

Hello we are...

*Jan & Mary*



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



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

Our hopes and dreams are to share our love, happiness, and blessings with our children.

We are a genuine and relaxed family of three with a large extended family and a great network of friends that form our community and support system. This child will join our family and immediately have 27 cousins to play with, and aunts, uncles, and grandparents all waiting to spoil them.

Adoption is not new to us, we have a huge heart for it. Adoption is welcomed in our family, friend group, work and church communities. Ian's mother and sister are adopted and Mary's brother has two adopted children. Adoption is a part of our world already. We also have numerous friends with adopted children. Mary and Ian's best friends just adopted a child, and in our church there are many children and adults who were adopted. When we started to talk about having a family, we always thought we would have biological and adopted children. After our son was born we had two miscarriages, and immediately knew adoption would be our next step.

With adoption surrounding us, we know no two stories are the same. The one thing in common is the mother's difficult and brave decision. If you choose us, you only will be spoken about in a loving manner and viewed as incredibly courageous. Your child will always know how much you love him or her.

We are incredibly excited to have a larger family. We will offer your child a loving home as we watch him or her play, grow, and learn. Every day is a little different, but they will know how much they are loved and that we are committed to their wellbeing. Judah, our four year old son, is very excited to be a big brother and share that special bond with a younger sibling.

We look forward to getting to know you better and hope we are the family that can help you find peace in this journey knowing we will give your child unconditional love and support.

Respectfully,

*Mary and Ian*

  
Graceful  
adoptions™

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

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# Our values and beliefs as parents...



**Faith:** Our faith is in Jesus Christ and it drives every decision we make. When it comes to business, home, friends, and family - all the decisions we make are based on this. Our faith community is a huge part of our life - we are at church at least twice a week or doing something with people from our church. We talk about it at home, we read our Bible separately and together. Our children will go to a Christian daycare and learn about Jesus during the week and at church on Sunday.

**Kindness:** Showing kindness puts our faith in action. We fundamentally believe we are here to help other people. We volunteer in many different ways, individually and as a family, and weekly groups through our church. Our son has a front row seat to see all of these things - to him they all seem like a normal way to live. Being generous, loving, and caring towards others in a tangible way - not just in words. We give to others and we talk about different opportunities as a family to be intentionally kind and help those in need. We make meals for new moms or people that are sick. We will make meals with our children and in some cases take them when we drop off the care packages.



**Hard Work:** Dedication and hard work are foundational pieces that provide every opportunity we have as a family. Ian started his business from scratch more than 15 years ago. Our ability to travel, give, buy our home, and employ people in the community all derive from our hard work. We talk about all of these things together as family and our son is involved in the work it takes for the house and family to run smoothly. Our children will learn the value of work by helping around the house, such as helping make dinner by measuring and stirring ingredients, and picking up their toys.



**Family Time:** Spending quality time together is, and always will be, a priority for our family. Meal and family time is built into our day and we never over extend to the point of not being able to do this. We enjoy being at home together, watching a movie, playing games like Uno and Sequence, and cooking as a family. It is what our son looks forward to the most each day because we treat it as special time together. We look forward to sharing quality time at home with all our children and continuing to strengthen our family bond.



**Learning and Education:** As parents, we are our children's first teachers. We believe learning takes place all around us, not just in a structured environment. Ian recently went to Africa and has enjoyed sharing his experiences with others. Whether it's singing our ABC's or playing Candyland, every day holds opportunities to learn and grow. We live in a great school district, which is one of the reasons we chose our neighborhood, but we will provide our child the education they need to develop and pursue their interests. We aren't the type of parents to force our children to go to college or university, however, if that is their choice, we will provide them the financial and emotional support to accomplish their dreams.

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

# Our home...

While growing up, both of us moved around, and before we had this home built, neither one of us had ever owned a home. There is such a strong sense of security and comfort knowing that we will be in this home for the next 15-20 years. Our children will have 'a house they grew up in'. The ability to provide that sense of home is so important to us. We are excited for all the memories we will make as a family together.

We strive to provide our children with opportunities and experiences to inspire them and motivate them to do their best. We live in an area with a strong sense of community and we feel incredibly fortunate to raise our children here. We know a lot of our neighbors and spend a lot of time with them watching football on Sunday while the kids play. Children play together in back yards or at each other's houses. Down the street there is a neighborhood park with a swing set. Parents hang out at the pool, just a block away, together with the kids as well.

While there are so many aspects about our home that we absolutely love (and too many to list), two of our most favorites are the open floor plan and the fireplace. The open floor plan allows everyone to participate and be involved in the conversation no matter where they are on the main floor. Ian loves to cook, so it's easy for him to participate in the conversations going on in the living room. And the fireplace! Growing up, Mary never had a fireplace and always dreamed about sitting in front of the warm fire to read, play games or watch TV. So that is exactly what we do now - we snuggle in front of the fireplace to read, play games, and watch our favorite shows.

Our favorite time of day is late afternoon, getting home from work, preparing dinner while listening to music, and playing with Judah in the living room. The smell of cooking food and relaxing at home brings back memories of growing up. We are excited for another child to join this special time, and help create their own childhood memories.

We both love to have people over so hosting people in our home is a very common thing. We love being a relaxing, fun, safe place for friends and families to spend time. We enjoy playing games with our family and friends.

We look forward to another child joining our family and fun. We feel so blessed to have our home, nursery and playroom ready for another set of little fingers to play, learn and discover. We will color, build Legos, and play hockey and basketball in the kids play room. We will read and tell stories while we rock him or her to sleep. We will encourage our children to try new things and we will do everything we can to help our children pursue their passions.

We can't wait to make a lifetime of memories with this child. Christmas season is a special time in our home as we celebrate Jesus' birth. Just as we did when we were young, we decorate the tree and house together, and on Christmas Eve we put all the presents under the tree. On Christmas morning with a Christmas movie playing, we open presents in front of the glowing fireplace and spend time together playing with all the toys. We enjoy our traditional Christmas breakfast of biscuits and gravy and cinnamon rolls, favorites we share from our own childhoods on Christmas morning. These are just some of the simple traditions we grew up with and look forward to passing on.



- Both non-smokers

## Hobbies:

### Adoptive Mother:

Jogging, hosting, spending time with friends and family, spending time at church, serving with our church, cooking for friends, baking with our son

### Adoptive Father:

Golfing, traveling, reading, spending time with family and friends, volunteering at church, cooking/ teaching our son how to cook

## Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Client & Insurance Manager

**Adoptive Father:** Wealth Management Advisor

## Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelor's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelor's Degree



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# Our family...

We met at work more than nine years ago - before we had our own company. Mary worked for another financial advisor and her cube was right outside Ian's office. She overheard Ian talking about church and decided to ask him out. She asked him out three times before he said yes! For our first date, Ian cooked blue cheese crusted filet mignon with homemade vinaigrette over a strawberry salad. On our second date, Mary burned a frozen cheese pizza! We got married on our second year anniversary of dating.

Mary is a great mother and wife. She is loving, organized, intentional about how we spend our time together and separately, incredibly persistent, and knows how to ask for help. Ian is consistent, patient, calm, and forgiving. He is a great leader, incredibly thoughtful, and always puts family first. We both have very calm personalities, encourage each other, and don't stress out about small things. We have built a very strong foundation, come together in our decisions, and both love giving our resources back to our community.

We have one child, Judah, who is four years old. We enjoy going out to the movies, playing at the park, and often explore the children's museum. Each year we visit a fall festival where we explore a corn maze, go on a hayride, feed the animals at the petting zoo, get our faces painted, and then we pick a pumpkin to carve! We love spending time together and we are always looking for fun things to do together or with our family and friends.

We regularly celebrate holidays and special occasions such as birthdays with our friends and families. Ian's family has a cabin where we gather for weekends, especially in the summer. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins come together to go boating, swimming, bake and just hang out together. The group has gone on other vacations together as well. We recently went to Disney. We spent three days in Disney World Parks where the kids spent time with their cousins and we hung out with our parents and siblings.

A few summers ago we all went to Breckenridge, Colorado. We stayed together in a big house, spent time in the sky village, took the sky lift to the top of the mountain, went on some hikes, and visited the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains. We look forward to having another child with us on our adventures.



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