



Hello We Are...



Kristi & Brent

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## Our Hopes & Dreams

It is our dream to share our lives with a child. We can't wait to hear a child's laughter in our home and tiny footsteps running through the rooms. We want our child to have a happy and fulfilling life. We will nurture and support their growth into the incredible human we know he/she will become. Our child will grow up surrounded in unconditional love.

We have a large family close both in proximity and in our personal connections to one another. Our child will grow up around great-aunts, great-uncles, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Generations of our families have grown up in the area. Many of us still live here today. We will make sure our child has everything he/she needs.

Our neighborhood is quiet and close to Kristi's childhood home. Our house sits at the end of a dead-end street with no traffic. In the quiet evenings, the neighborhood kids ride bikes and play catch together in the street. We envision our child learning to ride a bike and playing alongside the other children. We imagine taking our child to the numerous parks near our home to run free and to climb trees, to splash around at the local splash pad, to learn to swim at the public pool and sledding at the golf course next door in the winter.

Our favorite memory from when we were dating is the trip we took to Colorado. We stayed in a cabin in the mountains. We did some sight-seeing but we mostly spent time at the cabin, just the two of us. We look forward to taking similar trips with our children.

We have a small 12 pound dog named Chewy. He is gentle with little ones. As well as always being ready to run, jump and play with the older kids. Chewy will love having a "child of his own".

Together as a family we will swim, fish, and camp at the nearby lakes. We will take bike rides as a family, make music together, play board games, and enjoy food from our garden. We will also take small family adventures together. Brent and his dad will teach our child to love music while Kristi teaches him/her to cook. Our favorite time of day at home is usually dinner time. We always gather together for dinner time sharing stories about our day. Our highs and lows, triumphs and failures. Discussing dreams of future projects to work on together as a family and planning our next great journey.

When we learned that we couldn't have biological children it was devastating but we leaned on each other and we have become a stronger couple. There isn't anything that we can't face together. We believe that everything happens for a reason and our faith plays a big role in that.

We want our child to grow up knowing you. We will tell our child every day how much you love him/her. We look forward to sharing this life with you.

Respectfully,

Kristi & Brent

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**OPEN-MINDED** - We believe it is our differences that makes this world so unique and beautiful. We will create opportunities for our child to experience new environments and culture. Fostering a sense of universal acceptance and respect. We plan on teaching this through our daily actions as well as by teaching by example.

**WORK ETHIC** - Hard work pays off. We learned it is much more rewarding to work for what we have in life. As kids, we both had daily chores which gave us structure and made us more grateful for the possessions we had growing up. We also believe a good balance between work and fun gives you the opportunity to enjoy life to its fullest. We will teach this by giving our child age appropriate chores around the house, such as picking up their toys or helping fold clothes. After they complete the tasks asked of them we will all celebrate their accomplishments to enforce the pride and joy that comes from a completed job well done.

**COMMUNICATION** - We believe that as a family it is crucial to have open communication and to feel comfortable to speak honestly. Sharing our thoughts and feelings on a daily basis helps us learn and grow as a family. When we share about our failures as well as our successes we learn that it is okay to get things wrong sometimes. Through this communication we have the opportunity to love and encourage our child. To give them guidance to help them grow as an individual. It is our goal to have a home where everyone feels comfortable to express themselves and share everything going on in their day to day lives.

**EDUCATION** - We don't believe in expecting perfection in others, however, we do want our child to try their best. A good education gives you the opportunity to fulfill your dreams and goals and live a full happy life. As kids both our parents were very involved and encouraging of our school work and taught us to continue to learn and try new things. As parents we will be fully supportive of our child's school work, and also help them learn outside of school. At home we will always help with homework when needed and encourage our children to try new things. We will also expand their learning with any extracurricular activity they show interest in. Whether it be learning a musical instrument, art, cooking, or a trade such as wood working.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS** - We have a great support network of family and friends. We enjoy experiencing life together, whether it is just going for lunch or getting together as a large group for holidays and special occasions. The excitement and support they have shown about our adoption has made us realize what an important role they will play in our child's life.



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### HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Baking, gardening and landscaping, making crafts, watching movies, home improvements, taking walks, going to craft shows and flea markets, playing pool, playing cards and board games

**Adoptive Father:** Playing drums and guitar, woodworking in basement workshop, watching sports and movies, home improvements, riding dirt bikes and four-wheelers, golfing, playing pool, playing cards and darts

### PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Accounting  
**Adoptive Father:** Loadout

### EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Associates Degree  
**Adoptive Father:** Some College

### PLUS:

- One family dog

# Our Home

In the short time we've lived in this house we've worked hard to create a warm and inviting atmosphere. Our forever home. Pictures of our family and friends line the walls. Natural light flows in from the windows pulling you closer to gaze out into the beautiful world outside. Our living room comes complete with the cuddle master, Chewy. He welcomes everyone that comes to our home sharing a little secret of his own - where the treats are located.

A lot of things for the baby are being passed down to our child from our family. Know this is so precious to us. The cradle our child will use was passed down to us. Kristi's paternal grandpa started making the cradle for her aunt and uncle before he passed away. The first baby to use this cradle was adopted. Kristi's aunt made her a blanket when she was little. Kristi has been saving the blanket in her cedar chest to one day pass down to her child. Kristi's maternal grandparents passed down a mini portable crib to her brother, who has now passed it down to us. We will keep the mini crib in our bedroom so the baby can be close for the first months. It means a lot to us knowing that we will be able to have our child so close during those very important first months of his/her life. Knowing that our family is passing down so many memories, providing us the ability to make our own memories fills our hearts with the most unbelievable comfort.

We love to have people over to our house. When the weather is warm enough we spend time outside with friends and family, their kids running around and playing in joyful commotion. The memories of great times had and better times in the making springs to the forefront of our brains with the first spark of the grill each year. In the winter we usually gather in the kitchen while we prepare a meal. We also spend time in our basement living room where the adults can relax and visit together as the kids have plenty of room to play with toys, color and play games. We look forward to the day our own child is able to run around and play with his/her new friends and family at our feet.

We look forward to the days when we as a family cook our favorite meal, roast beef with mashed potatoes and gravy, together. We love this meal because it takes the whole family to make it. Brent peels the potatoes, then stirs the gravy that Kristi made. Kristi mashes the potatoes as the entire house fills with the aroma of a home cooked meal. We are excited to teach our child how to cook. Laughter filling the halls of our house. Giving them a little task of their own to help with the cooking process. We look forward to gathering every evening at our table. We can't wait for the stories we will share about our days. The moments when we can encourage our child on the things they succeeded at that day while helping them overcome the obstacles they encountered.



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# Our Family

Kristi's friend had been trying to set us up for a while. Kristi kept refusing, saying that Brent was too young. One night in January we were both out with friends when Kristi's friend introduced us. We went out on our first date a month after being introduced. Brent took Kristi to a local steak house for dinner. We then went to play a few games of pool and really hit it off. Our second date was the following evening. We have been together since 2010. We dated for five years before getting married.

One night while sitting outside in front of the fire pit Brent proposed with the ring he and Kristi had designed together. The ring with the diamond from Kristi's Great-Great Aunt's own engagement ring. Kristi's Mother had been saving the ring for exactly this moment.

Brent is quick witted, realistic, practical, even tempered and loving. Kristi is optimistic, caring, sentimental, humorous and fun loving. We feel it is a great strength of ours that we can sometimes be complete opposites as a couple. Brent is more realistic while Kristi is more of a dreamer.

Our parents still live in the houses where we grew up. Kristi's parents live about five blocks away and Brent's parents live about 15 minutes away in the country. While growing up both of us spent a lot of time with our grandparents. As our children grow up they will be able to spend a lot of time with their Grandparents as well.

There are a few traditions that we plan on continuing as a family. Almost every Saturday during football season we watch our favorite team play. Our dog Chewy wears his jersey. We also like listening to music both at home and going to concerts.

Every year we decorate our Christmas tree the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving. Brent brings the Christmas tree and decorations up from the basement. We watch a Christmas movie while we decorate the tree together. This past Christmas was our first in our new house. We hosted one of our four family Christmas' for the first time. We hope to continue that tradition in the years to come. We also look forward to continuing to host the Post Labor Day Reunion Grill Out for Brent's side of the family.

When Kristi's nieces and nephews were young her mom would fill a couple hundred Easter eggs with goodies. Kristi and her sister would hide the eggs all around their parents' yard. After the egg hunt there was always a silly string fight. Kristi still remembers the kids ganging up on her. She would be buried with silly string. We look forward to starting up that tradition again.

Everyone in our family has been over joyed and excited about adding another family member ever since we told them that we were planning to adopt a child. They love the idea of having a new baby in the family to love and care for. They look forward to showering them with gifts, affection, and support.



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