



Hello We Are...



Rachael & Brent

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Our Hopes & Dreams

Our greatest hope and dream is to adopt a child that we will love, nurture, go on adventures with, and create wonderful childhood memories.

We love children and guiding them through life. I am a youth leader at our church and have worked with children in foster care. Brent is a Special Education teacher, a passion discovered later in life. Throughout our dating, engagement, and marriage we talked about having children and always considered adoption. We have seen the beauty of adoption through our family members and friends who were adopted or- who have adopted children.

However, it's not lost on us that for us to become parents through adoption, a mother must make an adoption plan. We may never fully understand what this decision is like for you, but we hope that if you select us to raise your child, you will remain in the child's and our lives.

We have a vision of a home that is filled with joy, laughter, and where everyone feels welcome and a part of our family. We dream of traveling with our family- to Spain to visit Rachael's Aunt and cousins, spending time at Grandpa's lake cabin, camping with our friends, driving across the state to watch college football games, and spending time at the ocean exploring the beach.

Most of all we want your child to feel loved. We will provide our child a home where they feel safe, loved, and encouraged. We will provide everything that he/she needs monetarily while teaching the importance of being financially responsible. We will teach him/her valuable life lessons of honesty, compassion, and responsibility. We want your child to have wonderful childhood memories of spending quality time with his/her cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

We will never fully know the emotions and feelings that you are having, but we hope through this process that you may find peace. We are two very loving and compassionate people who will always honor and respect the choice you made.

Sincerely,

Rachael & Brent

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - We both grew up in families where faith was lived as an important value and continues to be an important aspect in our lives. We attend church weekly where Brent volunteers as an usher, and Rachael serves as the youth minister. Our faith will be a part of our family and nurtured in our children through prayer and worship. We pray with each other and live our faith through service. We give food to the food bank, clothing and toys to children in need, and donate to the less fortunate. Our child's faith will be nurtured and he/she will be encouraged to make it their own.

LOVE - We want our child to know that they are loved, every day of their life. Love knows no bounds. We display love for others through acts of service, words of affirmation, spending quality time with friends and family. We aspire to display "agape" love, Greek for the highest form of love, which is selfless and sacrificial, every day to our friends and family.

FAMILY - Family is a focal point of our lives. Our greatest memories are shared family experiences at the lake, attending their sporting events and ballet recitals, having dinners, or just hanging out together. We want our child to know, see, and experience the peace and joy that comes with having a network of family to lean on and support him/her. This child will grow up with aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents that will be an integral part of their life. To be his/her champion, cheer him/her on, to play with and to explore the world with.

EDUCATION - Brent is a teacher and Rachael was raised by two teachers. Both of our parents and all of our siblings have college degrees. We understand the importance of education and supporting our child to be the best student they can be. We will be committed to giving our child access to all the resources and programs needed for their educational success. Our hope is that they will choose to go to college, but we know college is not for everybody. In the end, our child's happiness and well-being is what matters most. In whatever ways they obtain that, we will be there supporting them!

COMPASSION - Our careers have exposed us to situations and individuals who are in need. We will teach our child the importance of service and that there are many ways we can display our gifts to the world. We will encourage our child to be sympathetic and empathetic towards others. By cultivating and modeling compassion, we will be teaching our child the importance of putting others' needs first, understanding, and selflessness.

COMMUNICATION - We have built an incredible marriage and partnership, in large part, by sharing open communication which has led to greater trust, respect, and honesty. Having honest communication is essential in any relationship. We want our child to know they can come to us with anything. We want him/her to know that they are valued and have a voice. We want our child to become their own person, use their voice to advocate for themselves so they have the freedom to make choices in their life.



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HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: I enjoy learning and trying new things, such as making and painting wood signs and dying and arranging wood flowers. I also enjoy baking bread, cookies and cinnamon rolls, sewing, gardening, making Shutterfly memory books, and photography. I love to travel, swim, and play board and card games.

Adoptive Father: I enjoy playing golf, watching movies and sporting events, and going to musicals and plays with Rachael. I enjoy traveling, doing various types of puzzles, such as Sudoku and jigsaw puzzles. I am actively involved with my school, participate in sporting events and run a school club.

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Youth Minister

Adoptive Father: Special Education Teacher

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

Our Home

Our home truly represents who we are – open and friendly. It's a place we always welcome family and friends, a place to gather. We prefer that they just stop by. An invite, call, or a knock is not necessary. We truly have an open door policy.

When we bought our home, it was a blank slate. We have brought the outdoors to life with bushes, flower beds, window boxes, and our favorite pink Dogwood tree, and areas to share time with friends and family like our table on the deck for meals, a fire pit for roasting marshmallows, yard for games, and swimming pool for splashing all while listening to music playing on the outdoor speakers. It's the perfect place to connect and relax.

Like the outdoors space, the indoor space is inviting. We have an open floor plan, comfortable furniture, and beautiful views of the mountains. Our walls are decorated with pictures of family and friends, our wedding, and travel adventures. The dining room table is special to us – not only because Brent's grandfather gave it to us as a wedding present, but also because this is where we gather with friends and family to share meals like our Christmas Eve family dinner, and play games. In the kitchen, we have a gorgeous butcher block island that we use to prep our meals and for Rachael's baking adventures.

The neighborhood is peaceful and friendly, yet active with kids riding their bikes and scooters. There are three parks nearby where families gather to play and have picnics. The elementary school and middle school are just blocks away. We are a short walk to the downtown area that features local eateries, breweries, and shops. Families line both sides of the streets for our three local parades each year for the 4th of July, Homecoming, and Christmas, and in July the fair comes to town. There is also a beautiful walking trail with a view of the mountain.

The weekend allows us to spend quality time with each other. We sit down to eat with one another every night for dinner and for breakfast on the weekends. One of our favorite meals we like to make at home is fajitas either with chicken or steak that has been marinated overnight. This meal is one of our favorites because it is easy, has great flavor, and reminds us of the time we spent with our friends and family.

We look forward to our life with a child and how our home will change and grow with a child. It's more like us being incorporated into their life and their schedule. Reading together, playing in the yard and parks, swimming in the pool, digging in the gardens, exploring the trails, and baking and cooking together. We are excited to develop special memories together and give him/her a foundation of beliefs and faith for life. We look forward to him/her being their own unique person and adding warmth and love to our life!



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Our Family

We met through eHarmony, an online dating service. Brent planned the perfect first date - we went to a brewery for dinner and then a paint night. This was a great way for us to get to know each other in person and now we have two matching paintings to remember it. We have been together ever since, building the foundation for a beautiful marriage and family.

Brent has a big heart, a great sense of humor, humility, and the compassion to forgive and reconcile. He has a desire to learn, and can have a meaningful conversation with anyone. He is a great husband, son, brother, and uncle. Rachael has a great personality that people are drawn to. She is loving, thoughtful, sincere, and understanding. She has a tremendous amount of faith and supports those who are in need. She enjoys life and is up for anything fun. Our strengths as a couple is our deep and honest communication, true friendship, mutual respect, and the daily joy we share.

We enjoy everything we do together - spending time in our yard while listening to music, cooking, watching movies, seeing Broadway plays, attending sporting events, going to social events and traveling. We love to travel and get out and see the world. We are fortunate enough to have the ability to travel to fun places and experience different cultures.

We see our relationship as fate in bringing two families together that were meant to be. Both of our parents have been married for more than 40 years. Rachael's dad and Brent's mom were born in the same hospital just days apart. Brent's grandmother was Rachael's dad and uncles' 5th grade teacher. Rachael's brother and Brent's brother-in-law are BFFs. We love being the hub that connects our families. It helps us live life as one family, rather than two.

We are always happy to spend time together. We stop by each other's homes to help with a project or just to say hello. We share Sunday dinner together, attend our nephew's activities, and vacation together. Brent's grandpa has a lake house where we enjoy swimming, playing Pickleball, boating, and relaxation. We are very close to our nephews and frequently have them with us for a day or even a week.

Our favorite holiday together is when we do a Christmas Cabin for a weekend. It's a weekend of favorite foods, playing fun games as a family, decorating Christmas cookies, getting our Christmas PJ's and having a family photo with them on. On Christmas Eve we host family dinner and gift exchange with both of our families before we head to Church. We love that our families enjoy spending time with one another, and we are thankful to host it every year.

Our family is beyond excited to welcome another person into the network of support! Our parents can't wait to have another grandchild, our siblings another niece or nephew, and our nieces and nephews can't wait to have another cousin to add into the mix.



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