

Hello We Are...



Steve and Vincent

Graceful  
Adoptions™ 



## Our Hopes & Dreams

We are an ambitious, funny, and loving couple who strive to live life to its fullest while protecting our natural resources for the next generation. Our hopes and dreams are to share our amazing life and experiences with a child.

Our adoption decision developed while we were dating. We both knew we wanted to be parents. While on a trip together, before we were engaged, we were discussing children's names, parenting thoughts, and sharing stories about our desire to provide for a child - it's just integral to who each of us are.

We will offer your child our time and attention, where acceptance and honesty lead to healthy and open communication. We will make sure your child feels comfortable in their own skin, learning to feel self-value regardless of their material surroundings. We will offer your child the education of life experience in addition to formal schooling. Your child will be deeply loved, cherished, and very well taken care of.

We are overjoyed to be in this process and to meet you for the first time. We also are grounded in the gravity of this decision, and we respect the journey you're going through. It is very important to us that you are at peace and feel secure in your decision. We hope to add not only your child, but you, to our family and want you to know that we look forward to developing a healthy relationship with you so that your child will always know that you love them.

Warmest Wishes,

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**FINDING HUMOR IN LIFE** - We believe it's important to be able to laugh and enjoy even the small things. A sense of humor can be a great line of defense when it comes to facing challenges. We don't sweat the small stuff, constantly joke with each other, and try to look at things from more than one perspective. For example, we recently considered what was going on in our cat's mind when it knocked a vase off the table and were able to joke about it. We'll teach your child how to take things lightly. Spilling their milk is an opportunity to clean the table and/or floor, a fall is an opportunity to wear their favorite character on a band aid. We will take breaks to have fun, play card games, video games, build model cars or toys, and learn new things together.

**EXPERIENCING THE WORLD** - The world is full of different people, places, customs, and experiences. We believe in expanding our exposure to new experiences that enrich our lives and deepens our understanding of those around us. Exposure to different cultures early in childhood is one way to become a well-rounded and accepting person. We travel regularly even if just to visit an art exhibit at a local museum or visiting another country for a planned trip. We will include your child on these adventures, making travel and interaction with different cultures a normal part of life.

**TAKING CARE OF THE WORLD AROUND US** - We want our child to grow up in a world which is livable, equitable, and just, therefore we take measures to conserve resources, reduce waste, recycle, and enjoy nature whenever we can. We don't spray for dandelions in our lawn or use other harsh chemicals, we've established a pollinator garden, and will teach your child how we compost. This will be part of the child's day to day experience growing up, they will donate gently used toys, learn to care for their pets, share their toys, and drink water from reusable cups rather than plastic bottles.

**ACCEPTING OTHERS** - The world is full of diverse individuals all trying to make sense of what's going on around them. It's easy to impose our own view on those around us, thinking that our point of view is more important, more insightful, or more enlightened than those with differing opinions. However, we believe differences make us better and we should celebrate our uniqueness. We try to use a logical approach when we disagree with others. We will teach your child to develop their own opinions, love others from different backgrounds, and be compassionate.

**PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** - Personal responsibility includes self-discipline, maintaining someone's trust, being respectful to others, taking care of our things, and being dependable. Taking personal responsibility is a commitment that builds character, defines how other people see us, as well as how we handle challenging situations. Everyone makes mistakes. It's what we do when we make mistakes that really matters. We will show your child that we admit our mistakes and apologize when we hurt someone's feelings. We will teach your child to treat their friends kindly, use an "indoor voice" when they are upset, pick-up after themselves, and to be honest. We will model these for your child and give unconditional love no matter what your child goes through.

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### HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Parent:** Ponds, tattoos, travel, hiking, adventurer, gardening, conservationist, concerts, playing with our cats and dogs, reading, comedy and spending time with others.

**Adoptive Parent:** Video games, playing sports, exercise, travel, learning other languages, computer programming, model cars, playing cards, cooking and spending time with others.

### PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Parent:** Realtor

**Adoptive Parent:** Director of Program Management

### EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Parent:** Associates Degree

**Adoptive Parent:** Masters Degree

### PLUS:

- Family dogs
- Both non-smokers

# Our Home

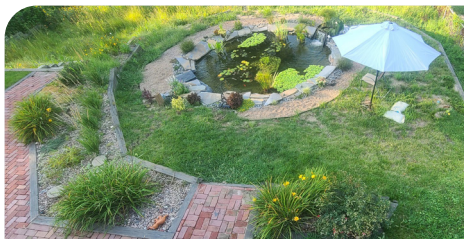
We live in a great diverse family-oriented neighborhood surrounded by parks and open green spaces. There are baseball, softball, and soccer fields, tennis courts, and paths for biking and walking. There is also a golf course, mall, movie theater, dozens of restaurants, a rock climbing and a trampoline gym, as well as an amusement and water park close by. This past spring, there was an event at the park down the street where the kids competed in games such as carrying eggs on spoons and three-legged sack races. It was fun to watch, we can't wait for our child to join the other kids in our neighborhood activities.

Our home represents who we are, what is important to us, and how we spend our time. The backyard is perfect for entertaining, enjoying quiet time, playing with the dogs, and taking care of nature. There are multiple decks where we like to sit when the weather is nice. The backyard has a ton of space including prairie grasses and wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and a Koi Pond. We can't wait for your child to splash in the pond, chase butterflies, and help feed the fish.

We experience our most treasured moments when our house is full of people. Our place is great for having friends and family over, and we do it whenever we can. There is a great flow through the house with several gathering places that all connect to the backyard. People like our collections of books, sci-fi and fantasy movies, and video games including Super Mario and Minecraft. We look forward to having toys and crafts for your child to enjoy throughout our house. People feel at ease pulling up a chair to the kitchen island which is one of our favorite gathering places, hanging out in the living room, or heading downstairs where we have game and movie nights with friends. Our families and friends will welcome another child to the family. We will play board games with your child, watch Disney movies, and explore things that interest your child.

We look forward to all the changes a child will bring to our lives and home, especially the opportunity to give more of ourselves to someone else. The child's bedroom has great natural light and has light walls and is carpeted. It is just steps from the master bedroom. The room will include a crib, a chair so we can rock the child to sleep every night, a small lamp so that we can read stories, and a white noise machine along with all the child's clothes, books, and toys.

We believe free play time is important, especially outdoors. Playtime can also be time for fun projects and an opportunity to learn. As the child becomes older, we hope to have age-appropriate STEM-related project kits regularly. Screen time will be kept to a minimum to encourage our child to explore their interests and their creativity. Organized sports will be an option if our child desires - we've played on softball and volleyball leagues as adults and enjoy exercising. We're both fans of hiking and walking through nature and look forward to our child exploring nature with us.



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# Our Family

We met more than seven years ago. Steve heard Vincent speaking with a group of people and liked that he seemed self-assured and confident. We waited for a year to start dating, but in the meantime, we spent time together with mutual friends, such as when we went to watch a solar eclipse. We dated for about three years prior to getting married.

Our relationship is based on mutual trust, love, and respect. We are both men of principles and ethics and are dedicated to contributing positively to our community. We both have a great sense of humor and enjoy making each other laugh and have fun. We are supportive of one another and help each other achieve our goals. We are both learners and enjoy sharing what we know.

Our common interests go beyond our values, we enjoy traveling, gardening, landscaping, watching movies, cooking, entertaining, walking our dogs, and spending time at home together and with our friends and family. We communicate openly and honestly with each other and have a strong friendship and marriage.

We hope to raise a secure and confident child by providing them a stable home, being warm and responsive to their feelings, and encouraging them to explore their individual interests. As parents, we believe we need to adapt our parenting styles and strategies to the unique personality and needs of each child to ensure they feel the support they need. We hope to be strong role models and serve as good examples for your child. We will be affectionate and nurturing hands-on parents!

We will vacation regularly as we have a timeshare which can be used around the world. We will visit amusement parks and have birthday trips as Vincent did when he was growing up. We will start a tradition of volunteering during the summer where the whole family can take time off and go somewhere to where we can be of service to others. We will celebrate birthdays and holidays with our friends and family, celebrating Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas as well as Passover with our Jewish friends. We would love to have a child join our family and be the center of our world.



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