurturing, and supportive environment for a child. One that provides guidance and boundaries, but also encourages a child to take risks and reach for his or her dreams.

By the time she was in high school, Krista knew she wanted to adopt. She has a maternal aunt who was adopted and grew up hearing about the positive impact of adoption for both the biological and adoptive parents, as well as the child. Krista's mom loved the biography of Gladys Aylward, a British woman who worked with women and orphans in China during the mid-1900s. She would often tell Krista stories about Gladys' life and the impact she'd had on the people she served. As an adult, Krista spent several years working in the field of social services and early childhood in programs that involved foster and adoptive families - each encounter only deepened her commitment to pursue adoption.

Mike always knew he wanted a family, but adoption wasn't something he had considered until he met Krista. When they were dating, Krista shared her determination to adopt. Mike was open to this, and, as he talked with his friends, he found he had many friends and coworkers who had adopted or were themselves adopted. The more he learned about adoption, the more he wanted to pursue it. By the time they got married, Mike and Krista had decided that adoption would be a part of their family.

We want to offer a child a lifetime of love and support that will help them reach their highest potential and fulfill them on whatever path they choose for their lives. We will provide the tools and resources to help them become well-adjusted adults who can interact with others, gain and maintain employment in the field of their choice, make positive contributions to society... in general, to live a happy and fulfilled life.

We most look forward to time together, the laughter, telling us stories, making crafts, and playing games. Watching our child experience things for the first time - seeing their eyes light up as they learn something new is an experience we will treasure.

We cannot begin to understand the difficult choice you face. We want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally and we will do everything in our power to ensure your child is happy and healthy, and protected throughout his or her entire life. We will surround this child with warmth and affection and an extended family that will cherish him or her to the fullest. And, we look forward to having you in our life too!

Warmest Wishes,

Mike & Krista


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 - Our family is very close. When we need support, our families are always there for us, no matter what. We strive to provide each other the emotional and physical supports to be as successful and happy as possible. We also understand that we're at our best when we also take time for ourselves. We will encourage our child to follow his or her own path, providing loving support and guidance along the way. We want our child to think for themselves, consider all options and make the decisions that are in his or her best interests. We will teach our child to ask for help and draw on the support of family and friends to live a successful and fulfilled life.



Faith - Our principles guide our decisions and define who we are. Our faith is relationship-based, treating others with kindness and stepping up compassion for those in need. Our church provides a clothing exchange and is working with the school system to provide free or reduced breakfast and lunch options during the summer for those who benefit from these programs during the school year. Serving others. This is what we believe. As a family, we will attend church and talk about and demonstrate our beliefs. We will volunteer in the community together at events like Special Olympics and community clean up.



Mistakes Happen - We recognize we aren't perfect and never will be. But we work hard to do our best and to help each other do his/her best too. When we make mistakes, we own them. We resolve to learn from the mistakes and take positive steps to implement changes. Making mistakes are a part of life, particularly for children as they learn to navigate the world around them. Ensuring our child feels free to fumble, without shame, is important to us. We will continually and freely give praise for trying, while encouraging our child to learn from their mistakes, and move forward by trying again.

Communications - We emphasize clear and open communication - we say what we mean and mean what way say. When one of us needs something from the other, we ask - we don't expect either of us to be mind-readers. If we disagree about something, we talk about our perspectives and work through to a shared conclusion. We talk throughout the day - through texts and instant messages - and spend time talking each night before we go to bed. We will always talk openly and honestly with our child and want our child to feel comfortable talking with us about anything. We will reinforce this honesty and openness by continually communicating and demonstrating acceptance, love and support.



Positive Feedback - We believe there is too much negativity in society and people don't show enough appreciation to each other. We give positive feedback all day, every day. We show appreciation by saying "thank you" and by sharing why we appreciate each other's efforts. We are free with compliments and highlight the good work we see each other doing and emphasize the importance of it. It's important that our child have a growth mindset, focusing not on limitations, but possibilities. As our child grows we will focus on, and emphasize, the positive knowing that it often takes many failures before we celebrate accomplishments.

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



Our home...

We have lived in our house for three years and we still think about how much we love our home. The first time we walked through the door of this house, we knew it was our home. It was exactly what we had dreamt of, the perfect place to create our family. We love that the space accommodates all our family comfortably, that's almost 40 people! We love the warmth we feel when surrounded by family and friends enjoying time together.

Our home is in a great area! It's the kind of place where neighbors are helpful, the children play together, and everyone watches out for each other. A walking path flows through the neighborhood to a nice park with a lake, swings, climbing structure, and picnic area. In the summer, we have an annual block party complete with a cookout, lots of games for the kids, face painting, and a visit from the ice cream truck and a clown. We always end the fun-filled day with a family-friendly music concert. It's a great way for all the neighbors to stay connected.

We love the open and inviting feeling of our home. With high ceilings, lots of natural light, overstuffed furniture, warm blankets, and pictures of family and friends, it's the perfect place to sit back and relax. One of our favorite spots in the house is our "cozy corner" which is a great place to read, however, if there is music on, we are likely singing and dancing along.

It's not uncommon for family and friends to drop by with little notice, to chat or have dinner. We love that everyone feels comfortable doing this! We keep a broad range of fun toys, games, and crafts for our friends' children, along with frequent guests' favorite snacks. We're thrilled they see our home as an extension of their own. During the summer and early fall, we're most often relaxing in our two-person hammock, grilling on the deck, sitting around our fire pit, or playing games like bean bag toss or ladder ball in our back yard. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we enjoy playing games, watching movies or simply talking in the lower level with its open space, comfy couches and kitchenette for easy entertaining.

Weekends are the best! Krista makes a big breakfast spread - omelets, hash browns, stuffed French toast, pancakes, bacon, fruit, juice and more. It's a great way to unwind from the week and to kick-off a relaxing Saturday. Krista enjoys going shopping with her mom, crafting with her niece, or taking long walks while listening to an audiobook. Mike will watch a sporting event or two with his friends, go for a long bike ride, or play softball with friends from church. Together we enjoy going out to eat, watching movies, and reading books.

We look forward to filling our life and our home with the magic only a child can bring. Seeing his/her eyes light up as they learn something new and hearing the sweet laughter of a child is something we yearn for. The nursery is calm, painted a soft sage green with natural light streaming in through the Southern facing windows. The bedding, curtains, and lamp shade all coordinate. We have furniture, books, toys, dishes, bottles, and clothes just waiting to be used.



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Baking, refinishing furniture, reading, crafting, taking long walks, going to movies, plays and outdoor concerts, hiking, Special Olympics, photography, travel, shopping, spending time with friends and family

Adoptive Father:

Running, biking, going to and watching sports games, attending sprint car races, playing softball, Special Olympics, travel, experimenting with new technology, fishing, reading, spending time with family and friends

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Organizational Learning Specialist

Adoptive Father: Network Manager

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Doctoral Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree



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

Our family...

We met online and have been together for seven years. Our first date was at a local coffee shop where we talked for hours on topics ranging from politics to family to religion to work and everything in between. We don't call it "love at first sight," but we do say we were "pretty darn sure" within a few hours, and we have been together ever since.

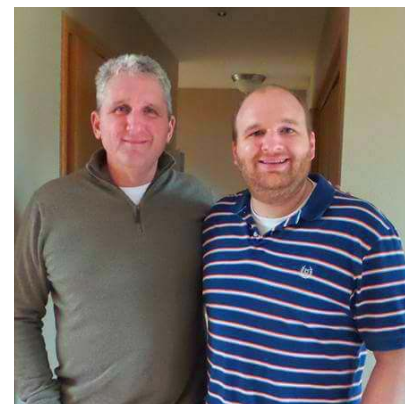
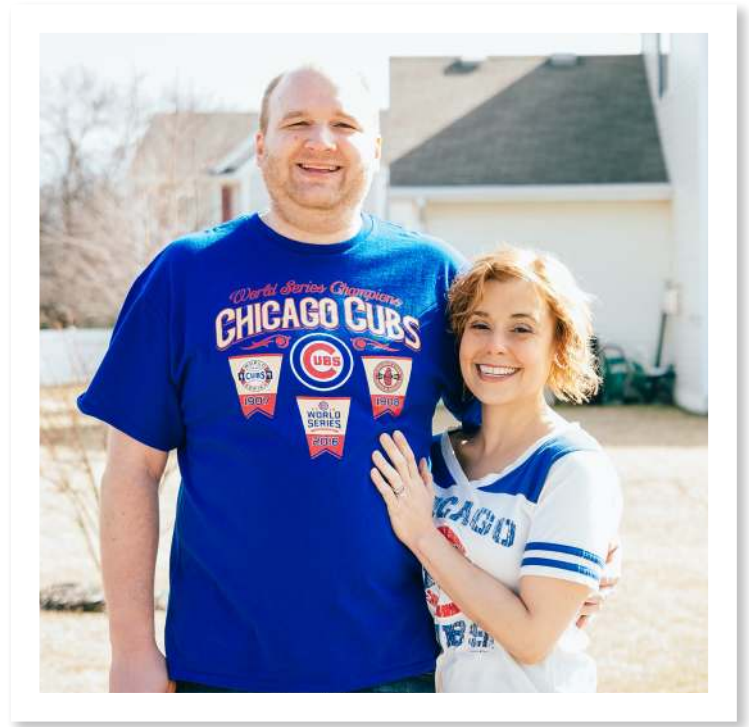
You see, our strengths play off each other. Krista loves and cares for others, always putting their needs first. She is organized and methodical. If someone needs help, Krista is always the first person they call. Mike, being part of a big family, learned to be independent and responsible early on. All the children were expected to help and work together, characteristics that define Mike today. He is steadfast; he provides a sense of stability and security to those around him. Mike never gives up - no matter what obstacles come his way.

We enjoy a wide variety of activities together. We both enjoy being active and love taking walks together in the evening. We are fortunate to live in an area with lots of cultural events - we often go to plays and concerts with our family and friends. During the summer, we enjoy going to the farmers' market and baseball games and can't wait to share all these activities with a child.

Our family is very close. When we need support, our families are always there for us, no matter what. Our childhoods were fun and full of tradition. Krista's dad is from Western New York and every couple of years, we take a trip back to the area to visit the farm and the small town where her dad grew up. This is something Krista did throughout her childhood and Mike has enjoyed doing as a couple. We hope to share this tradition with our child as well. We also have a special tradition called a "yes day." There are certain rules like a set dollar amount and choices must be safe, but, essentially, you say "yes" to everything on this day. Can we have ice cream before dinner? YES! Can we play outside instead of cleaning our rooms? YES! Mike and I try to have a "yes day" regularly. It is wonderful to really relax and let go of everyday responsibilities for a little while. It's also fun to take a few risks and break out of your normal patterns.

Our family is in regular contact and we spend time together frequently, like playing foosball and ping pong, watching movies, and pizza nights. However, some of our favorite times together are when we are all together without life's distractions. For example, instead of exchanging gifts at Christmas, we all spend a weekend together at a hotel, swimming, playing games, and generally having fun. Memorial Day is always spent with Mike's family on their large acreage where we hike, ride bikes, and play softball and soccer. We grill a big dinner and relax outside on the patio. On the 4th of July, both our families get together for dinner and fireworks. We look forward to sharing these traditions and to creating new memories with our child.

Children are cherished in our families and are showered with love from the moment they arrive. This child will never want for love or attention from grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins.



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