

Hello we are...

*Abby & Yarden*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

Our hope is to never stop learning and to always be loving. Our dream is that our children will surpass our learning and will love more deeply than we could have ever imagined.

We have been married for more than 13 years. We have two children and have always dreamed of adopting to complete our family. We've known many adoptive families through the years and have always known we would grow our own family through adoption.

We are a unique bunch of people and look forward to multiplying the love in our lives! We have a sense of humor all our own. We love life and live each day to its fullest. We enjoy each family member's unique personalities and quirks. We love seeing our kids grow and change into wonderful people, hitting all their milestones and growing in independence. We will foster each child's interests and abilities and encourage their natural sense of curiosity and wonder. We will surround them with unconditional love, financial and emotional stability, and teach them to have fun while being responsible. Most importantly, we will provide your child a place to feel safe and secure and a network of support.

We think you are incredibly brave and deserve respect. We want you to feel cared for and empowered. We want you to move forward in your hopes and dreams and know in every part of your heart and mind that we will treasure, protect, love, and celebrate your child. We want you to always know your child and be a part of his or her life. We will value the connection we develop with you over the years.

Warmest Wishes,

*Abby & Yarden*



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

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 [GracefulAdoptions.com](http://GracefulAdoptions.com)



# Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Safety** - We believe feeling emotionally and physically safe is vital to good relationships and personal growth. We strive to interact to situations in a calm and thoughtful way, rather than being driven by emotions or anger. Also, we are mindful about who spends time with our kids. We don't use daycare, and only close and trusted family and friends babysit. We will teach and demonstrate this by always listening to their concerns and being aware of our body language and tone of voice to ensure that we communicate and show that we value them emotionally and physically.

**Unconditional Love** - We love unconditionally. We believe God's essence is love, and we should practice this in relation to our children. We always show that they are loved no matter what. Their words and feelings are respected, even if we disagree. We show this by responding to them in kindness and by consistently making sure they feel loved. Saying "I love you" often, playing with them, showing empathy and compassion. Even if we disagree, we want them to know that we love them all the time and there is nothing they could do to lose that love.



**Uniquely Capable** - We believe our children are unique and capable of great things! We want our children to know that they are uniquely gifted and there is no one else like them. We encourage our children to explore their interests and abilities. We will show this by investing time in their interests, such as karate classes, violin lessons, special tutoring, etc.

**Kindness** - We believe this touches all the other areas of our values, but is so vital to living in harmony. Being kind to one another is important to us because it changes how we interact. We are better listeners, encouragers, and friends when we make kindness a priority. We model this in how we treat each other as partners. Yarden and I speak well of each other and we speak nicely to each other. We are kind to our children in how we guide them by using gentle words when we speak to them. We are kind to friends and strangers alike and we show them respect. Each person in and outside of our family is important and that's why kindness is vital to our family.



**Wisdom** - We believe in pursuing wisdom and we want our child to love learning and to seek out the help of wise counsel when needed. We model this by craving more knowledge, showing interest and learning new things. For example, Yarden learns to play a new instrument every year! This will be shared with our child in everyday life as he/she sees us try new things and the successes/failures that follow.



**Education** - We want to inspire in our children a love for learning! We will homeschool our children in the fall, and we are excited to mesh the comforts of home with education. We look forward to counting ants in anthills and reading aloud in the treehouse. We have a willingness and diligence to teach them well and at a pace that suits their needs. We want to give them a personalized education and we will re-evaluate their needs as they grow, choosing to do what is the very best for them. When they are older, we hope they will choose college or a trade that interests them. We will do our best to equip them to be well-rounded thinkers who ask questions and discover things they are passionate about.

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



# Our home...

We live in a historic neighborhood and we love it! Our neighbors are kind and watch out for each other. We share garden produce and baked goods. It's a diverse neighborhood and no two houses or two people are alike. There are a lot of people walking dogs and riding bikes. We have two fantastic neighborhood parks, a pizza shop, a bakery and the local library that are all within walking distance. The kids in the neighborhood play in each other's yards. There is a basketball hoop across the street from us that draws a crowd of kids, as well. With the neighborhood park being so close, it's a fun place to meet up.



Our home, eclectic and cozy, is our favorite place. It's a place we can breathe deep and feel comfortable. Our house is nearly 100 years old with wood floors and unique woodwork. We love light colors for the walls such as blues, creams, yellow, green, and curtains that let in lots of sunshine. Homemade cookies, coffee, and tea are always an option for creature comforts. There is always a blanket within reach to snuggle up with and fresh cut flowers from our garden are everywhere. We often have music playing in the background and the air is filled with the smells of blooming flowers and freshly made cookies.

The general theme of our home and life is that we spend a lot of time together! Together with our friends, family and children. We involve the kids in meal prep, grocery store trips, and everything else that happens in everyday life. We have a sectional couch in our living room that is big enough for our whole family to be comfortable on, and we spend many a night on it, eating popcorn and ice cream and other late night treats. Friends know where to find a cup or a treat in the kitchen, and it is home to all. The kitchen is always a hive of activity, no matter the season.

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Reading good stories, baking sweet things, drinking coffee, playing with my kids, enjoying nature, helping, going to the library, discovering new restaurants, eating s'mores around a campfire, and traveling

#### Adoptive Father:

Spending time with my kids, stringed instruments, comic books, woodworking, repairing old houses, gardening, grilling and smoking food, hiking, a good Sci-fi movie, and traveling

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Respiratory Therapist

Adoptive Father: Field Marketing Manager

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Associate's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree

In the warmer months we spend time outside, inevitably we end up on our back hill - a charming and kid friendly area for exploration and play. There is a tree fort, a web swing, an area for digging in the dirt with plenty of hand tools, and ample sitting room for adults. There are strings of outdoor lights and a fire-pit, making it fun as night settles in.

Sunday dinners at our home are our favorite time of the week. Each week we host my parents, my sister and brother-in-law. Yarden grills and smokes meats everyone likes, or tries his hand at new recipes. Family often brings a side or a dessert, like Papa's homemade ice cream or anything baked by Nana. I make homemade bread, it's both a fun activity with the kids and a yummy treat.

Our favorite time of day is the evening, before bedtime. The light that shines into the house is so nice and peaceful. Yarden usually sits at the dining room table and plays music on his guitar. I sing along and we drink tea and the kids have a bedtime snack. It's a wonderful way to wind down the day. Both Yarden and I feel like sharing time together is our greatest way to show love to each other and to the kids. We look forward to sharing our time and love with another child.



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

# Our family...

We met in the summer more than 15 years ago at college. My childhood friend, Josh, was Yarden's college roommate. We connected well and were good friends for more than a year before we started dating. Yarden insists that he knew he would marry me on our first date, which was at a putt putt place. We're really terrible golfers but had such fun together. Yarden says that when I was in the batting cages he just knew that I was the one for him. I really do not hold any particular skill in batting, that was the moment he just knew.

We mesh together so well. We have grown up, as well as grown older, together. We've encountered difficulties, as everyone does, but our commitment to each other is unwavering. Friends say we are made for each other and we believe that's true. Yarden is a man of action. He thinks outside the box, works hard, and is willing to learn new things. He is very competent. Our kids are so confident in his abilities that when toys break, they're not upset because "Dada is a good fixer. He will fix it." On the other hand, I am a feeler. I empathize easily, listen well, and really desire to be inclusive. Together we are a fixer and a healer! We believe this combination is good in a parenting team.



We have two children. Graham, six years old, strives for justice, peace and fairness, Hazel, four years old, is decisive and strong, yet tenderhearted. They are ecstatic to have another brother or sister! They've drawn many pictures for their sibling already, showing us as a family of five. They tell everyone, regardless if they know them, we are adopting another child. Graham says he will teach his brother or sister how to do karate and Hazel says she can't wait to snuggle with her sibling. We can't wait to add another child to our family fun!

We love traveling and each summer we spend time with Yarden's family on the West Coast; we hike, explore, and spend time outside. Sometimes Yarden travels for work and we are lucky to go with him. Last winter, with three days' notice, we went with him to Hawaii; we swam and played in the sand. With homeschooling, we will be able to go with him if there are neat travel opportunities.

We also have big and small adventures throughout the year. We have birthday parties for our kids with friends and family. There is always a special theme and food of the birthday boy or girl's choice. We go to a 4th of July parade every year, go to pumpkin patches and apple orchards in the Fall, and bake Christmas cookies for friends and neighbors. Every year, we buy or make a new Christmas ornament for everyone in the family. Something that sums up the year for that person, a character from a loved book, something to mark a new job, etc. We put up a Christmas tree and decorate the house the day after Thanksgiving. We spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with extended family. At Christmas time, the kiddos get loads of gifts and the adults have a white elephant gift exchange.

We are all so excited to add to our family! We are fortunate to have a lot of support and really good examples for our kids to look up to as they grow. This child will be loved and welcomed by all our family, as well as our friends and church family.



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