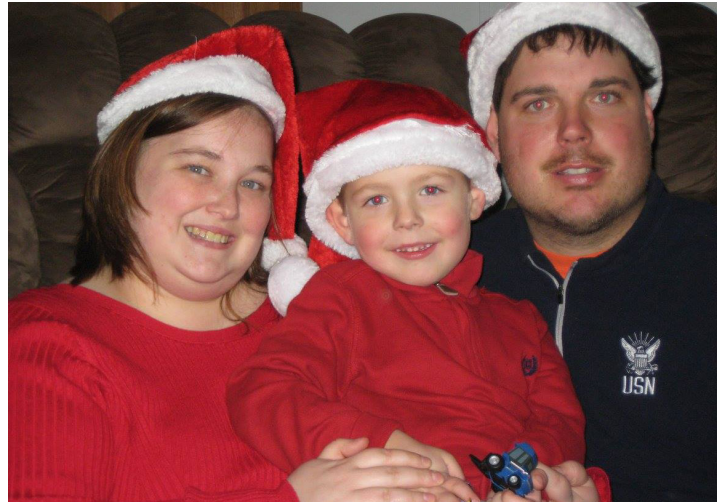


Hello we are...

Jerome & Staci



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

It seems like we have been together our whole lives, and I guess you can say we have. (Our whole adult lives anyway.) We met and got married at a young age - we were just 19 and 22 years old. From the very beginning, we always discussed having children and we always knew that we wanted to have a family. We both have close relationships with our siblings, so our dream was to have 2 or 3 children who would grow up and develop those bonds as well.

Then, infertility challenges made things a bit challenging.

We reached out to discuss options with our provider and before we could start the fertility treatment, we received a surprise - we discovered that we were expecting. After our son Clayton was born, we talked about growing our family. Once again, we found ourselves dealing with infertility issues. We just knew that invasive medical procedures were not for us so we looked into adoption.

We know that we have so much to offer a child. But as excited as we are to add to our family, we know that for this to happen a mother must make the most difficult and selfless decision imaginable.

That's why we promise that if you select us to be the parents for your child, he or she will be loved unconditionally. He or she will be raised in a stable, safe and nurturing home. We promise to lead by example and help this child reach his or her dreams. He or she will have a lot of extended family and friends to help them learn and grow. As parents, we look forward to sharing hugs, kisses, and lots and lots of love.

We have always believed in "meant to be" and we feel that God has a bigger plan for all of us. We look forward to learning your story. Your child will always know how special adoption is and they will always know their adoption story. You will always be discussed with respect and honored for the selfless, loving decision you are making.

Thank you for considering us. We hope this is the beginning of an amazing future - for all of us.

Sincerely,

Jerome & Staci


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...



Family - For us, at the end of the day, family is the only thing that matters. Everything else is secondary. Our family includes immediate and extended family so it's not uncommon to find our family having "Sunday Funday" with grandparents, aunts/uncles and cousins. Whether we have an exciting game of "kids vs adults" backyard whiffle ball or an intense match of Catan or spades, the most important thing is that we are all together. We are the type of family that if we need help, all it takes is one phone call/text, and in less than an hour the whole crew is there. We celebrate good times together and support each other in times of trial. We understand how lucky we are to have a family like ours and we let them know just how much we care by ending every visit with "I love you" and hugs.



Fun and Laughter - We make it a point to enjoy life. Staci lost her mom at a younger age which taught everyone in our family how short and precious life is. There is not a day that goes by without laughter in our home. We prefer experiences over material things and often, instead of gifts, we will do something fun. Whether it's visiting the waterpark, taking a vacation, going to a baseball game, having a fun afternoon at the pumpkin patch or apple picking, or just having a family sleep over, we love to have fun and laugh.



Hard Work - We would like to teach our child how to work and persevere even when something is difficult. This might be with school work, friendships or chores. We want to be there to encourage and support him or her and help them prepare for the challenges that adulthood will bring. We reached one of our biggest goals as a married couple when we purchased our acreage in the country. We can share with our children how this did not happen by chance, that we worked hard every day to get here and we will continue to work hard to stay here.



Compassion - We feel that one of our greatest tasks as parents is to raise good human beings. We understand that, in the world we live in today, we are very fortunate. We teach our children compassion by being positive role models, by donating our time along with financial assistance to our church, school and community. We teach compassion through the way we interact with each other.

Trust - We will teach our children the importance of trust and integrity. We will share every part of their birth story with them and will always be open and honest about who their birth family is. We will teach our children that trust is something you earn and it is something that you can lose easily. As parents we want our children to trust us, therefore we will stay true to what we say. When we tell our children we will be there, we will always follow through. This trust will help our children feel secure and help them know they can always come to us. They will always be accepted and loved.

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



Our home...

We live in the county, and think it's the best place to raise children. The kids have space to run, and be outside. There is fresh air, and quiet. There is space for pets, riding bikes, and coloring with sidewalk chalk. We have a pool in the back yard that we live in during the summer, and we have a deck for relaxing and grilling. Our closest neighbor is about one and one-half miles away, cousins live about three miles away, and get together often. We also have playdates at the city parks.

We live in a home that's perfect for our family. One entire wall in our family room is made up of shelving with pictures of us as a couple, our family, pictures of our siblings, extended family, framed artwork, and decorative knick-knacks. There are inspirational phrases that remind us to live and enjoy every day and be thankful for what we have. We have a large dining room table where we share meals, complete homework, and have conversations. Our furniture is very inviting with pillows and soft throw blankets to snuggle up with. In our new son or daughter's bedroom we have special blankets and rocking chairs that were made by Staci and Jerome's grandmothers.

When people walk into our home they feel truly at home - the space is inviting and cozy. You may see toys or books that have been left out from an afternoon of playing. School artwork hangs on our refrigerator. Most of our time is spent around the dining room table playing Catan, Spades, or various other card games. In summer months we are outside on the deck or in the pool.

We always have dinner together and make time for homework and relaxing. Our favorite time of day is when we are done with dinner, homework, and bath-time, and it's just time for our family to relax together before bedtime. It doesn't matter if we are reading a book, playing a game, or watching a program together, it's so nice to have this quiet time together, without the rush of a busy day.

Our son is looking forward to having a little brother or sister. We look forward to them building a life-time bond. He wants to help with bottles, baths and he's really looking forward to reading stories to his brother or sister. He tells us he is not looking forward to changing diapers but will do it, because "that's what big brothers do." As for us, we look forward to watching our child grow and become a little person. Seeing them master tasks, sitting up, crawling, walking, talking, school...just having another person to share our love with will be amazing.

- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Reading, volleyball, softball, snowmobiling, playing cards, board games, movies, photography, spending time with family

Adoptive Father:

Snowmobiling, NASCAR, football, working on engines, grilling (I am known as the grill master), spending time with family, cooking

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Registered Nurse

Adoptive Father: Farmer/Mechanic

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Associates Degree

Adoptive Father: Associates Degree



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Our family...

We have been together for 18 years, married for 16 years and we're looking forward to another 50+!

Staci is compassionate, loving, trustworthy, hardworking, fun, and reliable. Jerome is caring, patient, supportive, a great husband, and loving. Our biggest strength as a family is we truly love each other. We make a decision every day to treat each other with kindness, compassion, and support.

We like to think that our family is pretty special for lots of reasons, starting with our first date. We went to dinner and the movies. It was late November, and Jim Carey's "The Grinch" movie is what we saw. I think from the time the date ended, we both kind of knew that this relationship was going to be serious and long term, even though we were both young.

We dated for about 2 years before we got married. Jerome's proposal was perfect - for us at least. He had taken my sister to help pick out a ring and one evening when we were home spending time together, he just proposed. Anyone who knows us knows that we are low-key and not flashy so this was the perfect proposal for us.

Another special thing we do as a family is how we spend Christmas. On Christmas Eve, we go to evening mass, then we have dinner, and then we go for a drive and see the lights. Somehow Santa always visits our house while we're out. It's magic. We open gifts in our Christmas PJ's. Aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins are always there.

Our extended family consists of uncles, aunts, grandparents and cousins. We see a large number of them weekly and some of them daily. A large amount of time together is spent playing cards, board games, whiffle ball, throwing bags, or just talking. Jerome and Staci both have siblings that are close by and have children of their own. Our kids are growing up with their cousins being very active in their lives.

Our extended families always get together on holidays. There are the traditional meals - turkey for Thanksgiving, roast beef or prime rib on Christmas, ham on Easter, grilling for the 4th of July. The dinners are all potluck style and everyone participates. We have spades and 500 cards tournaments as well as an annual Texas hold em tournament complete with a winner's bracelet and bragging rights for the next year. Every summer we all go on vacation to the lake together. It's a week of swimming, fishing, lawn games, movies and fun.

Everyone is so excited that we're adopting. They just can't wait to have another family member to love.



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