

Hello we are...

Amy & Jason



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

We envision our children becoming independent, self-assured, kind, and intelligent individuals who know they are loved deeply and supported in all they do.

We always talked about wanting our family to have more than one child and saw ourselves growing our family through adoption one day. Amy is an only child and Jason grew up with three sisters to play with. While many families with a child want a sibling for their child, it's more than that for us. We have always wanted to grow our family through adoption to provide a child unconditional love, time, and resources. Simply put, we have felt called to open our hearts and home to a child out there who, we feel, has already been chosen. God knows which child will end up with us, it is just a matter of that child finding their way to us.

We are a young, committed, and a stable couple who lives a very family-centered life. The decisions we make, from our jobs and our finances to where we live, are based on what is best for our family. We spend quality time together and have an awesome network of family and friends, our "village," to support and love us. We enjoy a good adventure and seeing and learning new things. We also cherish our time at home playing together in our pajamas. We love being together and look forward to adding another child to our family.

Having a biological child ourselves, we have tried to put ourselves in your shoes as you make this decision. While we don't know the circumstances in your life that have led you here, we have the utmost respect for you and believe it is the most honorable and selfless decision you could ever make. We understand there may be pain involved, even if you know you are making this decision for all the right reasons. If you select us, we hope your hurt will fade with our promise that we will love your child as our own. Rest assured, your child will be surrounded by love, not only from us, but from a big brother who is over-the-moon excited, as well as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

We hope this information will give you some insight into our family. Please know we will do all we can to provide what you desire for your child.

Thank you,

Amy & Jason


Graceful
adoptions™

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

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Our values and beliefs as parents...



Love - For us, love is not a feeling, it's how we approach everything we do. Love is acceptance, hope, patience, kindness, and is never ending. We both grew up in very loving homes surrounded by a network of people who showed us daily what it means to love unconditionally and to put another person's needs before your own. It's our love that binds our entire family together. We never leave the house without saying "I love you" and it's the last thing we say to each other before we fall asleep at night.

Family Centered - Our family comes first and our decisions are based on what is best for our family. Amy has a master's degree in early childhood development and a doctoral degree in early childhood special education. She could have been a tenured professor but chose to take a position as an assistant kindergarten teacher at our son's school to be more available for our son and future child. Jason has a great paying and stable job, yet it's one that doesn't require travel, long hours, or evening and weekend work. This allows both of us to be available to our family physically and emotionally. We cook together, clean together, read together, work in the yard together, play together, laugh together, and plan together.



Give Back - We believe everyone can make a difference. Giving of our time, resources, expertise, and energy is an essential part of who we are. As a family we support Salvation Army's Angel Tree, the local area food bank, we volunteer for our son's sports teams and events, and Jason is a troop leader for our son's Cub Scouts. It's what we do and has been a part of our life for as long as we both can remember! Amy's dad "retired" but now volunteers more than 40 hours a week doing project management for Habitat for Humanity, taxes for lower income individuals at a local Urban League, and is involved with a local facility for individuals with disabilities. Jason's mom taught first grade Sunday School for over 25 years and is still a very active volunteer in the church where Jason grew up. We have so much to give, and we feel it's our duty to give back whenever and wherever we can.



Learn and Grow - We both went to college and prioritize education for ourselves and our children. We take every opportunity to nurture any curiosity and regularly have conversations about new topics and ideas. If we don't know the answer to a question, we research the topic together. We read and watch shows, like the Science Channel, to learn how and why things happen. We do experiments and activities in the house based on something that is of interest that we learned about. We will encourage our children's interests to give them the opportunity to discover and grow. It's amazing to see all the teaching opportunities out there if we strive to learn, make it fun, and make it a part of everyday activities.



Have Fun - Life is best when we use our imagination and find joy in everyday things. We go to sporting events, play board games, swim, hike, read, vacation at the beach or Disneyland, and simply "be" together. Our son loves miniature golf and will often build courses throughout the house so we can enjoy the game. Creating and exploring new design ideas is as much fun as playing the course. We love doing art projects together and display our masterpieces proudly. We believe with the right attitude and imagination anything can be fun!

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Our home...

We live on a cul-de-sac with only six houses. It's a great place to live! There is always activity going on and the neighbors all get along really well. If the three of us are outside playing, neighbors often join in the fun. Soon kids are pulling toys, balls, and bikes out of their garages and the adults are out playing and talking, too. Last Halloween, we had four families with younger children get together on our street for a chili and hot dog dinner and then we all went trick-or-treating together as a group. It's a great community and everyone knows each other and looks out for each other. The kids play freely between the yards and spend lots of time outside together. We built a play set with a slide, swing, and sandbox in our backyard, and the neighbors have a basketball goal in their driveway. We like to ride bikes, play soccer, draw with chalk, or walk through the neighborhood.



The best things about our house are the people and the memories we create and share in it! Our home is really comfortable. It's meant to be lived in and there is life in every room. We have way too much space, but it is filled with fun things to do. Pictures of family can be found everywhere. There is always a game out, an art project in progress, or books and toys around. There is an "art gallery" in the kitchen and the refrigerator and door leading to the garage are covered with various drawings and crafts. We love to see reminders of the fun things we do and create together (and hate to throw away examples of imagination at work!). We love to cook together and have taken cooking classes as a family. In our pantry, there are three aprons hanging on the door and we use all three quite often.

The child's bedroom will be right down the hall from Braden's room. Their bedrooms are separated by a playroom filled with toys, a LEGO building station, and games to have fun, learn, and grow their imaginations! Braden is very excited about being a big brother and loves the idea of having a sibling. Since we have started the adoption journey, we have talked openly and regularly about having another child in the home. We all look forward to opening our hearts and home to another child and growing our family with a new member.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Reading, crafts, volunteering, cooking, playing the piano and flute, swimming, hiking, bowling, miniature golf, anything at the beach, gardening, spending time with family

Adoptive Father:

Hiking, camping, swimming, DIY home improvement projects, woodworking, sports, Cub Scouts, cooking, drawing and painting, bowling, miniature golf, vacations at the beach, yard work, family time

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Kindergarten

Teaching Assistant

Adoptive Father: Facilities Director

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Doctoral Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree

Our favorite time at home is on weekends and evenings at bed time. We love to be home in our pajamas playing and spending time together. We have "Syrup Saturday" or "Sweet Sunday" when we make pancakes, waffles, cinnamon rolls, or biscuits with jelly. Every night we all pile in bed together and read books and have family time together. It's capped off with "family hugs and kisses" where we do a group hug for each person before we say goodnight and end the day.

We try to create lasting memories and have fun every day; however, one of our favorite holidays at home is Christmas morning. We all love Christmas, but Amy really loves Christmas! She is usually the first one up and is poised ready to see our son when he comes into the living room to see what Santa brought. Amy's parents come over every year and spend Christmas morning with us, as well. We take our time and open presents all morning and check out and play with everything we got. It is very important to us that we always have Christmas morning at home. After lunch, we all pack up and drive to Amy's grandmother's house where we spend Christmas afternoon with aunts, uncles, and cousins and have a big family dinner. After dinner is done and the dishes have been washed we open gifts with the extended family. It's a great tradition and a day full of family fun and love.



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Our family...

We met at church more than 13 years ago. Jason likes to joke that Amy sat on the family pew, so he had to make her official. In all seriousness, unknowingly, Amy sat where Jason's family usually sits and met his sister and mother before Jason and a younger sister arrived. When Amy came back the next week, she sat behind Jason and his family, but slowly worked her way back to the "family" pew!

We were friends for about six months before we started dating. Once we started dating it felt so natural and right. The more we got to know each other, the more we realized that we grew up with very similar childhoods and have very similar beliefs. Eighteen months after we first met, we took a cruise in Europe. Jason decided this was the perfect time to propose. Jason popped the question on the top deck of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Amy's parents were there to celebrate with us, as well.

As mentioned, we have a seven-year-old son, Braden. He is an active, funny, loving, and smart little guy. He enjoys math, science, and art at school. He loves to play soccer and baseball, and participates in Cub Scouts. We attend Braden's activities together as a couple. After Braden goes to bed each night, we spend time together watching movies and TV shows, playing board games, and just being together.

Amy's parents are known as Gramma and Grandad and Jason's parents are known as Gran and Daddy Jack to Braden. They are incredible role models, each set of parents married for more than thirty years. They are all very involved in our son's life and will be in our next child's life, as well. Jason's family gets together often throughout the year and we spend weekends together with the cousins for birthdays and holiday fun. The kids play on the floor, build LEGOs, go bowling, visit trampoline parks, play hide-and-seek, and have a great time.

While both of Amy's parents are active in our son's life, Gramma has been very involved and is excited to provide the same love and attention to our next child. Gramma helps with childcare as needed and hosted creative week-long summer camps that she themed - Rock Camp, Art Cart Camp, ReUse It Camp, etc. She makes costumes for the school plays and attends all of our son's games and events. We have dinner at their house every week, and in the summer we usually spend weekends at their pool.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and we have a village! Our extended family is great. We have grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all as excited as we are for a new addition to our family. Our village has about 30-40 family members all ready to love, nurture and support our children, just like they do with Braden now. We spend birthdays and holidays together, frequently meeting at Amy's grandmother and uncle's family farm for impromptu fun. There is a creek at the back of the farm where we hang out and have bon fires and wagon hay rides. We meet monthly for birthday dinners and have a themed potluck. The last party we had was a Minute to Win It party where Amy's aunt had come up with 10 games to be played in one minute each. Most of us laughed so hard we cried! We look forward to our next child having the same special relationship with their aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents!



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