

Hello we are...

Justin & Jennifer



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We are a loving, thoughtful, and purposeful family. Our families have made us who we are today. With more than 40 years of marriage, based on love, faith and high expectations, both of our parents have set examples worth following.

We have been married 13 years and have the benefit of parenthood and financial security, yet we feel like we are just getting started building our family. We have so much room in our hearts and lives for another child, and always thought our family would have more than one child. After struggling with infertility, we realize God has been leading us to adoption for years.

Among family and friends we have been blessed to see all sides of the adoption process: relatives who were adopted, a mom who placed her child for adoption and now, many years later, is hoping to adopt, and our daughter's best friend who was adopted. We do hope to create a wonderful future for your child, and welcome the very important role you play as the child's parent.

We are surrounded by family and friends eager to welcome a child home. We will offer your child stability, experience with solving problems, support, as well as a love that has been tested and is true. Your child will be given a good education, religious formation, and a large extended family to love them. We have one daughter, Juliana, who can't wait to be a big sister. We look forward to reliving the adventures of life with an infant.

For you, we want you to have peace of mind and heart. We want you to rest in the knowledge that we support you and your choices. We want you to know that we welcome communication as open as you wish it to be. We also want you to know that we will love and cherish you and your child for our entire lives.

Blessings,

Justin & Jennifer


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...



Faith - We believe that God loves us and takes an active role in our lives. Faith provides the foundation from which we base our activities and make decisions. We start each day with morning prayers, specifically praying for those with special needs. Each night we take turns choosing which prayers, Bible stories, or holy heroes we will study. Our family also attends weekly church services together. In addition, Justin volunteers with the youth group and leads discussion on different virtues and application in daily life, especially young men who need strong role models.



Family - We both grew up in large, close-knit families. We have wonderful memories of time spent with aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. Even when our family moved, we made the long road trip back to visit multiple times each year. We make an effort to spend time with friends and loved ones as much as possible and to be present at as many of life's celebrations or milestones as we can. The family reunion on Justin's side is going on its 76th consecutive year, with over 100 family members attending each year. We are so excited to introduce your child to our family!



Charity - The prayer we have for our children is that they will have loving, giving, and serving hearts. This starts in the home where we don't just do the laundry because the clothes are dirty, but because we love the person who will wear the clothes. We foster an awareness of the world around us through maps, decorating, sending thank you notes, and sponsoring children in need from other countries. As the children get older, we will all participate in service projects together. We also love to visit with our elderly neighbors to bring smiles when they are lonely. To us, charity isn't just about giving money, instead we look for ways to give our time and talents to those in need.

Love for Learning - We want our children to be life-long learners who are always curious and full of wonder at the world around them. We do this by surrounding them with books, creative games and activities, and keeping them active. We use American Sign Language from birth which helps their little brains form important pathways for language and memory. We read every day and look forward to visiting our library at least once a week. We visit the local greenways and nature preserves to explore and learn through our senses. All these experiences will help our children to be flexible, resilient, and effective problem solvers throughout their entire lives.



Self-Discipline - We want our children to be well disciplined yet independent. Each morning during prayers we call to mind the fruits of the Holy Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faith, Self-Control, and Gentleness. All of these concepts should shape how we interact with everyone around us. We have worked to set up our home so that our children can safely do many tasks on their own from a very early age. We strive to make clear our expectations for them, and our confidence that they can meet our expectations. This strategy helps reduce confusion and conflict in the home.

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



Our home...

We love living in an older neighborhood with a large front yard and big fenced-in back yard. We have a great diverse neighborhood with a wonderful mix of older original residents who are grandparents, younger couples, and families like ours. Our neighborhood is safe, clean, full of trees, and great for walking or riding bikes. One of our favorite things to do as a family is to visit the public library. We love story time, the play area, children's computers, and other programs. Another family favorite is the nature preserve on the lake. We love their science classes for kids and all the trails to explore. We also have memberships to the science and children's museums, and enjoy visiting the many art and culture museums in the city.



Our home is filled with light, love, and fun. We have many large windows throughout the house and are also perfectly oriented to view beautiful rainbows right out the front door. Our home is built for comfort and engaging life experiences. We have hundreds of children's books within easy reach that fill the built-in bookcases throughout the house. There are large open areas free for play, dancing, or building. Children love to dig in the garden - either to just dig holes or to look for wiggly worms. Between our house and our neighbor we have a small slope which is called "the hill". To an adult it isn't much, but to kids it is hours of fun - running, rolling, or sledding.

We have personally worked on many projects in our home, but the kitchen renovation is our most treasured memory. We loved designing it together and we even put the cabinets together ourselves. Now it is the center of our family life. We cook most of our meals from scratch and enjoy baking many yummy desserts. We have a custom-made platform tower the children can use in the kitchen to help cook. Juliana started baking when she was one and one-half years old.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Working in the garden, going for walks, bike riding, listening to live music, going to music live performances, doing arts and craft projects, baking, kayaking, traveling

Adoptive Father:

Home improvement projects, motorcycle riding, walking, bike riding, reading, church youth group assistant, kayaking, traveling

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Graphic Designer

Adoptive Father: Civil Engineer

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree

Jennifer served as a public school teacher for many years and feels very comfortable making each and every experience a learning opportunity. We have used and will continue to use American Sign Language to foster greater language/communication skills. We also do short reading lessons each morning and math lessons most afternoons. Juliana doesn't even realize it's a lesson - she thinks it's all play! All these skills help build pathways for long term learning, memory, and critical thinking skills.

Our favorite time of the day is in the evening when we are all home together for dinner. It's a time to catch up after a busy day and to wind down. The sun sets behind our house and we have wonderful sunset rays that wash through our bedroom windows for a lovely glow. On weekends we love Sunday brunch. We enjoy making pancakes and eating them with a half-dozen toppings. Often we invite friends over to join us for a leisurely meal and visit.

The baby will initially sleep in a bassinet in our room until he/she is old enough to move into his/her room that is decorated with Noah's Ark and a rainbow on the wall, as well as glow-in-the-dark planet stickers on the ceiling. Juliana talks about having brothers and sisters all the time and hopes to one day share a room and have bunk beds with her sibling.



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

Our family...

We met during a service project and soon after started dating. We dated a one and one-half years before we got married. During that time Justin was still trying to discern if he was called to enter the seminary. We had a few times when we weren't sure if the relationship would continue. However, during a trip to visit Jennifer's parents. Justin secretly asked for her Dad's blessing to marry her. Not long after, he surprised her by baking a homemade cheesecake and decorating it with the words, "Will You Marry Me?"

Justin has a great work ethic, an agreeable nature which makes him easy to get along with, a fun and corny sense of humor, and a readiness to jump in when people need help. Jennifer is patient, a good advisor, creative problem solver, and an organizer. We both believe having strong, loving, supportive families have made us who we are. Our families put great emphasis on love, faith, discipline, education, and high expectations. They continue to believe in us and show us what is possible through their examples, each have celebrated over 40 years of marriage.



We have a daughter who is four years old. We hope to have at least one more child in our family. We both grew up with siblings and value the special lifetime bond. As a family we love to read books, play make-believe, dance, build with Duplos, play with dolls, work in the garden, or run around in the yard. When we go out, we love to explore nature, go visit friends, go to the library, or see a live performance. We can't wait to experience life, play and help build up another child!

We are close to our family and use every opportunity to include them in our lives. We have a world map on our dining room wall. Whenever a family member travels, a button with their face moves to their destination. The face stays in the new spot as long as they are visiting, then we move them back when they arrive home. When travelers send postcards, the cards go up on the wall with the map. Besides keeping family close and to see all the fun places we and others have traveled, it helps us learn about different parts of the world.

Our favorite family traditions are found in Advent. We love using the Advent wreath and Advent calendar to prepare our hearts and home for the celebration of Christmas. We eagerly count down the days and decorate just a little at a time. As we get closer to Christmas we add more and more items, with the finishing touch on Christmas morning - the Christ Child finally arriving in the manger. We leave our decorations up all the way through January and really savor the full Christmas season.

Both sides of our family believe "the more the merrier" and are so excited to possibly have a new family member. Both grandparents can't wait to spend time with their next grandchild, swimming, taking walks, enjoying the gorgeous view, relaxing on the hammock, or playing in the large downstairs play area. The four cousins are excited to spend time together on any occasion!



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