

Hello we are...  
*Steph & Mike*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

Our hopes and dreams are to provide a child unconditional love, stability, understanding and compassion, fun and adventure, and a rock solid support network just as we had growing up.

We have so much love to share. We have been together for more than 12 years and have been married more than six years. Although, we are young, we have faced a number of challenges, but one thing always remained consistent and that was our relationship. Our stability has anchored us as a couple and will continue to do so as we grow our family. We are committed to one another just as we will be committed to our child.

We have known we wanted to raise children together for a long time. We know we would love to adopt a child and have witnessed the beauty of adoption through close friends. You see, our friends adopted a little girl years ago. We stood beside them as the mother selected them, the baby was born, and as the birth and adoptive families have grown as one.

For all the mothers reading this family profile, we want you to know that we think you are brave and selfless. While we don't know your specific situation, we are sure your decision to place your child for adoption is one made from a place of love. We feel compassion, gratitude, and empathy for you, and always will.

If you select us as the adoptive parents for your child, we will feel honored by the magnitude of your decision and the trust you are placing in us to raise your child. Through the adoption and our appreciation for you we hope you feel like you gained a family. We hope we will have a life-long relationship with you and are committed to fostering a relationship between you and your child so your child always knows your love. The more people who love this child the better.

We look forward to this child having a well-adjusted and happy childhood, growing to have empathy for others, and living in a loving and healthy environment that cultivates his or her personality and individual sense of self. We will provide a supportive home that will help your child to fulfill his or her dreams.

Warmest Wishes,

*Steph & Mike*

  
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 unconditional love and is a constant in our lives. Family is at the heart of our relationship and we want the same for this child. Every year at Christmas, Steph's mother distributes a calendar with family events highlighted each month. She may schedule a picnic at a local lake or dinner at her house, however, there is a family gathering each and every month. Steph's mother, one of this child's grandparents, will watch him or her once we return to work. Grandma looks forward to reading, visiting the zoo, coloring, playing outside at the park and drawing with sidewalk chalk. Mike's parents look forward to family trips to Disney World. Frankly, we do too!



**Fun and Laughter** - While family is the heart of our relationship, fun and laughter are the heart beat that keeps us living a positive and joyful life. We have a great sense of humor and definitely have a playfulness in our relationship. We try not to take ourselves too seriously. There is not a day that goes by where laughter is not in our home! Mike, especially, has a very witty sense of humor that constantly keeps those around him on their toes. We both use humor to provide levity in difficult situations. We look forward to sharing our sense of fun with our child - singing while playing the piano, dancing while cooking dinner, and being comfortable to make a mess while we are coloring, painting, or playing in the mud. Life is meant to be lived!



**Lend A Helping Hand** - We believe it's our responsibility to uplift those around us and give back to the community. We grew up knowing how fortunate we were, but always knew never to take it for granted. We grew up helping others through volunteering in the community and helping individuals and families. Steph's mother was actively involved with Amanda the Panda, an organization to support people who have experienced loss. She baked cookies for their events and donated gifts for children at Christmas. Every year, Mike participates in Salvation Army's Kettle Campaign to support those less fortunate. We look forward to introducing our child to our giving spirit.



**Education** - We believe that a thirst for knowledge and discovery starts at an early age and becomes the basis for our education throughout life. Steph's parents were both teachers so learning was a part of every day and was made to be fun. We will be our child's first teachers, and look forward to playing "I Spy," coloring, putting puzzles together, dressing up for imaginary play, and reading before bedtime each night. We will provide our children with the tools, resources, and education that they want or need to pursue their strengths and passions so they can be the best version of themselves. Both of us are college educated and will gladly provide that opportunity to our son or daughter, if that is the path they so choose to take.

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# Our home...

We live in a newer neighborhood that is filled with kids of all ages, and of course, all the amenities that go along with a family-centered community. With one of the best school district in the state, the community is growing rapidly. The elementary school is in walking distance from our home. There are parks, pools, shopping, and other recreational areas such as volleyball courts, baseball diamonds, a 12-hole disc golf course, a basketball court, Gaga Ball pit, and lots of green space to run around or enjoy picnics.

We moved to our home knowing that we wanted to grow our family here as well as have room for friends and family to always feel welcome. So the space is open and inviting, warm and comfortable, and no one ever leaves hungry. We enjoy sharing our home and our food with others. We've hosted Thanksgiving and multiple college sports events with our friends and family. We love to cook and bake, so there never is a shortage of meals or treats in our home.

Our home is meant to be lived in and enjoyed. Our furniture and decorations, bright and cozy, are a reflection of our personality and spirits. Steph's brother, Pete, is an artist, so the majority of the artwork was created by him. We particularly enjoy the downstairs living space with its cozy couches, piano, TV for entertainment, and a fireplace that instantly warms up the space.

Our favorite time of day during the work week is in the evening. We are usually home by 5pm and are done with work for the day. We cook together, spend quality time catching up, wind-down, perhaps spend some time in the community and cuddle up. We have yearned to share these fun and quiet moments with a child for more than seven years. We look forward to incorporating their routine into our life at home, while understanding and looking forward to our "new normal."

The nursery is down the hall to our bedroom. It will be decorated in pale grays, creams, and pops of color. Steph is currently making a number of crocheted stuffed animals for him or her - so far we have a bunny, duck and elephant made. We are sure Steph's brother will make a painting for his niece or nephew that we will incorporate in their room. His paintings are vibrant and are typically of animals. Of course, the room will have a crib, changing table, and a dresser.

We are excited for bath time and bedtime stories, as well as all of the sweet little cuddles we will share with our children. We look forward to a child's giggles, snuggles, and watching him or her learn as they grow. We are excited to have our home filled with laughter, to have fun being goofy and playful, sing songs, run around, play outside, and then those quiet moments filled with cuddles, lullabies, and bedtime stories.



- Both non-smokers

## Hobbies:

### Adoptive Mother:

Singing, playing the piano, crafting, crocheting/knitting, international travel, reading mysteries and psychological thrillers, solving problems such as puzzles, technical writing, attending festivals, Pilates and yoga, cooking and baking, and spending time with family and friends

### Adoptive Father:

Golfing, attending music festivals, watching Marvel movies, watching and attending college and professional baseball, football and hockey, reading, traveling, DJ'ing, boxing and weightlifting, and hanging out with friends and family

## Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Compliance & Risk Management Director

**Adoptive Father:** Project Manager

## Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Master's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelors Degree



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# Our family...

We met more than 12 years ago when a mutual friend set us up on a blind date, that is, as blind as blind could be in the early days of Facebook. Later we found out that her criteria was that both of our mothers were Italian! We dated five years prior to getting married.

It's hard to describe the love we share. From the very beginning of our relationship we have always been each other's support and consistency. We have both made sacrifices to help one another continue to grow and move forward in our careers and personal life. We will always go above and beyond to do what is best for one another and will do the same for our child.

We have built a solid foundation and are unified in how we see marriage, family life, and our goals in life. We enjoy one another's company; yet recognize and respect each other's individual needs and independence. Mike an extrovert, is loyal and encourages everyone around him. He enjoys a round - or two - of golf, whenever possible. Steph an introvert, is compassionate and selfless, and enjoys time at home. We recognize the importance of balance in our lives and are supportive of how one another chooses to spend his/her time.

We were both blessed with amazing relationships with grandparents who have had profound impacts on our lives. Mike was the first grandchild and his grandfather took care of him while his parents worked. His grandfather was always there for him, taught him strong family values, and made a point to make lifelong memories with Mike, such as taking him to Cubs baseball games and to movies. He taught Michael to be loyal, caring, and giving. Mike is thankful for such a loving and inspirational role model.

Steph's Nana took care of her when she was young and has always been present in her life. They share a special bond. Nana has been through tough times in her life and has always kept a smile on her face and modeled perseverance and grace. Nana has helped shape Steph into the woman she is today. Nana has always been a good role model for Steph and reminded her that everything will be okay.

We want this child to develop this type of deep rooted relationship with his or her grandparents, as well as the rest of our family. Not only will Steph's mother watch this child when we return to work, but we will continue sharing time with our families as we do today to help build strong bonds. Some of our favorite time together are weekly dinners, Thanksgiving Day Football Game the family plays, Christmas Eve dinner and games, and Hookelah. Every summer Mike's Grandma has a golf tournament called Hookelah. Mike's Grandpa came up with the funny name. The tournament has prizes and always ends with a huge barbecue at Grandma and Grandpa's house.

We also will start our own traditions, such as Elf on the Shelf, leaving milk and cookies for Santa, and leaving carrots for the reindeer! We also look forward to creating traditions around other holidays, such as visiting a pumpkin patch and apple orchard around Halloween and an Easter egg hunt on Easter. We look forward to vacations to enjoy quality family time to places like Walt Disney World, beaches, and of course, Lego Land.



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