

Hello we are...

Francoise & Jeff



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We have been really lucky in our lives.

We have always looked to Francoise's grandparents as an example of a life well-lived: 72 years of marriage, a loving family, enough financial stability to send all their children and grandchildren to college, a lifelong love of learning, an appreciation for the arts and the beauty of the natural world, and a commitment to volunteering. These are our hopes for our lives, and the life of our child.

We have a strong marriage, loving and supportive parents, good educations, good jobs, and we are surrounded by wonderful friends and community. After we had been married about five years, we decided it was time to grow our family because we had reached a place of stability and security that made us feel ready to be parents. It has turned out to be very hard for Francoise to get pregnant and stay pregnant. Being able to adopt a child will be an honor to the both of us, and fulfill our dreams of completing our family.

We want to share our good fortune with a child, and welcome him or her into our family where we will be open-minded, open-hearted, and supportive of whoever they decide to be as they grow up. We look forward to passing on the best parts of our childhoods to our child - reading together at bedtime, listening to baseball games, enjoying the arts, spending time being goofy, and playing together.

If you select us as adoptive parents for your child, we hope you will have a presence in the child's life and show your love for the child, if you so desire. We think it's important you and your family can be a part of the child's life as that child learns to shape their own identity. We believe the more adults in a child's life that love the child, the better.

We will devote our time, money, energy, and love to our adopted child as though they are our own, and we will do our best to ensure the child has every opportunity and all the support that we can provide. We will raise your child to be kind, empathetic, and compassionate with the hope that you feel good about your decision now and into the future.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We hope to have the opportunity to get to you know as well.

Warmest Wishes,

Francoise & Jeff


Graceful
adoptions™

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

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 GracefulAdoptions.com

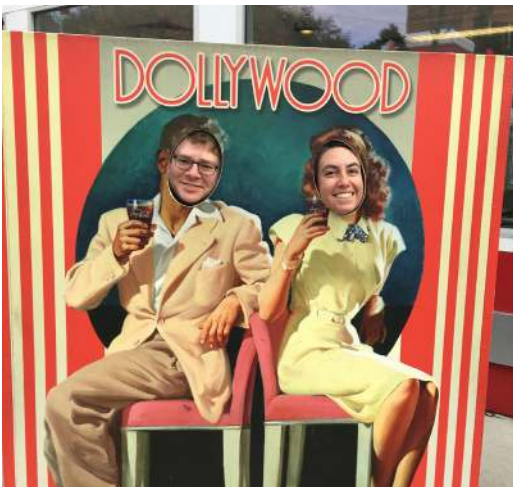


Our values and beliefs as parents...



Kindness - We want to raise a child who cares about others and approaches all people with kindness. We believe that caring about each other and being kind makes the world a better place. We help our neighbors, make meals for our friends and watch their children when they are sick, and we volunteer our time to support those less fortunate than us. Francoise volunteers at an afterschool program for children living in transitional housing and Jeff volunteers for an organization that supports gay and transgender teens.

Empathy - We believe empathy helps bridge understanding between people. We try to understand where others are coming from and give others the benefit of the doubt. We can only control our own responses and do so from a place of understanding. Empathy is an active and ongoing practice. We want to develop that by exposing our child to a variety of people through activities, integrated schools, and the arts, especially books, movies, and theater that encourages us to see things from other perspectives.



Generosity - We have been incredibly fortunate in our lives and, as a result, are generous with our money, time, and our emotions. This means contributing regularly to charity, volunteering our time, and being there for our friends and family when they need an ear and a shoulder to cry on. We will encourage our child to be generous with their own time and money - donating the proceeds from a lemonade stand, and as the child gets older, volunteering their time with others who have not had the same opportunities as they have.

Education - We believe in public education and getting the best education possible. Both of us took great joy in our college experiences, which helped shape us into who we are. We continue to learn and read every day. We understand that education is critical to a child's development and we hope to foster a lifelong love of learning in our child. We will read to them, encourage and support them in school, and teach them to think critically. We also hope to teach our child the French language so he/she can communicate easily with Francoise's French family. Our dream is for our child to go to college, but we also recognize that college isn't right for everyone. If they desire, our child will have the opportunity for as much post-K12 education as they want.



Equality - We believe that all people have equal value and work every day to support people who treat others well and policies that alleviate historic inequalities. In our daily lives, that means questioning gender roles, dividing our household responsibilities equally and based on our strengths and likes. For example, Jeff likes to cook and Francoise is better with money. Our child will see us treat each other as equals, and modeling this behavior is one of the best ways to spur a child to think of others as equal and worthy individuals. We will also talk about issues of equality with our child, seek out books and discussion topics about it, and encourage our child to see everyone as an equal in terms of worth and humanity.



Privacy - We respect and trust each other, and believe each other's privacy is an important boundary. Allowing our child to have appropriate amounts of privacy and control of their own bodies, especially as they grow older, is really important to us. For example, we would never read our child's diary. We think respecting boundaries leads to higher self-esteem and self-respect, which are qualities we want to foster in our child.

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Our home...

We have two homes. One, where we spend most of our time, is in a city on a quiet block. It's a diverse neighborhood where people sit on their front porches in the evenings, help each other when needed, lend each other household items, babysit each other's kids, and check on each other when it's snowing. It is a kind community, and we love being a part of it. We have a fenced-in front yard, a back patio where Jeff likes to grill and smoke food, and everything else we could need or want at our fingertips. We have the benefit of festivals, parades, a zoo, museums, concerts, sporting events, and national monuments all within miles from our house, while having neighborhood pools and water features, playgrounds, and parks just down the block. We look forward to sharing all that the city has to offer with our child.

Our second home is in the mountains, about two hours away, where we go when we want to get away from the city. This home is on a wooded mountainside, with hiking trails and a pool nearby. It's close to the Cacapon State Park, which has many activities for families and children. We look forward to sharing this home and nature-centric attractions with our child.

Our home is eclectic and filled with items that have meaning to us. The dining table, which was used by Francoise's grandparents who lived in France and handed down to Francoise's father, is the same table Francoise ate at growing up. The art on the walls has special significance, too. Several pieces were Francoise's grandparents, some are photography from Jeff, and some are paintings made by Francoise's mom. We also keep our favorite books on the shelves in the living room.

We rarely do any formal gatherings, it's usually communal, come-as-you-are, stay-as-long-as-you like where we catch up with friends, and eat and drink together. During the fall, Jeff often hosts friends and family for football, making large amounts of food. Jeff is always trying to perfect his chili recipe, so during football season we eat a lot of chili. Any holiday is a perfect opportunity to cook for family and friends - from turkeys to legs of lamb to racks of ribs, holiday gatherings are an opportunity to indulge in multi-day cooking efforts. It's a delicious hobby!

Our favorite time at home is the hour or so we spend in bed before falling asleep. Our dog sleeps in the bed with us, and so we first spend some time staking out our own spaces in the bed, trying to move the dog to the foot of the bed and then eventually giving up when he settles closer to our heads. We discuss the day we just had and what's on tap for the next day, read for a bit, and generally relax and unwind before we turn off the lights. It's a time of day that allows us to reconnect. We look forward to our nightly routine changing to include reading to our child and rocking them to sleep.

Our child's bedroom has pale blue walls and a window that lets in natural light. It will have colorful art on the walls and a collection of our favorite childhood books. Francoise's mom has saved some of Francoise's childhood stuffed animals to give to her grandchild, and we have some of our own favorite childhood books to include in the child's library. One of Jeff's best memories of growing up was when his mother read to him, especially the Laura Ingalls Wilder series. Jeff has the whole series on a shelf in his office, and is looking forward to spending time reading it to our child.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Cooking, exercising, swimming, running, volunteering, reading, watching television and movies, traveling, listening to music and attending concerts, especially Beyonce

Adoptive Father:

Cooking especially grilling and smoking, brewing beer, photography, fostering dogs, reading, traveling, and watching major league baseball and college football

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Digital Director

Adoptive Father: Business Owner

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree



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Our family...

We met 12 years ago at a mutual friend's house party that we each went to with our best friend. We hit it off immediately - our senses of humor clicked and we laughed at each other's jokes. We began dating seriously very shortly thereafter and three years later those same best friends stood next to us at our wedding. Our ceremony was a perfect reflection of our relationship and values; intimate, in community with our closest friends, and non-traditional - Françoise wore pink and green.

Both only children, Françoise is French and Jewish from Northern California, and Jeff is a red-headed Methodist raised in Alabama. Neither of us would have described the other as an ideal match before we met, but life is full of surprises. Our different backgrounds bring a wide variety of life experiences; where one of us is weak, the other is strong. Both of us witnessed unjust inequalities at a young age which were the catalyst for both of us to look for opportunities to volunteer with folks in the minority or at the margins. We both have strong opinions and we expect each other to engage with and defend those opinions. We enjoy eating out at neighborhood places where we know the wait staff, traveling to faraway places like Sweden and Denmark, playing with our dog, and spending time relaxing with friends and family.



To honor each other and our families, we celebrate Christian and Jewish holidays; Passover, Hannukah, Easter, and Christmas. We celebrate Christmas with Jeff's family every year, and since Françoise's mother moved to be closer to us and her future grandchildren, she joins us for holidays with Jeff's family. Jeff's mom makes a ton of Christmas cookies and we spend a few quality days together watching Hallmark Christmas movies, doing crossword puzzles, reading, eating, and hiking nearby. We celebrate Passover and Hannukah with Françoise's mom and friends by eating traditional foods, like latkes or matzoh ball soup, and doing traditional activities like lighting the menorah.

We love the city, but we also love getting away. Fourth of July is spent with friends and family grilling out and going to the pool at our second home in the mountains. Françoise's extended family spans many states and continents. Every couple years we join Françoise's family for a large family vacation in Italy or France, where we rent adjacent houses at the beach or lake, go sailing, play cards, and eat delicious meals together. We look forward to celebrating all these holidays with our child, as well as continuing our weekly Wednesday dinners with Françoise's mom so our child will form a strong bond to their grandmother.

Jeff's parents live on the same small farm where his mom grew up. A few years ago, his parents moved back into the farmhouse after having it completely renovated, and permanently retired there. Trips to the farm involve a little work in the one-acre garden, tutorials on how to use the tractor or tend to the beehives from Jeff's dad, and lazy afternoons on the porch swing. We imagine our child playing in the dirt along with us as we work in the garden, giggling as we swing them on the porch swing, making cookies alongside their grandmother, and taking rides on the tractor with their grandfather.



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