

Hello we are...

Kassandra & Matthew



Graceful
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Our Hopes and Dreams...

Before we met each other, we both dreamed of having a loving family with children to love and make memories with. We both grew up in families with two children and our relationships with our siblings are, and have always been, so valuable to us. We can't imagine life without them.

We know this is the shape we want our family to take as well. We will provide a child a happy and healthy childhood filled with unconditional love! Our stable home is warm and friendly where everyone feels love and acceptance for who they are. We will encourage our children's dreams and interests, and expose them to a lot of different experiences, from trying sports, dance, instruments, the arts, traveling, to exploring nature.

We have one child, however we know our family is not yet complete. We have so much more love to give! We have fertility issues, and required infertility treatment to have our daughter. When thinking about growing our family we know adoption will be a more beautiful way to grow our family. One thing our daughter has taught us is that love has nothing to do with genetics and everything to do with watching them grow and learn every day.

We dream of watching our children bond and form that same close and beautiful relationship with each other! We are excited to have dinner together at the table, bed time stories, and family playtime, vacations, movie nights and to celebrate birthdays and fun holidays together. Most of all we look forward to seeing our children's personalities develop! Our children will get lots of love and attention from not just us, but all of their great grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

We don't pretend to understand the decision you are faced with, but believe God has a plan for everyone's life even if we don't fully understand it. We hope you will feel peace with your decision and faith that everything will work out as it was meant to be.

With love,

Kassandra & Matthew


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Our values and beliefs as parents...



Love and Kindness - Kindness is the way to connect to others and shape the world for the better. You never know what life will bring, or what someone is going through. We show love by always saying “I love you” to our family and each other. We show kindness by always being polite and by giving back. One of the ways we bonded as a couple was through volunteering in the outreach organization we both joined in college. We will teach this to our child by showing lots of love and kindness, and also by reminding him or her to use nice words, say please and thank you, play nice with others, and sharing is important! As our child gets a little older we will take them volunteering with us so they can learn the importance of giving back.

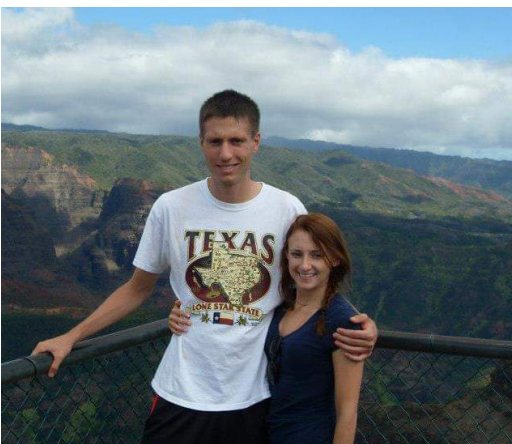


Living to Learn - We feel it is important to learn from all of our experiences. We place a high value on education. It opens doors that nothing else can. Education provides new perspectives and new opportunities. We moved to our community with education in mind. Our hope is that our children will continue their education after high school, and we will fully fund their college or other post-secondary education expenses. However, we feel it is important to keep learning outside school too. We do this by reading, traveling, and trying to have new experiences. We believe that if we make learning fun while our children are young it will become a part of how they think as they grow. We will encourage reading as an avenue of discovery and learning. We will encourage their different and changing interests as they explore and learn new things. As they get older we will also discuss the doors education and learning can open.



Integrity - Living with integrity means we feel good about the person we are. We understand that our actions and decisions have consequences. We don't take advantage of others, we are honest, and take responsibility for our actions. We forgive others for their mistakes too. We will remind our children to consider the other person's perspective. We will take to time to help our children understand how their actions can make someone else feel sad or really happy. No one is perfect, a big person forgives. We will teach them that forgiveness can help us feel better about the other person and who we are as a person.

Do Your Best - We believe that achievement can be driven by effort. We can't achieve our dreams without trying! We work hard for our goals and dreams, and hope our children will learn from our example. We will teach our children that it is about making their best effort rather than the outcome. This means that we will encourage them to complete their homework, study for that test, and show up to the practice for whatever they're signed up for. We know children have amazing potential, we want them to know they can reach it. We will help him or her develop good habits!



Delight in Life - We think it is important to have fun and to find joy in life. We love to have fun on both big adventures and in small everyday moments! Laughing together and having fun helps us stay close to each other. We try to bring playfulness and humor to our interactions, and try not to take ourselves too seriously. We intentionally carve out time every day to have fun together playing, reading, or watching a movie together. We will pass this on to our children by playing, laughing, and going on adventures together!

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Our home...

We moved to this home and neighborhood with children in mind. We live in a spacious and warm home on a tree lined street in an established community. The neighborhood is quiet and peaceful with lots of families and the school district is good.

Our home backs to a beautiful city park with trees, picnic shelters, a flower garden, a baseball diamond, a dog park, and most importantly, a playground. We can see the playground from our kitchen window and consider this our second backyard! We also have a swing set with a slide and a playhouse in our own large yard. We have a lot of trees in our yard and are excited to watch the kids jump in piles of leaves. We are also close to the zoo, science center, local library, swimming pools, and a lake with a little beach and boat rentals.

We have a back deck for lounging and a covered front porch with a swing. It's a fun place to watch the rain or stay shaded in the summer. We love to sit on the deck or porch swing in the summer evenings and enjoy the nice weather.

Our home is meant to be lived in and enjoyed. Our home has large rooms that are fully enjoyed. Family movie night takes place in the finished basement and we host birthday parties and holidays in our oversized dining room. Most importantly, we have a huge playroom on the first floor that is full of toys, books, puzzles, and has plenty of room for running or crawling!

We sincerely enjoy our time together and are one of those families that spend most of our time by ourselves or with family and friends with their children. We enjoy dinner together every night, prioritize play time before and after dinner, and read bedtime stories each night. If friends or family are over, we hang out in the back yard playing bags or ladders and the kids run around the yard and play with all the toys.

The weekends typically have a much more relaxed vibe. We usually eat breakfast and chat together over coffee and milk. We all really love breakfast food, pancakes and waffles are awesome! We may just relax after breakfast if we don't have any early plans for the day. Often on the weekends we will have some sort of fun plans. We spend a lot of time visiting family, especially our nieces and nephew. Depending in the season we might do something seasonal like visiting an apple orchard or pumpkin patch or go see Santa! In the summer we may just play in the yard all day and take the dog for a long walk in the park behind our house. We can't wait to add another child to our fun.

The child's room will be basically brand new! New carpet and paint in soft grays and maybe some navy. If it is a girl we will add some pink pops of color in the decorations and blankets. If it's a boy we will play up the navy color. The nursery for the new baby will be decorated with a hand-made quilt from the baby's aunt. Kassandra's sister always creates a beautiful quilt specifically for her nieces and nephews and has already started on one for the awaited new addition to the family. Of course there will be toys, baby clothes and a cute crib to complete it all!



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Trying new things and having new experiences! Traveling - seeing new places, and trying new food! Enjoying nature. Hiking or being on or near the water such as kayaking and standup paddle boarding. Reading. Yoga and walking our dog. Party planning, especially for kid's parties! Spending time with my family!

Adoptive Father:

Traveling and trying new restaurants. Golfing and running. Enjoying nature. Hiking, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, and fishing. Attending college athletic events. Family movie nights. Spending time with my wife, daughter, and our extended families!

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Web Developer

Adoptive Father: Actuary

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree



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Our family...

We met more than eleven years ago during the first weekend of college before classes even started. We were in the same honors program group, had the same major, and by coincidence joined the same outreach group. We saw each other everywhere! We had no choice but to become friends and naturally it didn't take long for us to start dating. We dated for four years before we got married.

Our biggest strengths as a couple and family is our partnership and friendship. As partners we weather each other's storms together, and we share the same goals and trust in each other. As best friends we have more fun with each other than anyone else, and we know how to laugh at ourselves! We can trust each other with our vulnerabilities.

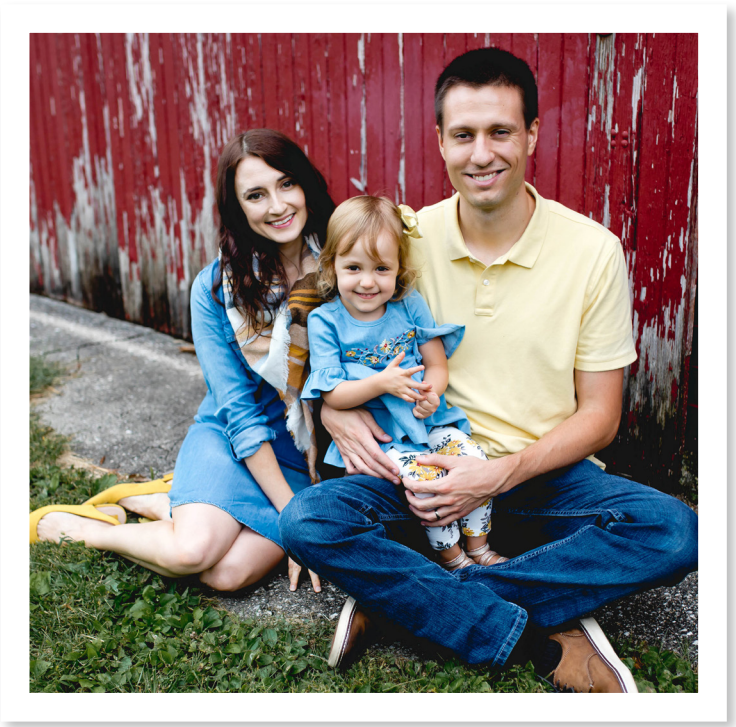
We have one daughter. She is spunky and sweet and we are so blessed to have her. We have always dreamed of two children. We have more love to give and feel like another little one would complete our family. We both grew up in two children households and have very close relationships with our siblings and parents, and we hope to have that for our new little family unit!

Both of our parents have been married for around 30 years! When we were children both of our families took us on vacations to see national parks, took us hiking, and taught us to love and value nature. So when we met this was something we immediately had in common and knew we would pass on to our children someday!

We can't wait to take our kids on family vacations of all kinds. Going to see national parks, oceans and beaches, deserts and mountains, and fun city attractions too! We have done a decent amount of traveling together and started to bring our daughter along too. We really enjoy hiking, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding. When we are closer to home we enjoy taking our dog Duke on long walks in the park behind our house. We have fun trying new restaurants, spending time at the local zoo, science center and library for kid's activities. When the weather starts getting cooler we enjoy relaxing movie nights at home.

We have a lot of family traditions that we carried forward from our childhoods, and some new ones that we have started for our own family. We love to go to the farmers market in the spring and summer. We have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter. We go to the apple orchard and pumpkin patch every year. We visit Santa and look at Christmas lights every year! We always have two big Thanksgiving meals so we can visit all of our family! On Christmas Eve it is our tradition to open Christmas PJs and a Christmas book, and to read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. We of course leave cookies for Santa and carrots for the reindeer! We make a big deal about birthdays too, all the grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, and friends come out to celebrate.

One tradition we looking forward to starting is the special sibling gifts on Christmas and birthdays. This is a tradition from Kassandra's family originally. The kids each get a special shopping day to pick out their gift for their sibling, and then spend extra time wrapping and decorating it! It makes the holiday so much more special.



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