

Hello we are...

Joel & Annie



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We had always talked about fostering or adopting one day. After years of trying to become pregnant, we learned we wouldn't be able to conceive a child. We began pursuing adoption almost immediately after hearing that news. This process feels natural and right for us, and we sense God in each step we take toward bringing our child home.

We are so excited to grow our family and are steadfast in our desire to adopt. We will love this child with every fiber of our being and develop a close relationship with him or her. We look forward to watching our child learn and grow each day and will invest in our child becoming the best version of themselves so they can pursue their own dreams. We can imagine them in each room of our home and in every fun family activity; singing and dancing in the living room, learning how to ride a bike, and exploring the animals at the zoo. We're eager to make a lifetime of memories with our child, be it going to the tree farm to chop down our Christmas tree or watching the fireworks light up the sky together in July.

We will provide a stable home with a wide support network of family and friends who will be there for our child as well. Our parents are the type of people who get down on a child's level to laugh, chat, and play with their grandchildren. They can be silly and supportive, warm and strong. Our family takes turns rocking the tiniest family members, are eager participants in playing whatever game the toddlers choose, and show up to cheer on school-aged family members at their activities of choice.

If you select us, your child will be the center of our world. We hope you live the happiest and healthiest life possible and all your dreams fulfilled. We hope you will use your gifts and strengths in whatever ways bring you joy and a fruitful life.

Warmest Wishes,

Joel & Annie



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

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Our values and beliefs as parents...

Kindness - We believe in being kind to friends, acquaintances, and strangers alike. We are genuine and accepting people and aim to inspire and encourage people through our interactions. We believe in listening well and seeing people for who and where they are. We have helpful spirits and think it is important to help others in practical ways - hauling boxes on moving day, making a busy friend a meal, or giving to a cause we believe in. Annie is an emergency room nurse, dependability and compassion are at her core.

Exploration and Fun - We believe our attitude and approach to life shapes how we view, experience and respond to the world around us. We have an inquisitive and open attitude, understanding the more we experience, the more we grow as individuals. Children are naturally inquisitive and have a sense of wonder. We will make a lot of memories by learning and exploring alongside our child, from picking apples at the orchard to camping in the backyard. We will take them on adventures to play in the sand and waves at the beach, meet Mickey and Minnie at Disney World, explore the Grand Canyon and Yellow Stone National Parks, and skiing in the mountains. We look forward to taking our child on many adventures to all the places they dream of, which we can't even imagine today

Education - We believe education and a thirst for knowledge are important to raising a happy child that will grow into a successful adult. From an early age, we will make learning fun and spend time with our child actively learning. We will read books, sing songs, play with Legos, color, go to zoos, and have pets. We will support our child at school, helping with homework and chaperoning their field trips. As our child gets older, we will continue to encourage our child's curiosity by cultivating their interests and participating in team sports. We both have bachelor's degrees and will encourage and help prepare our child to attend college if that is their desire.

Faith - We both attended church at a young age with our parents, but independently sought out what faith means to us personally in high school and college. We love others well and generously give our talents and resources. We attend church regularly, and believe our faith helps us get through challenges with hope and love. We will pray with and for our child, and read Bible stories with him or her. We will use fun ways to teach prayers and look forward to our child engaging in Sunday school activities and camps. We want and expect our child to question our beliefs, just as we did, and discover their own faith and what it means to them.

Family - We have close-knit families who are there for each other through thick and thin. We are thankful to have amazing parents to learn from, who demonstrates happiness, love, and persistence. We are the kind of family who knows what's going on in each other's lives and enjoy spending time together grilling, playing catch, or a weekend at Annie's parent's farm enjoying nature. We have fun with our nieces and nephews, pushing them on the tire swing and feeding the horses carrots. We are excited to add another into the fun-filled and down-to-earth mix celebrating birthdays and holidays, weekend trips, pick-up soccer, and making cookies with grandma.



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Our home...

We live in an active college town in an established neighborhood with kind neighbors, beautiful trees, and wide sidewalks perfect for strolling and learning to ride a bike. Blocks from our home we have parks with hiking trails, streams to tromp through, and playgrounds to climb. Annie can't wait to bring our child to visit the nearby butterfly garden. We have an excellent library with an amazing space for kids to play and learn. With the university being in town, there are sport venues and concerts nearby too.

Joel is over six feet tall, so when we were looking at houses it was important he didn't feel like a giant in our own home. We wanted tall ceilings and an open feel. That is exactly what we found in this house. Our living space is bright and airy with a lot of natural light. The main floor is open with big windows and vaulted ceilings. The walls and the furniture are neutral and light, making our home feel comfortable to all who visit. We enjoy filling our home with memories rather than things.

We had hopes of having children in mind when we chose our home more than four years ago. It has four bedrooms, a large backyard, neighbors who have children, and a park just down the road. We have spent countless hours together renovating the house. In these hours we have remodeled most rooms, creating our home, and fenced in the backyard. We are so excited to grow our family in this space that we've put so much time and effort making it our own. We enjoy being outside, be it sitting and relaxing, gardening, going for a walk with our dog, or hiking the wooded trail near our home.

We are both morning people - we love to get up early to make coffee and breakfast before the day starts. The kitchen is one of our favorite rooms. We sit at the bar while chatting enjoying our coffee. Throughout the year, we enjoy cooking and grilling with family and friends. Joel is somewhat of a soup master and Annie makes delicious chocolate chip cookies. In the winter, we usually have a fire going in the living room. In the summer, we spend a lot of time outside on our deck. We have plenty of green space, and like to play yard games when we have company.

We look forward to creating a fun backyard for our child. The yard is surrounded by a fence, and there is definitely room for a swing set or playground. It's very easy to imagine playing catch or tag with a son or daughter in our backyard. As the child grows, it won't take Joel any convincing at all to get a basketball hoop, if our son or daughter wants one.

The nursery is ready! We have a white crib adorned with the softest grey and white striped sheets. Joel's mom and dad generously bought the dresser and changing table for the little one, which will certainly be put to good use. Annie's dad has offered to make whatever piece of furniture we choose for the space, and we'll likely have him build a bookcase for all of the books we're sure to read to our child over the years. A dear friend of ours -- who has been continuously praying for this child -- painted a small print of a full moon set above the mountains. Our brother-in-law built wooden shelves that hang by the rocker. These things will adorn our child's nursery as a reminder of all of the people who treasure and support this child.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Running, biking, exploring places new and old, attending concerts, road trips, dabbling in a variety of creative endeavors, photography, baking, reading, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Adoptive Father:

Anything outdoors; cycling, hiking, and canoeing. Building and making things, including woodworking, remodeling, cooking, and traveling. Attending sports events and concerts.

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: ER Nurse

Adoptive Father: Product Manager

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree



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Our family...

We met at a restaurant where we both worked for several years during college. Annie was a barista, Joel was a bartender. Throughout three years, our relationship progressed from co-workers to friends to crushes and, finally, we began dating. Once we started dating we were both sure we had found our one.

We are deeply in love and have fun together. Annie is kind, considerate, and generous with her time and resources. She looks at the world trying to help, making friends out of strangers wherever she goes. Joel, a planner, is smart, energetic, and methodical. He tries to solve problems and is always thinking about the next project. As a couple we are loyal, dependable, and strive to live a full and adventurous life together. We are on the same team and always have each other's back.

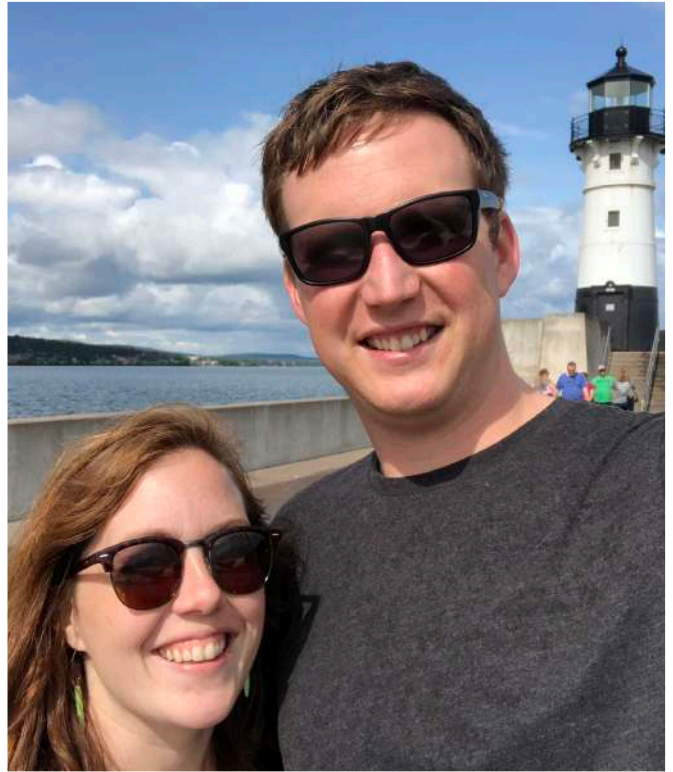
Our family will be active, spending quality time together and constantly making memories. Annie will work part-time so she can stay home with our child most of the time. We look forward to sharing the activities we love - cycling, cooking, and hiking to name a few, but we also look forward to our child discovering their own interests and hobbies and sharing his/her interests together. We look forward to traveling together to places near and far - from riding the trolley's in San Francisco to riding the rollercoasters at Disney World, we look forward to the "ride of our life" sharing each day with our child.

Christmas is one of our favorite times of the year and we can't wait to celebrate with our child. We look forward to going to a local tree farm to select our Christmas tree while our dog runs alongside of us while we walk through rows of trees. We can't wait to come home, eat warm cookies and hot chocolate and then decorating the tree together while Christmas music plays in the background. It's a family tradition Annie grew up with and has great memories of selecting the perfect tree. Joel remembers the excitement of Christmas morning seeing what Santa left in his stocking and finding new toys. We are excited to have this time with our child, creating our own lasting memories.

We are very close to our family and spend quality time together. Joel's siblings and parents live close by and spend time together regularly. Grandpa and Grandma are active in their grandchildren's life, boating at the lake, enjoying weekly dinners, having slumber parties at their house, and taking them to the zoo. They can't wait to add another grandchild in the mix.

Annie's parents have a farm where we enjoy weekends with family - sitting by the bonfire roasting marshmallows, sharing meals, and playing ball, swinging on the tire swing, and eating an imaginary feast in the playhouse with our nieces and nephews. In the morning, from where we sit drinking coffee, we watch the sun come up over the pasture where the horses graze.

We look forward to our child building close relationships and spending time with their aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents taking adventures to the zoo and learning to ride a horse at grandmas and grandpas' farm.



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