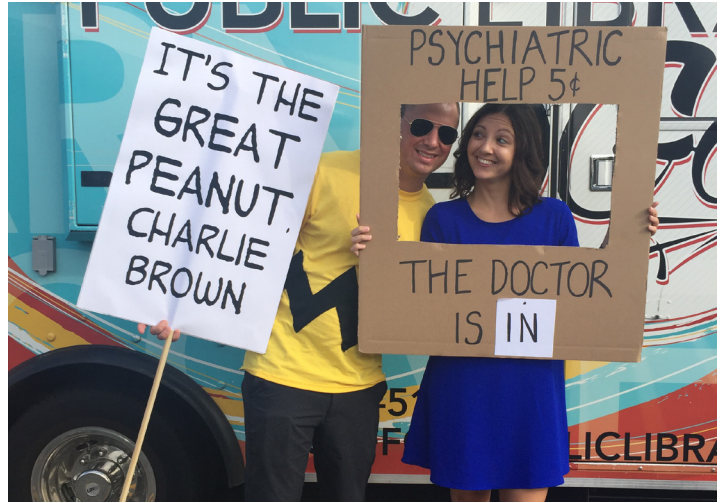


Hello we are...

Mark & Angela



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

Adoption is a calling that's been growing with us for years--Angela personally has felt that calling since her early years in college. In our marriage that seed was planted early and has taken root. While we struggle with fertility, as a couple we decided we would rather bring a child into our family through adoption.

Our dream is to raise a family rooted in faith and rich in love and adventure. We will provide unconditional love and a stable home that encourages learning and development, and the opportunity for a child to explore their interests and passions. One where we can laugh and be silly together and also be a source of comfort and support. We hope to make positive impacts in the world around us and pass on this desire to a child, so they too will see that they can make a difference and have the power and courage to affect change.

Our family already has a place in our hearts for your child and it will only grow when we welcome him or her into our home. Our love for and dedication to each other as husband and wife with God at our center is the foundation that our family is built on. That promise of love and security and faithfulness to each other goes well beyond just the two of us. We have a close-knit network of friends and family who are already so supportive of us and are eager to extend that support to you and your child.

For you, we admire your sacrifice and hope that you use that same strength to pursue your own hopes and dreams whatever they may be. We want you to be comfortable and confident in your decision and will work with you on maintaining a relationship, if that is what you desire, to build closeness and elevate the family - together.

Warmest Wishes,

Mark & Angela

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Our values and beliefs as parents...



Faith - Faith is the basis of who we are, what we do, and how we live our lives. It is what we celebrate in times of joy and what we cling to in times of sorrow. We embrace the truth that everything, including love, our talents, and even life itself are all gifts from God. We live our faith through regular attendance at mass, involvement in different ministries including music, helping with and attending retreats, prayer and meditation, as well as how we treat people in our daily lives. We will attend church regularly with our child, pray together at home, read books, and help them make faith-based decisions in everyday life. We will teach and be an example of this faith that has been, and will continue to be, the solid foundation for this family.



Compassion - To us, compassion is one way to put our faith into action and we believe that if we're in the position to help someone, why not? We choose compassion every day in the way we interact with people and hope that through our words and actions we can be good models of compassion for our children. We plan to do this by instilling empathy early on through reading books, open discussions, and hands on projects such as making care packages for those in need. We will find teachable moments in life to share how to show kindness and not rush to judgement.



Spirit of Adventure - We love adventure! Whether it's in our own backyard or through traveling to a new place, adventure is around every corner if you're looking for it. We truly value the excitement and education that exploration offers. We believe it's important to open ourselves to new things and different cultures. We plan to teach our kids to value experiences over material objects and will spend time going to museums, participating in outdoor activities, and traveling. There's even a local foundation that offers archaeological dig opportunities for kids we look forward to exploring. We will encourage natural curiosity and provide active opportunities to ask and answer questions and eventually guide them to discover answers on their own.



Integrity - Integrity speaks to an inner drive to do the right thing even though it may be difficult, uncomfortable, or unpopular. It emphasizes accountability and responsibility, as well as truth and honesty. These are pillars of integrity that we plan to teach and demonstrate so that our child can make ethical and fair decisions, even when nobody is watching. We will guide them through different decision-making processes by asking questions like "How do you think this will affect others?" We will demonstrate how we make decisions so they can see these skills in action throughout their childhood.

Positive Attitude - We can't control what other people do and say but we can control our own attitudes. By making a conscious decision to remain positive in the face of negativity and to not allow others to dictate our reactions, we live a more peaceful and fulfilled life. Reactions are based in emotions which children have difficulty regulating so we will help them identify what they're feeling in order to make better decisions as they grow and mature. Since life doesn't revolve around any one of us, we'll also be sure to celebrate others' achievements and successes in an active way to show how positivity and encouragement can be contagious.

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



Our home...

We really love our neighbors. Everyone in our cul-de-sac is friendly, looks out for one another, and is willing to offer a helping hand. There are also two playgrounds in our neighborhood and a pool which is full of kids and families during the summer months. We always seem to be discovering something new in our area - new restaurants, festivals, and places to hang out with friends. While we're close to plenty of stores, restaurants, and entertainment, just down the road are open green spaces with grazing horses.

We have a fenced in backyard which allows for privacy and a safe space for children to play. There are raised garden beds which we use to grow tomatoes and peppers that will offer the opportunity for our child to learn about gardening through hands on experience. Our front yard opens up to a cul-de-sac for riding bikes and scooters or playing with the neighborhood kids. When the weather is nice, we play cornhole and grill out, and when it's a bit cooler we'll light up the fire pit and roast s'mores.

Our home is a relaxing and a comfortable atmosphere, the perfect place to unwind at the end of the day. The open and casual space between the kitchen and the living room allow us and our guests to freely interact. We have a pool table that also converts into air hockey and table tennis, which serves as a fun focal point when friends and their kids come to visit. We also have tons of board games (Trivial Pursuit and Settlers of Catan are favorites) we enjoy playing.

We love music! Mark collects vinyl records and enjoys playing them on our record player. In the dining room, we have a professional piano we both play and the music room houses Mark's guitars, amps, and a drum set. We'll often sit down and play music together, Angela on the piano and Mark on the guitar, or enjoy campfire singalongs with friends led by Mark on the guitar.

Mark really enjoys Saturday morning breakfast. Growing up, making Saturday breakfast with his dad was really special to him, and this is something that he has carried into adulthood. He loves getting up, making French Press coffee, and a big breakfast of pancakes or French toast, bacon, eggs, and hash browns. Angela favors skirt steak fajitas, especially when we can use peppers from our own garden. There's just something about growing your own food that makes it taste extra good.

We look forward to sharing special moments and experiences with a child. The nursery is ready including a crib, changing table, pack-n-play, recliner, and bookshelf with children's books, some of which are books from Angela's childhood. Mark's favorite in the collection is an ABC's of Physics book. There's a handmade child-size rocking chair that was handed down to Angela from her mother, and Mark has his own baby blanket set aside that his grandmother made him. Our good friends' eight-year-old daughter also made some hand-made drawings of flowers in different colors to help welcome our child home.

It'll be both exciting and wondrous to witness a child learn and grow into their own person. We look forward to emphasizing that our interactions with each other make the best memories, independent of where we are or what our situation may be. In such a fast-paced world we will make a conscious effort to slow down and really appreciate every moment with our children.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Reading, tennis, photography, writing, playing piano, singing Disney songs, all things Star Wars, hiking, kayaking, climbing trees and big rocks, exploring old buildings, trying to play the drums, event planning

Adoptive Father:

Playing guitar, softball, kayaking, fishing, outdoor adventures like white water rafting and deep sea fishing, hiking, working on cars, home projects, all things Star Wars

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Marketing and Community Relations Coordinator

Adoptive Father: Service Manager

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Associates Degree



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Our family...

We met in high school and we dated five years before we got engaged. We shared school, mutual friends, and church. We began our friendship working on a Habitat for Humanity house, and later volunteered in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and dressed up as crash test dummies for a school event. Midway through senior year is when we finally went on our first date, a stroll at night to look at the stars. Even back then we loved a good adventure - paintball fights, night fishing on the beach, airsoft battles in Angela's backyard and a slew of prank wars to name a few.

We've been together for more than 13 years and our love and commitment continue to grow every day. Mark is a compassionate friend, a faithful Christian, and a devoted husband. He has a naturally inquisitive mind, always wanting to know the how and why. This comes in quite handy when things need to be fixed around the house, especially when combined with his strength in math and mechanics. Angela is loving and steadfast. She excels at being able to simultaneously look at the big picture while working on the details, which is great for staying organized and tackling multiple tasks. As a couple we work together to achieve our individual and joint goals, encouraging each other to succeed and pursue our passions. We're each other's cheerleaders. No matter the circumstance, we can always find humor to make each other smile and laugh.

Our sense of adventure hasn't changed. We go on bike rides, walk nature trails, kayak in a nearby creek, play tennis, visit the animals at the zoo, visit local wineries and even take in the opera or symphony. We've tested our skills at Top Golf, gotten our picture taken with Darth Vader at a ballpark, and watched bull riding at a local county fair. We love exploring new things and are fortunate to live somewhere where there is always something new to explore. We anxiously await our next adventure, the biggest adventure of all. To be parents.

We will create lasting memories as a family, and serve as a "home plate" just as our parents did for us. It was their own spirit of adventure and desire to create childhood memories that we take into our future. Because our families live close, we see them often. In fact, Angela's mother will provide some of our child care once Angela goes back to work. Our family enjoys laughter and good-natured fun, spending quality time together. A few years ago, Mark's dad treated us and Mark's sister to a trip to Hawaii. It was a wonderful week full of many adventures, but one of the most liberating experiences was when we traveled to South Point beach on the Big Island and stood overlooking a 40-foot drop into the Pacific Ocean. The wind was strong, the sound of waves hitting the rocks below was thunderous, and the drop was daunting. But each and every one of us made the thrilling jump. As long as something isn't dangerous, we'll go out of our comfort zones to have new experiences and make lasting memories.

We look forward to continuing our tradition of traveling, going on outdoor adventures, and making memories together as a family. In addition to making fun Christmas ornaments, we look forward to piling in the car with bowls of popcorn and driving around at night looking for the best Christmas lights. We also look forward to reading books before bedtime, family game nights, and when our child gets older, Mark would like to cook Saturday morning breakfasts together like he did with his dad.



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