

Hello we are...

*Zak & Kristen*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

We love being parents and hope to grow our family! We have struggled with infertility for almost 10 years and believe life has a way of pointing us in the direction we are meant to go. We know that it is love that makes a family and that there is a child meant for our family.

Our family is close with unconditional love and acceptance at its core. We are a unique bunch with a great sense of humor who truly enjoys spending time together and just having fun. We are involved parents who appreciate that “laughter is the best medicine.” From impromptu dance parties to chasing fireflies, we will provide a safe and fun environment for any child to grow and thrive in.

Family always comes first. It didn’t take us long after becoming parents to know that we wanted to have more children. Our daughter, Katelyn (Katie), is four years old. She is looking forward to having a lifelong friend, someone to share secrets and toys with, and having someone to discover and play with. We have so much room in our hearts for another child and more happiness, laughter, and love to add to our family and home.

We can’t imagine how difficult of a decision it is to place a child for adoption. It’s a selfless act and shows how much you truly love your child. We have so much compassion and empathy for you, not only are you making a huge difference in the life of your child, you are also making some family’s dreams come true.

If you select us to parent your child, we will love your child unconditionally and provide an amazing support system. We will always honor you and hope you will choose to maintain contact with us and your child.

Thank you for considering us and we hope to get to know you better.

Warmest Wishes,

*Zak & Kristen*



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

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 [GracefulAdoptions.com](http://GracefulAdoptions.com)





## Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Kindness** - We feel there is too much division in the world and there needs to be more positivity. We never know what someone else is going through, it's always best to be kind and non-judgmental. We freely provide compliments to lift other's spirits and help others less fortunate by donating school supplies to local schools. We will teach our children kindness by involving them in picking out school supplies and dropping them off at the donation center. We will also include our child when shopping for Toys for Tots as we give to others during the holiday season. We will show kindness to them and others. We will listen to them when they are talking, help them when we see them struggling, be patient with them, and let them know that we are always here when they need us.



**Love** - Love drives people to take the time to learn about one another and understand where they are coming from. We share love in our everyday life by helping each other, doing fun things together, and growing as a family. We will teach our children to show gratitude, devotion to family, and accept everyone for their own uniqueness. We will share love with our children by being attentive, giving them hugs and kisses, and telling them that we love them. We will spend quality one-on-one time with us separately and together, as well as spending quality time with grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles.



**Education and Knowledge** - We believe that an education sets a solid foundation for future endeavors. However, we also believe that formal education cannot teach everything. We believe that, in order to really learn about the world, we have to travel the world and experience other cultures. Really knowing something comes from directly experiencing it. We also read and listen to lots of books, by ourselves or with others. We will encourage our children to learn by reading bedtime stories, traveling, exploring outside, helping them with homework, and supporting them to do their best in school.



**Compassion** - We feel that compassion for others is the only way to live in a community of people. We've made it a point to learn more about each other, the people around us, and what types of equity should be employed so that everyone can enjoy life together and to the fullest. We realize how fortunate we are and that others are not as fortunate, so we feel it's important to show others empathy and understanding. We will teach this value to our children by being good role models by showing generosity and grace to them and others. We will share compassion with our children by talking to them with respect, giving them hugs, giving them undivided attention, meeting their needs, apologizing when appropriate, telling them that we forgive them if they make a mistake, and caring for them when they are ill or feeling down.

**Fun** - We believe everyday should have fun. Sometimes this comes in the form of spontaneous dance parties where we all drop what we're doing and dance to music, or bring out the play dough to make whatever our imaginations come up with. We also have fun when doing educational activities, like exploring the plants and animals in our yard or learning what happens when we mix colors together. We will share the value of fun with our children by making them laugh, playing hide and seek, dancing, playing games together, visiting zoos and carnivals, going on hikes, exploring parks and caves, and going on picnics together.

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- Both non-smokers

#### Hobbies:

##### Adoptive Mother:

Spending time with family and friends, traveling, kayaking, hiking, having fun, taking care of others and environmental consciousness.

##### Adoptive Father:

Spending time with family and friends, scuba diving, traveling, kayaking, hiking, cooking, gardening, having fun, and listening to audio books.

#### Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

**Adoptive Father:** IT Specialist

#### Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Master's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Master's Degree

## Our home...

It's a great place to raise children! Our neighborhood is a small development in the country a few miles from town. There is so much for children to explore and do outdoors while also running around with other children in the neighborhood. They run back and forth between each other's yards and frequently ride their bikes, scooters, and motor bikes up and down the street. It's the best of both worlds!

Our property is just under two acres. Our house is one of the few with easy access to the water, so the neighborhood children frequently come through our backyard with their kayaks to get in and out of the water. We have an open recreation space and also have a swing set with a slide in our backyard. We have multiple toddler bikes and a scooter, as well as sidewalk chalk and balls for the children to play with. We are all pretty good at watching each other's kids.

We frequently see wildlife in our backyard including turtles, beavers, deer, frogs, eagles, blue herons, geese, ducks, dragonflies, cardinals, goldfinches, and hummingbirds. At night, the stars are endless and if we keep our windows open, we fall asleep to the sounds of crickets and frogs. A couple years ago when the realtor was showing us the house, we were standing on the back deck looking at the scenery and we pulled each other close and both agreed that this was the house and neighborhood where we wanted to raise our family. We couldn't have gotten any luckier!

Our house has a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Our living space is very open with vaulted ceilings throughout the main floor, making it feel even more open. There are many windows and doors that allow a lot of natural light in the house. Our furniture is soft and cozy, which is great for relaxing or curling up to watch a movie. The walls have a lot of pictures of our family, places we have traveled to, and pictures that our daughter colored.

Our life here is full of love and laughter. We have almost daily random dance parties, where everyone stops what they're doing and dances to music. We love to hang out in the yard, on the swing set, and kayak in the pond. In the spring, our kitchen counters are full of seed starter trays that later get transplanted to pots on our deck. We grow veggies and herbs that get used in our meals later on.

When family and friends visit, we usually spend time talking and eating. Zak loves to cook, so we usually have a lot of food. We spend some time inside in the kitchen and dining area and also some time outside on the deck. If there are kids, they are usually outside playing ball or blowing bubbles or playing downstairs in the playroom.

In the mornings, our living room is filled with light from the sunrise. From our kitchen window, we can see the sun start to reflect on the trees in the back by the water. Sometimes Kristen will go out on the deck to enjoy the peacefulness and watch the large blue heron and eagles looking for fish. This is a very calm and relaxed time of day. It's so nice to have this time in the mornings to be together as a family before we go to work and preschool. We can't wait to add another child to our family and share this special time of the day with them!



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# Our family...

We met through social media more than 13 years ago. Zak had just come back from active duty with the Marines and he was looking for people to hang out with in the area since he was new to town. After a month or so of chatting, we realized that we lived on the same street just blocks apart.

We dated four years before we got married. We decided to come up with our own wedding vows. Unknowingly, we had both did an online search to find inspiration to help us write our vows. Zak said his vows first. When he started reading them, Kristen's mouth dropped open and she started laughing. The vows he was reading were almost word for word of what Kristen wrote for her vows. He was confused to why she was laughing until Kristen started reading her vows. It turns out they had both ended up on the same website and used practically the same vows.

Our strength as a couple is how well we know and support each other. We've had to overcome many obstacles and each has helped us grow stronger as a couple. Together, we are unstoppable. Kristen is compassionate and has spent her entire life looking after the well-being of others. She seems to have the keen ability to recognize the needs of others and then find ways to fill those needs. Being a mother comes natural to her. She would go to the ends of the earth for her children. Zak is adaptable and supportive. If there's an issue, he always has a plan or thinks of a solution. He is there to listen, offer advice, and always puts his family first.

Zak is an amazing father to our 4 year old daughter, Katelyn. We enjoy swimming, taking day trips to the zoo, going to parks, going to the arboretum, museums, and seeing movies. We are both certified scuba divers. Zak is a Certified Rescue Diver. Our favorite thing to do together is travel! Kristen's job allows her to attend a conference every year and we usually make it a family vacation. We also take other family vacations and enjoy weekend getaways. We look forward to traveling as a larger family as well!

Many of our family traditions revolve around the holidays. One of our favorite is when our Elf On The Shelf comes to visit a month before Christmas! He "moves" to a different spot each night and our daughter searches for him each morning. We watch a Christmas light show in a nearby town, visit Santa Clause, and celebrate with family each year. On Christmas Day, we join family at Kristen's aunt's house. This is such a special time because all the cousins and their children are together celebrating the holiday and enjoying each other's company. At Easter, we dye Easter eggs and attend a local community Easter egg hunt. In the summer, we make it a point to attend the local county fair. We have gone on a couple vacations with extended family as well.

Our family is very excited for us to be adding to our family! The grandparents are especially excited as they love being grandparents!



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