

Hello We Are...



Kevin & Dani

Graceful 
Adoptions™



Our Hopes & Dreams

Are to parent, love, support & encourage a child so that they can lead a life of deep joy.

Dani has always dreamed of adopting. With multiple family members who were adopted, adoption has always been an equally valued way of growing families. When we didn't get pregnant right away, we knew infertility treatments weren't for us. After listening to Dani talk about adoption, soon adoption became Kevin's dream as well.

We will offer a child a home in which they feel secure, important, and connected. We will strive to have authentic relationships with our child, and for them to feel comfortable talking with us about absolutely anything. We are excited to give our child many opportunities to try new activities to discover what they enjoy. We will offer our child a solid community of friends and support throughout their life. We look forward to celebrating their milestones and achievements, and comforting them when they are hurt. We can't wait to watch them grow and develop skills and find the things that make them come alive.

We have been prayerfully considering adoption for years. While we can never fully grasp the meaning of adoption for a birth mother and her child, we are committed to continually learning about the experiences of birth families and adoptees. We listen to podcasts and read books by birth moms and adoptees to help us learn more ways to support you and our child. We value other people's perspectives and look forward to learning from you.

If you select us as the adoptive parents for your child, we are committed to building a relationship with you. We want you to have confidence you are making the best decision for your child, yourself, and your family. In this, we want you to feel free to ask us any questions to truly get to know us as a family. We hope that our openness and honesty will make you feel welcome and embraced as part of our family for the rest of our lives. We hold you with the highest respect. We pray for the Holy Spirit to draw near to you and comfort you.

Warmly,

Kevin & Dani

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

VULNERABILITY - Real relationships require vulnerability. For us, this means a radical openness with each other about what is going on in our hearts and a high level of respect for one another's perspectives, even when we may share something difficult. We hope that our child will feel connected and valued enough to always share their wants, fears, and hopes with us. We will strive to make our child feel that they are heard and what they say matters. This means focusing our feedback on our child's motivation rather than their actions alone, so their feelings may be validated.



PLAYFULNESS - Playfulness makes every day brighter! As adults, it is easy to lose sight of being playful in the midst of daily life, so we intentionally encourage each other to be a little silly and not take ourselves too seriously. We have the reputation of being the fun aunt and uncle who will get on the floor to play horsey, have dance parties, and perform puppet karaoke. Kevin's favorite time of day is in the evening when we play with our pet bunnies. We will play with our child daily by going for walks, visiting the park and playground, playing with our rabbits, swimming in the summer, and playing in the snowbanks in the winter.

FORGIVENESS - We know that no one is perfect and we don't pretend to be. Our goal in our relationships is to always seek forgiveness when we make mistakes. Even when it's hard to admit we were wrong, we trust each other enough to seek real reconciliation. As a parent, we know we will make mistakes and will ask our child to forgive us, too. We want our child to see us admit our mistakes and ask for forgiveness, so they can do the same. We don't intend to force our child to apologize when they don't feel sorry. We want them to develop a true understanding of forgiveness, rather than just going through the motions to appease others.



LEARNING - Learning enriches our lives. We seek to continue learning through our hobbies, experiencing life, traveling, and reading. Traveling throughout the US, Brazil, and Italy for choir helped us learn about different people and cultures. We will encourage our child to learn through our daily activities like going for walks, reading together, coloring, and putting puzzles together. He or she will help us in the garden and learn about planting and picking squash, tomatoes, and green beans. We will visit the petting zoo, just feet from our house, to learn animal noises and see them grow.



LOVE - We believe the best relationships are built on purposeful, unconditional, and sacrificial love which is modeled after the love of Jesus Christ. We each seek to put the other person before ourselves, and will do that for our child as well. We believe in unconditional parenting - when our child asks, "Why do you love me?" our answer will likely be "We love you because you are our child, no matter what happens or what you do." We will, of course, discuss the specific aspects of our child that we most delight in, since it is important for children to hear those words of affirmation. However, we will strive to keep those affirmations separate from the "why" question. We will love our child because they are our child.

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Our Home

Our neighborhood is very peaceful. The neighborhood is full of beautiful and well-cared for yards, walkable paths, and diverse architecture. Our backyard ends at a city park with a petting zoo, swimming pool, multiple playgrounds, wooded hiking trails, tennis courts, and a community garden. We often see children on the playgrounds and swimming at the pool. About a mile away is the cultural center of the city with many local restaurants, an outdoor concert venue, and a couple of museums. We look forward to taking our child to all these places.

We have a big grassy hill behind our house, which will be great for running on, rolling down, and sledding in the winter. We have an expanding garden in the back yard and a patio. Dani's favorite time is in the morning when she goes out to check on the garden. It reminds her of her time at the lake as a kid being out in nature. She loves seeing the progress of the many growing plants and looks forward to sharing this time and new discoveries with our child.

We are committed to spending quality time with our child. He or she will go with us on walks in the neighborhood and have play time with toys, games, books, and crafts in the living room. We'll walk to the playground and through the woods behind our house and socialize with other families. In the winter, we imagine our child will play in the large snowbanks in our front yard while we shovel the driveway.

Our home is comfortable and meant to be lived in. The warm colors, soft surfaces, and wood accents, with lots of places to sit and relax, make it feel homey. We've made our home flexible to fit our needs, so sometimes the dining room table transforms into a creative space for whatever activity we are working on. We have four house rabbits that we enjoy playing with in the evenings.

A visit from family or friends usually includes a home-cooked meal. One of our go-to dinners is honey parmesan pork loin roast, made in the crock pot. It has never failed us yet, so we often serve it when we have guests over. Recently, our friends' 11-year-old daughter asked us and her parents if she could drink the glaze Dani makes for it. Her parents told her no, but we couldn't fault her for asking - the glaze is THAT good. When we have time, we love to fit in a board game or card game (Euchre is a favorite), but we often find just chatting after the meal will carry us through an evening.

The nursery is not yet decorated, but we are planning to have a vintage woodland animal theme. The crib will be in our master bedroom so that we can easily move the crib next to our bed. We are excited to see our child learn new skills or abilities for the first time, especially learning new words. We look forward to learning what he or she likes and dislikes, and watching their personality develop.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Gardening, home improvement projects, singing, reading (theology and travel), Lord of the Rings, mountain hiking, camping, bird watching, traveling, caring for our rabbits, and listening to music.

Adoptive Father: Singing, playing guitar, reading (fantasy and sci-fi), Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, caring for our rabbits, walking, and hiking.

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Civil Engineer

Adoptive Father: Engineering Project Assistant

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Master's Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelor's Degree

PLUS:

- Family rabbits
- Both non-smokers



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Our Family

We met in college in 2009, had many of the same friends, and somehow managed to not really get to know one another until a few years later! We started dating after we both attended an annual Christmas caroling event and had a very good conversation. After leaving, Dani pulled out her phone to text Kevin to say thank you for the conversation, only to find he had already sent the same message to her. We love spending time together and are happily married.

We met in choir and have traveled across the United States, Brazil, and Italy with our choir. We got engaged while on a choir tour in Italy. Kevin enjoys playing the guitar, and we both love music. Whether we continue touring or not, there will always be music in our home.

Dani is quick-witted, hard-working and is always ready to share a laugh or a joke. Kevin is the rock in their relationship - his steadiness and patience will be comforting to our child. As a family, our biggest strength is our commitment to a true connection with one another. We seek to believe the best about one another, and always give each other the benefit of the doubt. We put in the effort to work through any misunderstanding.

We see our extended family regularly spending time "creating", helping around their home, or simply spending quality time together. We also get together with Dani's side of the family for a cookie baking extravaganza one weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with a record total of 92 dozen cookies made last year. We then distribute the cookies to friends and family.

We are particularly excited for taking our child camping in our tent when he or she is old enough to enjoy it. We also look forward to starting the usual holiday traditions of opening presents on Christmas, talking about what we are thankful for on Thanksgiving, celebrating Christ's resurrection on Easter, and remembering relatives and friends who have passed on Memorial Day. We also have the weekly tradition of Sunday worship with our church, which our child will be included in. We also plan to start traditions based around the child's interests, whether that would be band concerts, soccer games, or anything else.

We know our families are very excited for a new child to join our family. Aunts and uncles are asking for a niece or nephew, and their children will be delighted to have a new cousin. Kevin's parents are very involved with their other three grandchildren, and will be thrilled for another grandchild. Our child will be Dani's dad's first grandchild, and he has always loved kids. Our child will be very welcomed in our family.

We are so thankful that you are taking the time to read our profile to get to know us. We hope to provide a wonderful home and family if you choose for us to adopt your child. We are thinking of you, praying for you, and can't wait to meet you!



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