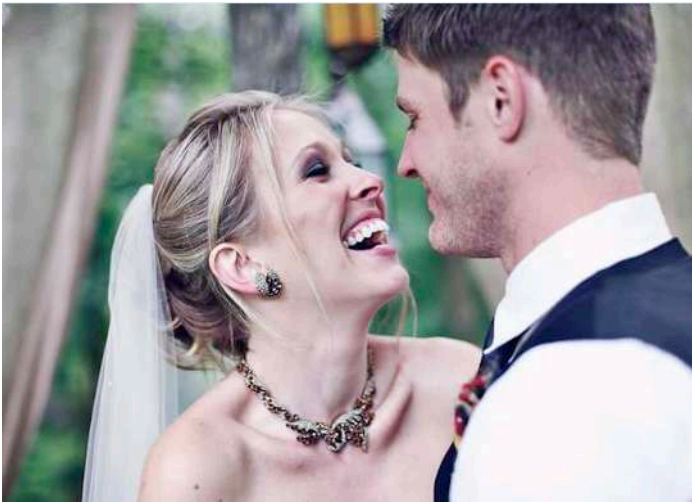


Hello we are...

*Ben & Lindsay*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

We met in Ben's restaurant, and as cheesy as it sounds, we have to admit it was legitimate "love at first sight." From the beginning, it was clear it was meant to be. Two people, strong and determined on their own, better together as one. It's been nine years since we met and we are still very much in love. As we continue to grow our family, we also grow closer to one another.

We both come from large loving families and always assumed we would have one of our own. Adoption has always been something we thought about. We did experience some infertility, early on in our marriage. We had trouble conceiving and had no interest in medical intervention, so we talked about adoption. For some reason, we never moved forward. We did eventually conceive, but lost the baby.

From that moment on, we just knew with all of our heart, that adoption was the path chosen for us. Now, we can't imagine building a family any other way, adoption is the ONLY way for us. We now have a 3 year old son named, Willem who came to us through adoption. In the most wonderful ways possible, life has never been the same.

Like every parent, we hope to provide our children with a loving home and a solid foundation. We hope to teach them to love others and to love the Lord. We dream of sharing our passions with them and learning and nurturing theirs. We will give all of the emotional and financial support they will need to follow their dreams and succeed in life. We have so much to give and can't wait to do so.

We have a large and very tight knit extended family. We spend a lot of time together and we laugh a lot. We are always there for one another and would do anything for each other. We have a good time, even when we are doing absolutely nothing! We truly value each other and the time we get to spend together. Each and every one of us are eager to meet and love the newest member of our family.

For every mother reading this, we want her to feel peace. Regardless if you select us, we want you to feel respected, honored, included, and loved by the family you select. The magnitude of the decision you are making and your selfless love should be celebrated. If you select us, we will celebrate you in our home!

With respect and admiration,

*Ben & Lindsay*

  
Graceful  
adoptions™

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## Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Faith** - Our faith is our moral compass for everyday life, thus impacts every part of our life. It is what gives us courage, even when we don't feel comfortable, it is our strength and our peace in difficult times. We will raise our children in a Christian home. We do Bible lessons with crafts and teach Christian children's songs which makes it easy for kids to understand. We will continue to pray before we eat and at bedtime, blessing all those we love and those in need.



**Family** - No matter what, we should always be able depend on our family. We are all human and make mistakes. That means our child could never do anything to lose our love. They will learn from a young age they are part of us so they can feel secure, no matter where they go in life. We will always be there to hug and hold our child, kiss a scrape and listen to stories. Children are a blessing to our family and we make sure that they know what a blessing they are. We make a big deal out of the little things and embrace any chance we get to celebrate together.



**Kindness and Compassion** - Giving to those in need, putting others before ourselves, standing up for others, and setting a good example. We try to put these values into practice with everyone we come into contact with. Whether we are interacting with the people in our home or we are out in the world, we put others before ourselves. We always try to give others the benefit of the doubt, enter the world with a smile on our face, and the willingness to lend a helping hand. We will teach our children to serve others with kindness and compassion in all things. We have been involved with the food pantry and serving the hungry, and when our children are old enough, they will accompany us and serve as well. We will continue to support Toys for Tots each year with our children.



**Positivity** - Looking for the good in all things. We realize how much a positive mindset contributes to a happy and healthy lifestyle. Therefore, we think it is very important to put emphasis on positive thinking. This includes having a good sense of humor and trying to take things lightly. We believe that being present and living in the moment can be the most impactful thing we can do for our children and our family. We will model this behavior and help our children always find the good in every situation.

**Hard work** - Whatever we do, we do our best. Ben ran the entire Appalachian Trail (2,175 miles!), in 65 days and 7 hrs. He did this for charity and to raise awareness for ALS. While we were dating, he ran a 100 mile race in 24 hrs. Lindsay and her sister "crewed" for him and drove around the mountains for 24 hours...to make sure he didn't die! We like to think that we are capable of anything, as long as we work together. We will teach our children to work hard by rewarding them for doing their best whether it's at home, at school or in their extracurricular activities.

**Education** - We will be very present throughout our children's education. Public or private schools. Tutors. Whatever our child needs, we are fully prepared to support any and all desired education, both financially and emotionally. Whether that means college and beyond or a trade school. We think life's possibilities are endless with the support of your family and an education. We can't wait to be there with them, every step of way.

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





# Our home...

We live on a very quiet cul-de-sac, in a well-established neighborhood. It is an extremely safe and warm neighborhood with a lot of young families starting to move in. The neighbors are so kind, often help each other, and even buy our son Christmas presents. We have plenty of privacy, but we are also very close to the park, pool, restaurants, shops and the elementary school. We purchased this house, because it is a perfect family home. We feel it has everything a child could ever want or need.

We enjoy going to the local farmer’s market. It is where we get fresh eggs every week and our local honey. They also have donkeys you can feed. It’s a big hit with kids. We look forward to hiking and biking on local trails and visiting the amazing ice cream shop down the road. We have a great aquatic center nearby for swimming and water sliding, all year long.

We love to be home. Any time we are all together, is our favorite time. Early morning, when the sun first hits the house, is a peaceful and relaxing time here. We have lots of trees, so the light flickers all around us. The furniture is comfortable and perfect for lounging, complete with cozy throw pillows and blankets. We spend lots of time by the fireplace in the winter and on the large deck in the summer. The kitchen is probably our favorite room. It is a very happy space, with blue and white cabinets and a retro style refrigerator. We also have a huge playroom with an indoor swing and climber. We love hanging out in there and watching movies, reading books or playing “pirates.”

Outside is one our favorite places to be. We have a large deck with comfy furniture, umbrellas, and two tables. Our deck has a chiminea that is used constantly. We love to have a fire on a cool morning and drink our coffee outside. Ben built a sandbox table and we keep lots of toys out there for easy access. We live on half of an acre, the backyard is completely fenced in. Ben built a swing set and we have plans for a basketball hoop, playhouse, and slide. We also have a Power Wheels tractor and tons of yard toys.

Lindsay stays home with our son, Willem, and looks forward to staying home with the next child as well. We make a hot breakfast every morning and eat as a family. We hug and kiss Ben goodbye and watch him drive off to work. We love going to the park, the library and Gramma’s house. In the afternoon, we play in the playroom and on the deck in the sandbox. We usually do an art project, preschool lessons and sometimes we will visit Ben at work.

Having a child in the home for the first time changed our lives completely. We can’t imagine life any other way now. We are so excited about adding another child to our family. Nothing is better than the sounds they add to everyday life. Having laughter in the house, getting to relive childhood through make-believe play, having an excuse to watch Disney movies, the excitement surrounding birthdays and holidays, toys in every room, and watching them grow and learn. Home is the safe place for them to just be who they need to be.

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Cooking, painting, anything creative, exercise, outdoor activities, health and wellness, reading, music and concerts, hiking, travel and road trips, spending time with family and friends

#### Adoptive Father:

Running, hiking, anything in the mountains, outdoor activities, carpentry, reading, gardening, road trips and travel, spending time with family and friends

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Stay at Home Mother

Adoptive Father: Managing Partner

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Professional/Vocational

Adoptive Father: Some College



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

# Our family...

We met in Ben's restaurant. Lindsay's sister was working for him, and Lindsay and her friends came in to eat. We kept looking at each other from across the room and kind of smiling. Finally, Lindsay asked her sister who the new "cute" manager was. Her sister laughed and said that he had been asking about her, too. He finally got the courage to ask her out and the rest is history.

We talked about marriage early on. We knew it was meant to be. We were watching tv at Ben's house one night and Lindsay fell asleep on the couch. When she woke up, the tv was off, there were flowers everywhere, music was on and candles were lit. Ben was not in the room. She looked down, and Ben had slipped a ring on her finger. She went to look for him and when she found him, he was on one knee and just said, "Will you?" We were married seven months later, on the rainiest day in May.



We are both unique and independent individuals, yet, we truly believe we are stronger together. Ben is this amazingly organized positive person, with endurance to go "the distance" in everything he does. Lindsay is this fun, compassionate, resilient and patiently loving individual. We believe we can accomplish anything together and balance each other in this crazy life.

Life changed when our son, Willem, came into our lives. We no longer live for ourselves, we live for our child and that affects every decision we make. Willem is so excited to share his toys and life with a brother or sister. He looks forward to teaching them all about Toy Story and everything else he loves. We talk a lot about how the new baby is going to be so special, just like him, because they are both adopted. He thinks that is really cool and can't wait to share that bond with his sibling.

However, this child's family will go well beyond the three of us! There are silly grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all waiting for another member to join our fun and adventurous family. We are lucky to have family close by who we usually do play dates with throughout the week and family dinners on the weekend. We have some musicians in the family, so there is always music around when we are together or something creative going on. We also have an annual beach vacation, filled with fun adventures.

Holidays are a big deal with our family. We have become the "Thanksgiving House." We do all of the cooking, we have a fire going outside all day, the parade and football are on in the house, there is tons of food and lots of fun for the children. Ben's dad went crazy on Christmas Eve for the kids, when he was little. He would make them think that Santa was there. He would leave footprints on the floor for them to find in the morning and even walk on the roof at night, jingling bells. We are starting this same tradition this year and can't wait to see the amazement and awe on our children's young and bright faces.

Birthday tradition of decorating the kitchen table with wrapped surprises. Baking around the holidays. New Christmas Eve pajamas. Watching the parade on Thanksgiving. Family movie nights and pizza. We will embrace these family adventures, and create wonderful childhood memories in all the years to come.



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