



Hello We Are...



Jen & Dwayne

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Our Hopes & Dreams

We are very happy as individuals and as a couple. We have worked hard to be where we are today and continue to dream of where we will be in the future. A dream that has been on our hearts for many years is to be parents. Adoption is a part of who we are. Jen's father was adopted and hearing his story as a young child changed her. Then, when she was growing up, her parents adopted her sister. For as long as she can remember, she has dreamed of one day adopting a child. Now, Dwayne's sister and her husband are in the process of adopting. We are so excited for adoption to become part of our family story too.

We do not take this decision lightly and put much time and prayer into making sure we are ready for this wonderful step. We dream of being a mom and dad. Both of us feel blessed to be raised in homes where our parents got along and cared for each other and still do today. We want the same for our child. We will provide a home that is stable and connected, where love and laughter fill our days, and where growth and exploration is encouraged.

We dream of living in a place with a little farm where our child has pets and learns to care for animals. We dream of the hobbies our child may pick to enjoy, and celebrate with them at recitals, games, or contests. We dream of reading bedtime stories and giving good night snuggles. It is exciting to imagine the new interests and adventures another person will bring into our life.

For you, we want you to have peace in your heart and be filled with hope. If you select us to parent your child, we know that our connection will be forever! We appreciate this connection and look forward to understanding the future you desire for your child.

Warmest Wishes,

Jen & Dwayne

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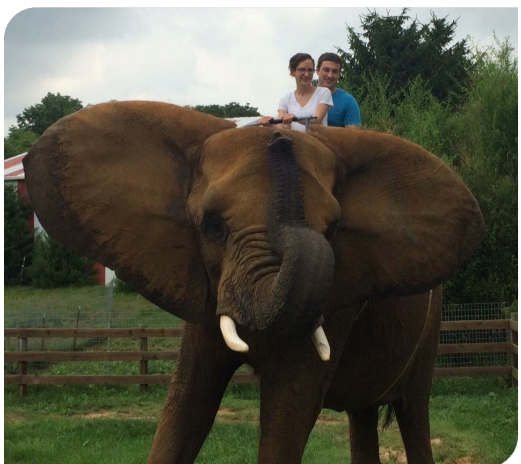
Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - Faith has been a part of our lives from an early age. Our faith in God has gotten us through challenging times and brought us peace. Our faith has made us better, more loving people, has taught us to help others around us, and to always show compassion. We attend church regularly and view our church as a large extended family. Our church family has come together to support us and celebrated with us in the hope of becoming parents. We feel such love. We look forward to taking your child to church events and creating opportunities for them to build lasting friendships with other children in our church family.



POSITIVITY - We strive to prioritize good memories, adventures, and time together over material things. We enjoy trips for ice cream, a walk in the park, or doing a chore together instead of alone. We believe that life is full of choices and kind people. Making the choice to find the good in people and laugh in any situation is what makes us more positive and happier. We will teach your child that mistakes happen, looking at it in a positive manner becomes a teachable moment. We will be silly and not sweat the small stuff. Instead, we will focus on what was the best thing that happened today. Having a positive outlook gives us all strength.

HONESTY - It is important for us to have integrity - to be honest, dependable, kind, and respectful in our actions and words. We believe that with trust and honesty we can work through anything together. In our marriage we are committed to being honest, dependable, loving and respectful with and to each other. For a child that joins our family, we believe the best parent- child relationship is based on trust and respect. We grew up in this type of environment and we want that in our family as well. We want your child to know that they can always come to us with any question, fear, or dream and we will have their backs and move forward together.



EDUCATION - We are both first generation college graduates and believe education, traditional or non-traditional, empowers individuals and opens doors. Our parents supported us pursuing our dreams and we will do the same for our child. There are many paths to being a successful and happy adult. That path is not necessarily paved by going to college, but we believe in studying, working hard, and to be the best one can at a craft, trade, or occupation. To inspire your child, from a young age we will expose them to ideas, history, traditions, educational pursuits, hobbies, and nature to help them develop their interests and pursue their own dreams.

FAMILY - We both grew up in close knit families with our aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents involved in our lives. That is what we want for our family as well. We still enjoy weekend brunch at Jen's parent's home followed by time in their swimming pool or playing games. Our brothers, sisters, and parents are the people we go to with challenges and celebrations. Your child will play with their cousins, swim in their grandparent's pool, go on ice cream outings with their aunts and uncles, and have sleepovers with their cousins at grandma and grandpa's house. They will go fishing, horseback riding, and camping with their family and receive celebratory texts and calls on their first day of school, and any other special day they have!



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HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Baking, drinking coffee, hiking, flower gardening and flower arrangements, cake decorating, reading, canning, fishing, swimming, snowboarding, hiking, camping, traveling, being a teacher, online scrapbooking, and games nights with family and friends.

Adoptive Father: Gardening, fishing, hiking, swimming, tubing, camping, wood working, time with family and friends, cooking and grilling, learning and studying to help others, trying new foods, and training my dog.

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Kindergarten Teacher

Adoptive Father: Counseling/ Graduate Student

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelors Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelors Degree

PLUS:

- Family dogs
- Both non-smokers

Our Home

We both grew up in the country, yet when we first moved to this area we lived in town. As we considered growing our family, we knew we wanted the country lifestyle. We missed the quiet evenings away from the noise and traffic. We wanted space for our children to be outside and to have fresh air. We wanted to have wide open space for chickens to wander and gardens to grow.

That is exactly what we did. We now live on more than two acres in a small subdivision in the country with beautiful views of the sunsets and green hills. The noise and traffic is replaced with deer, squirrels, and birds that we see everyday, and each Spring the baby fawns play in the yard behind our house.

We have a large garden where we grow potatoes, green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, corn, onions, etc., and herbs like basil, oregano, and parsley that we use for cooking. We even grow chamomile that we use to make tea. We also have a chicken coup with five chickens that lay fresh eggs. When we aren't home they stay in an enclosed area, but if we are home they roam around the yard. Our home is a place where a child will have the opportunity to explore nature, let their imaginations go wild, and have more than enough room to run and play.

We have wonderful neighbors with children who get together to jump on the trampoline, play on the swing set, or swim in the neighbor's pool. There is a wooded area on our land where the children make forts and have a great time exploring. Every morning parents walk their children down the gravel road to wait for their school bus.

There are many restaurants, parks, and child-friendly festivals nearby. We imagine one of our favorites will be a new area where there are soccer fields, a walking trail, baseball diamonds, and a playground – right next to an ice cream shop and an indoor trampoline park. There is also a water park, ski slope, and a national forest with miles of hiking trails close by. Whatever we are interested in, we can generally find it near our home.

We built our home to allow in lots of sunlight and enjoy the views of nature around us. Our home is a relaxing and comfortable place to create good memories with family and friends. We typically host evenings to watch hockey and football games. Food is always a part of our events, even if it's just s'mores around the campfire. I think Friends-giving is one of our favorite times. Dwayne smokes the turkey, Jen makes sides, mashed potatoes, dressing, and the whole traditional Thanksgiving meal with our friends. We love hosting everyone, decorating and making special fun bags for each of the kids.

We are most excited about exploring nature with your child, especially pumpkin patches, jumping in fallen leaves, feeding the birds, watering the flowers, and making snow cones and snowmen. We look forward to hearing the laughter of a child, playing family games on a cold winter night, and reading bedtime stories together.



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Our Family

We met in college when Dwayne was a sophomore and Jen was a senior. Dwayne had moved across the country for college, and coincidentally ended up at the same school Jen attended. Dwayne remembers seeing Jen studying one day and thinking how incredibly cute she was. He decided to talk to her and instantly felt so comfortable. She was smart, funny, loving, kind, incredibly beautiful, and loved to laugh. He fell really hard for her and feels strongly that he was supposed to move across the country to this specific college, just to meet Jen.

We instantly became friends. We dated for about a year before we got married. We both knew pretty early in our relationship that this was "the one." We fit together so seamlessly, and it just felt right. By the time we went on our first date, we already had such a strong friendship and felt so sure we were meant to be dating, Dwayne made the joke, "maybe we should just go get married tonight".

That was more than seven years ago and we have been laughing and totally comfortable together ever since. Dwayne never judges and always looks for ways to help others. He is a dreamer, a thinker, and can figure out a solution to any problem. Jen is usually more detailed and focused on the day to day. She is patient and naturally nurturing. As a couple we are a calm and happy unit. We work together on almost every task, meeting challenges with determination and a can-do attitude. We rely on each other for strength.

We both enjoy the outdoors so we like to go fishing, swimming, tubing, hiking, and camping. We also like to explore new areas so sometimes we just get in the car and drive. We have a jeep so often we will go drive up mountain roads just to see where we will end up. We also love good food and love to try new things. One year we decided that every time that we went out to eat we would go to a new place. We really enjoyed this and found some incredible places to eat.

For us, summers are pretty special. Jen, being a teacher, takes summers off. Dwayne saves his vacation to use during this time and we usually vacation for weeks at a time. Every summer we go on a vacation to Cape Hatteras to explore the beach, fish, soak in the sun, and eat seafood. We look forward to continuing this with our children which we are sure will include building sand castles and playing in the waves. We also go on a yearly camping trip with a group of friends and spend time hiking, eating, and sitting around a campfire making s'mores. This tradition started before anyone had children, now the group includes four small children, we look forward to our child joining this summer fun. We also visit family members who live out of state, so our entire summer is spent wrapped around our family and friends.

The holidays are also a time to celebrate with family and friends. Every Thanksgiving we get together with our extended family for a Thanksgiving feast. Dwayne enjoys smoking food and he smokes a turkey. After the meal the whole family plays the game Risk. At Christmas time, we go to the local tree farm, pick out our tree together, and make hot chocolate. Then with our favorite festive tunes, we decorate the tree together in our Christmas Pajamas. We cannot wait to add our little one to all these memories.



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