

Hello we are...

# Bridget & Dean



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## Our Hopes and Dreams...

We hope to welcome a new member of our family and help that little one grow into the beautiful person he or she is destined to become. We look forward to telling our child the story of the loving decision you are making. We do not know you or your story, but we deeply respect how much you love your child, and we look forward to joining you in that selfless, unconditional love.

Bridget and Dean both grew up with siblings and value the close friendships they have with their brothers and sisters. We believe our family is ready to welcome another member and we currently have a three-year-old brother ready to befriend a new brother or sister. Deano prays every night for his new brother or sister and eagerly awaits the child's arrival. We see adoption as a wonderful way for our family to grow, and we look forward to helping two children (and hopefully someday more than two) become best friends.

Our family has a lot of fun together. We love Saturday morning trips to the park and Sunday night dinner as a family. We enjoy family bike rides and playing in the waterpark during the summer, and road trips to see family at holidays. We have a long list of places we hope to visit and share with our children. We have a thirst for adventure and look forward to welcoming a new son or daughter to join us on our adventures.

We also look forward to spending individual time with our new son or daughter. We look forward to stories before bedtime and changing poopy diapers. We look forward to celebrating milestones and birthdays, and helping our child grow into a loving and understanding person. Most of all we look forward to telling his or her story, and about the amazing love of the mother who brought our child into the world. Our extended family is also very excited to welcome a new niece or nephew and the grandparents are ready to spoil him or her with hugs, kisses, sweets, and stories when they visit.

When we were dating we read a wonderful book together about a couple who adopted a son and the great joy they found as a family. Since then we have thought of adoption as a beautiful way to grow our family. We have also seen this to be true with our family and friends. Dean's aunt Amy was adopted as an infant when Dean's father was five years old. His father has always expressed that it was "really cool" to get a new sister. We recently attended a wedding for Amy's daughter and it was a beautiful celebration as Amy's adopted family and birth family came together to celebrate.

We hope that in choosing us as adoptive parents you will find peace knowing that your child is cared for with the same degree of love you would show your son or daughter. Your child will feel loved every day, and will have the support of us, our large extended family, faith community, neighbors, and friends. Please know that we welcome communication with you as your child grows, but we want to respect your wishes about what that looks like. You are a strong, beautiful woman whose selflessness awes us, and we are honored to be considered as adoptive parents for your child.

With love and respect,

*Bridget & Dean*

  
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# Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Faith** - We love God and challenge each other to live a life worthy of heaven. We will do the same for our children, first introducing them to the love of Christ and then teaching them how to live a life worthy of His love. We will teach our children to be strong and respectful men and women, to stand up and fight for what they believe in, and protect those who are weak.



**Joy** - Living a joyful life is not about constant happiness, but about realizing and expressing gratitude for our loving family and other blessings. We will share adventures, big and small, with our children, and point out the many beauties, challenges, and questions of life so that they will grow to be thoughtful and joyous. We know our children will inspire us, too - to remember to listen to the sounds on the breeze, to feel the sand under our feet, and to smell the fresh air on our hikes.



**Integrity** - We believe that being a person of integrity is critical for healthy relationships. As a couple we are mindful of keeping our promises to each other and to our children. If we promise to read a book at night, we make every effort to keep that commitment. We encourage our son to make decisions and then to stick to them. As our children grow older, we intend to hold them accountable to commitments they make to sports teams and other activities so they build strong character and develop integrity, even when keeping a commitment is difficult.

**Loyalty** - We have loyal family and friends who have helped us in difficult situations, and we have frequent occasions to do the same. We both feel a strong sense of duty to our immediate and extended family. Loyalty is founded on a sense of trust and we think that we can inspire that trust in our children by providing them a safe, loving environment where family members are treated with respect, dignity, and utmost loyalty.

**Love of Neighbor** - People around us face struggles visible and invisible. Being sensitive to and addressing others' needs is part of our mission as a couple. We try to be kind to everyone and provide support in difficult times with a meal, or help with a chore, or a ride to work, or sharing a cup of tea and conversation. We invite each other and our son to participate in these efforts, and in doing so we remind each other that people matter more than anything else.



**Work Ethic** - We believe in working hard to support our family. We were both taught from a young age how to work hard and save for what we want. This habit starts in the home; we will invite our children to join in age-appropriate chores and teach them the satisfaction and pride of a job done well. But at all times we know it is important to balance work with recreation and play - we have a lot of fun in the evenings and on weekends as well.

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# Our home...

We live in a quiet, planned community with good schools surrounded by many families with young children. Our backyard faces a beautiful golf course, with a fence and mature trees separating our yard from the course. It is a great place to play in the sprinkler or our kiddie pool and we have a sand box and several outdoor toys. We live near a toddler play area, which has swings, a slide, and other play equipment. If the weather is too hot or cold to be outside there are several indoor play places nearby as well as a recreation center which has an indoor pool and an outdoor spray park.

We bought our house with children in mind and we have worked to create a warm home that is open and inviting to all. Our furniture is sturdy and made to be cleaned easily. Dean built bookshelves with cabinets for toys. We also designed storage space for bikes and outdoor play equipment and replaced rugs with wood floors for ease of cleaning - we welcome mud! The house has warm touches everywhere - our paintings, photographs, and other decor remind us frequently of our travels and our families.

Our first snow day at our new home is a very fond memory. We did not have a sled, but instead, improvised with a plastic lid, and sledded again and again down the small hill outside our front door. We saw neighborhood children heading toward the golf course and followed, where we met a few of our friends and took turns with other families' sleds going down a big hill. It was great fun. We went home and had hot chocolate and listened to Christmas music. It was warm, cheery, and a great confirmation of all the reasons we love our neighborhood and our home. We look forward to creating many more memories like this with our children.

- Both non-smokers

### Hobbies:

#### Adoptive Mother:

Travel, biking, running, hiking, reading, kayaking, learning about the law, politics, Notre Dame football, spending time with family and friends

#### Adoptive Father:

Travel, biking, camping, running, hiking, reading, art, kayaking, learning about historic architecture, spending time with family and friends

### Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Attorney Advisor

Adoptive Father: Architect

### Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Professional/Vocational

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree

Much of what we do is oriented toward family togetherness and our pace, as a family, is perfect for small legs and big imaginations. Our child (and hopefully soon to be children) is a part of us: held, cuddled, danced with, and brought on our adventures. In the evenings, we play and eat dinner before bath time and bedtime, then we say prayers and read stories before going to sleep. During the summer, we might first go for a bike ride, or for a walk around the gardens and school near our house. On the weekends, if the weather is nice, we usually spend most of the time outside, on a bike ride or hike in one of the many parks and trails. Or we might do house projects - welcoming our little helpers to help us paint a porch step, or rake some leaves. When we have bad weather, we go to one of the Smithsonian museums, the National Aquarium, or an indoor play place. We go to church on Sunday mornings and look forward to Sunday dinner together. We plan a special dinner and cook it together. We play music and sing and dance as we cook. Our kitchen has good floors for dancing!

We look forward to more light and love as our family grows. We have enjoyed all the blessings that come with parenting and very much look forward to experiencing it anew. We also look forward to watching our children's bond grow. Our son prays with us for a sibling each day, and is excited to have a brother or a sister. The rest of our family will be overjoyed to have a child to prepare for. Bridget's mom plans to make a quilt for the child, and Dean's mom to paint art for the walls in the child's room.



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# Our family...

We met at a young adult's church group in Miami, Florida more than six years ago. Dean attended the group often and met Bridget the first night she attended the group after moving to Miami. Dean invited Bridget to brunch to get to know each other better.

About ten months later, Dean moved to Washington D.C. for a new job. Before leaving, he planned an elaborate scavenger hunt for Bridget to complete. He left her with a treasure map (which now hangs framed in our living room), a compass, and one clue. That first clue led to about a dozen more clues, hidden or left with friends throughout Miami. Three months later, at the end of the scavenger hunt, Dean traveled to see Bridget in person. As she found the last clue, Dean pulled out a ring and proposed.

Bridget is a determined, hardworking, and optimistic woman who is a reliable support for her family. She always knows where the mittens are, and the socks, and lost toy. She challenges herself and others to be the best version of themselves and welcomes opportunities to mentor and sponsor other young women and children. Dean is a loyal and honest man and has a lot of emotional intelligence. His mom taught him to be a good listener and to understand multiple perspectives. He is a great man and wonderful husband and father. Together we are strong because of our ability to listen and compromise, and to tag-team as we balance our work lives and family responsibilities.



We have a son, Dean III, who is three years old; we call him Deano. He was a delightful surprise in our first year of marriage, and he is a kind boy who is smart and generous. He loves to giggle and dance and enjoys playing with trucks and cars. We read with him daily, and he loves to cuddle, build forts, and go on walks. He is very much looking forward to having a brother or sister.

We are very close to our families, and all of our children will be supported by grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We have small traditions and big traditions. Our Sunday night family dinners are a small but very important tradition. Each year we pick a new national park to explore and travel there as a family. When we visit Bridget's parents in the summer we usually spend time together at the beach near their home, where we play in the waves and sand and have breakfast on the beach. We look forward to sharing these traditions with our growing family!

Our holidays have large family gatherings with a big emphasis on shared experiences like family hikes, sleigh rides, and decorating a Christmas tree. We have Easter and Halloween traditions, even traditions relating to the first snowfall - like a snowball fight!

Our family is hopeful with us that we can share our love, traditions, and adventures with another family member soon.



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