

Hello we are...

*Teresa & Erik*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

We are a family-focused, fun loving, adventurous, and open-minded couple. We met more than nine years ago and have been together ever since.

We dream of continuing to grow our family through adoption. The gift of adoption has blessed our lives with our son, Gabriel.

Our dream is to have a family and a house filled with laughter and love where our children can feel comfortable being themselves. We look forward to helping our children grow and learn to explore their interests with our support. We have visions of pizza and movie nights, family game nights, and exciting adventures to different nearby parks and museums in the city. We look forward to cheering from the stands at sports games or music concerts and walks around the neighborhood. We can't wait for peek-a-boo games, reading books, stacking cups, and banging pots and pans. We are excited for playing ball in the backyard with the dog and sunny days spent outside on the swing set.

We have so much to offer a child; a home filled with love, encouragement, faith, and open communication. Through our love, patience, and kindness your child will know they are loved unconditionally. We will support and guide your child as they grow and hope that one day they will start their own exciting adventures.

We don't pretend to understand what a difficult decision this is for you, but we want to thank you for the unconditional love you have for your child. We pray that you find peace in your heart during this journey.

If you select us to parent your child, we promise to always put the needs of your child first and always to love and respect you. Your child will always know they are loved by us and by you.

Respectfully,  
*Teresa & Erik*

Graceful  
adoptions™

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

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## Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Family** - Family is one of the most important things to us. We find great joy in sharing our lives with each other and spending quality time together. We love cooking together, whether it's in the kitchen with our son playing with toys on the floor or grilling in the backyard with him on the swing set; we eat dinner together every night and talk about our day. One of our favorite things is taking trips together to visit family and friends and planning family vacations to the beach and national landmarks. We are lucky to have our extended family close to us and we see them weekly; they take a regular part in helping babysit and love finding kid friendly activities for us to do together like local parades, craft fairs, and balloon festivals. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are ecstatic about being in our child's life.



**Fun** - We believe in finding the joy in each day. Our family motto is "life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain". We try to find fun in the little things like riding the truck cart in the grocery store or singing to songs in the car on road trips. We make walking around the neighborhood an adventure by pointing out all the interesting things we see on our walks. We love to read stories in silly voices and dance around the kitchen while dinner is cooking. We keep track of the military band schedules, cultural festivals, farmers markets, and other family friendly events in our area and attend whenever we can. We like to see the cherry blossoms in the spring and the National Christmas Tree in December while drinking hot chocolate out in the cold. We look forward to traveling with our child and offering every opportunity for him/her to grow into who they are meant to be.



**Education** - We believe education is the key to understanding and it comes in many forms. We believe every experience and every encounter is an opportunity to learn and grow. We live in an amazing area, surrounded with opportunities to explore by simply taking a step outside. There are museums, culturally diverse activities, national monuments and parks, and the National Zoo. Erik is excited to share his love of airplanes and history with our children and visit the Air and Space Museum and monuments. The zoo is a perfect place to learn about different animals. School is also an important part of education. It is a nice way to build a sense of community and provides a social education. All we ask is that our children do their best in school and use the resources available to them. We will encourage our children to pursue a higher education, and in support of that objective we have started saving for their college.



**Faith** - We give thanks for what we have and pray for those we love and those in need. Our home is built on faith and love, and God means love to us. We believe that taking time in prayer makes us mindful of others and ourselves. We attend church together as a family and look forward to further sharing our faith with our children. Our child will be baptized and as they grow they will attend Sunday school. We hope that being involved in a church will help our children learn to give to and help others. We will teach our children prayers, say grace and reflect on what we are thankful for with them each day before meals. Erik is excited to share the knowledge he has gained from his father, a retired preacher, with our children. Teresa looks forward to sharing activities such as making advent wreaths and Christmas ornaments and dying Easter eggs together.

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# Our home...

We live in a suburb just outside of a large city. We are close enough to the city we can enjoy all it has to offer, yet far enough away that our area has its own personality and advantages. There is a playground right down the street, a pool, and a park that hosts outdoor music concerts in the summer. We enjoy visiting the library during story time, and walking to the parks with playgrounds on nice days. The neighborhood kids play in each other's yards and play ball in the cul-de-sac. We look forward to our children playing outside with each other and the neighbors, offering our backyard as a place to play.

There is an elementary, middle, and high school in the neighborhood and all the children here walk to school. It is so peaceful and pleasant in the morning and afternoon to see the kids and their families walking to and from school. We can hear the high school marching band practice from our back yard. We enjoy listening to the cheers of the crowd on Friday nights during football season and we yearn for the day that we can attend a game to cheer on our child, either in the band, on the field, or show our support from the stands.

Our home has brightly painted walls and photos of our friends and family on display. It is warm and welcoming, with comfortable spaces to gather. We like to support local artists and have hung paintings that compliment the bright colors of our house. There is usually music playing in the background as we go about our day. We have a fenced in backyard where Erik grows many beautiful flowers and vegetables, and grills delicious meals. Sometimes Erik plants a new flower without telling Teresa and she gets to be surprised by its addition when it blooms the following year. Our son loves to spend time outside on the swing set or "help" Erik pick tomatoes. We have a fire pit out back for when the weather is cold and we gather to make s'mores.

Our kitchen and living room area is where we spend most of our time. We have a toy area and book nook in the living room where we play games and read during the day. Our kitchen has a wooden table and chairs that look out a glass door to the backyard where we share our meals; our favorite is "make it your way" taco night. Teresa loves to make her own guacamole, a recipe passed down from her stepfather.

We enjoy having friends and family over for impromptu get togethers pot-luck style, where everyone brings something to share for dinner, usually followed by a game night. Sometimes we all sit out back on the porch and talk while the kids play in the yard. Teresa's brother works nearby and regularly stops in after work to catch up and see his nephew.

Teresa works three days a week and is home the other four days. She enjoys taking our son to the local library for story time and started a moms group with some of her coworkers where they get together once a month at a different local park or indoor playgrounds and chat while the children play.

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Cooking, reading, traveling, ballroom dancing, walking, listening to music, working on crafts, decorating, spending time together as a family

#### Adoptive Father:

Gardening, playing French horn, listening and playing music, playing board and video games, working on cars, ballroom dancing, spending time together as a family

### Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Registered Nurse, Mother/Baby Unit

**Adoptive Father:** Integration Engineer

### Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelor's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Master's Degree



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# Our family...

We met more than nine years ago in a local community band. Teresa was new to the area and joined the band as a way to meet people. Erik was the personnel manager of the band, responsible for welcoming new members to the group. We became friends, talked more and more, and one night Teresa asked Erik out for a drink after practice! For our first date we went out for a great dinner and a terrible movie, but we enjoyed each other's company enough to go on another date, and still enjoy the dates we go on now.

We dated for a little over two years before Erik proposed. The proposal took place at Teresa's favorite vineyard and some of Teresa's family and friends were there because it was her birthday weekend. Erik asked Teresa to take a picture of the two of them and proposed in front of the crowd while the rest of the vineyard guests applauded. It was the perfect proposal! We return to the vineyard each year to celebrate Teresa's birthday and our proposal.

We have grown even closer to each other through the adoption of our son. Gabriel is a silly boy who loves to read, dance, and eat. We have enjoyed watching him grow into his own personality. We like family time together having adventures around town. We appreciate the local community and frequent family owned restaurants and businesses. We like to visit parks and enjoy the outdoors, take walks around the neighborhood, experience one of the Smithsonian museums or DC monuments, and tour the local farms. We have enjoyed visiting our son's favorite animals at aquariums and zoos.



We have found strength in each other as parents and learned so many new things about each other. Teresa loves going to the library and attending local children's events. Erik loves playtime and is particularly wonderful at middle of the night wake ups. We are a committed couple, and balance each other well. We make a point of keeping our marriage strong by spending time together, both after our son goes to sleep and an occasional "date night" while he spends the evening being spoiled by one of his grandmas.

Being parents is our greatest blessing, we love sharing our life with our son. But we do not feel that our family is complete yet. We feel like there is a missing piece to our family and we are so excited to imagine our life with another child.

Just like Gabriel, our next child has lots of aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents waiting to spoil him or her with unconditional love. We gather with family and friends on holidays, sharing food and fun times together. We play games, watch movies, and tell stories. We sit on the porch and enjoy the view at Teresa's parents' house in the mountains, sharing the beauty of the sun setting with our son. Gabriel loves the cows he can see in the farm across the way and going to the local market for ice cream with his grandparents. We go to model train shows with Erik's dad, who teaches our son about the scenes being depicted and how the models were built. We have season football tickets and cheer Teresa's alma mater on with a group of friends and their kids, who all play together with our son while we tail gate. They especially love dancing to the marching band at halftime. We are excited to build new family traditions inspired by our next child and can't wait to see where the next step in our journey leads us.



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