



Hello We Are...



Paula & Aaron

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Our Hopes & Dreams

The first few years of our marriage have been dedicated to growing together and merging ourselves into a family. After a few years of watching other close friends start and grow their families, both of us knew we wanted to expand our family and share the joys of raising children. We both want to provide a stable home for a child full of adventures, love, and laughter, and are committed to growing our family through adoption.

We understand there are many reasons for adopting and for making the decision to place a child for adoption. Each of us has experienced our own trials and tribulations that have shaped us into the people we are today. Our hope is to earn your trust and for you to take a leap of faith with us and give us the opportunity to raise your child.

We will expose our child to a wide array of experiences allowing them to choose their own path in the world, being there to support them through the good and difficult times. Yes, we will provide a solid roof over their head, toys at Christmas, family game nights, time spent with grandma and grandpa, long days on a boat at the river, learning how to use power tools, etc., however, the main thing we will offer is a life full of experience, surprise, and opportunity.

Paula is very outgoing and loves spending vast amounts of time with her, and now Aaron's family. Her close and extended family are tight knit and talk almost every day. They rely on each other and provide support for nearly everything they do. Though there are differences, everyone comes together to provide unconditional love in the end. Aaron is more reserved, and his immediate family was who he spent the most time with growing up. When we first met, Paula's family dynamic was very new to him, but one that he's grown to love. The common thread that runs between us is that family, no matter how large or small, sticks together, providing love and support along the way.

If you select us as the adoptive parents for your child, we hope you feel comfortable and secure in your decision. The adoption process will bring our stories together, joining them, and beginning a new one with your child. We hope and trust that for the rest of your life, you will feel you made the right decision.

With Respect,

Paula & Aaron

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

KINDNESS AND COMPASSION - Paula is a nurse, so a kind disposition comes naturally to her. We believe it is important to be kind to everyone because you can never know what kind of day someone is having and how you can influence it by your attitude in even a small interaction. We will teach our child to be kind by listening to others' opinions, not letting anger take over, and by giving grace to others. For young children, a difficult lesson is learning how to play nicely and share with others, patiently waiting your turn. Positive reinforcement will help them learn how to be kind and compassionate.



INTEGRITY - Integrity is important because very often the easy choice and the right choice don't coincide. We both have the strength of character and the integrity to make the right choice even if it's a difficult one. Aaron often uses integrity to make tough decisions in his job. We will teach our child integrity by discussing with the child why taking the easy road may not be the best option. One of the most important aspects of having integrity is admitting when you are wrong and could have improved. We will praise them for the things they did well and discuss alternatives when they could have made a better decision.

HONESTY - We have to be able to admit when we're wrong and learn from our mistakes. In our marriage, it's important to be honest with each other about our feelings and our wants and needs in order for our relationship to grow and stay healthy. We will teach our child to be honest in all they do by demonstrating how relationships and personal/professional goals can flourish when we're honest. As children grow, they naturally test the boundaries of what is and isn't acceptable and honesty is one of the earliest things tested. We will reinforce the importance of honesty by praising them when they tell the truth. Many movies and tv shows are excellent opportunities for discussion, pausing movies and discussing what effect each character's actions can have on those around them will help our child understand what it means to be honest.



TOLERANCE - We encounter people each day who have lived experiences that are different from our own. We understand and value that it is those experiences that make us who we are. We plan to teach our child about tolerance by discussing with them how everyone has different beliefs, opinions, and experiences. We will talk through difficult situations with them, modeling through role play, what it looks like to collaborate with those who have different experiences. We will also expose our child to different ideas and beliefs through family trips and vacations to different areas. We think it's important for our child to be exposed to a second language as language is an important part of learning about different cultures, ideas, and beliefs.



FAMILY BONDS - Friends and coworkers may come and go, but family is always there to support us through good times and bad. We will teach our child about the importance of building family relationships by regularly spending time with members of our family. Our child will participate in family gatherings throughout the year to play games and have fun for hours on end. Paula's extended family has kids of all age ranges that will play and grow up with our child. Aaron is the handy man of the family and often helps both his family and Paula's. Our child will participate in these activities learning that family bonds are built through both fun and hard work.

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HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Tennis, fishing, golf, reading, crossword puzzles, working in the garden and yard, playing board and card games, spending time with friends and family

Adoptive Father: Golf, fishing, woodworking, working in the garden, computers, spending time with friends and family

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Medical Support Specialist - Nurse

Adoptive Father: Information Services Director

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelors Degree
Adoptive Father: Bachelors Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

Our Home

We think our home is a great place to raise a family because it's close to some larger cities, but has a small-town feel. Our town has numerous playgrounds, swimming pools, and parks where children play. We also have a railroad, where kids can meet Thomas the Tank Engine in the summer and go on train rides throughout the year.

Our neighborhood is quiet, and full of children who walk to and from school each day. Trees line the roads in the summer, and snow-drifts pile on the curb in winter. The neighbors are nice and always helpful towards each other, clearing snow and mowing lawns. We also have a large backyard that will have plenty of room for our child to play, as well as a garden and a deck where we like to eat in the summer.

Aaron's favorite time of day is the quiet morning before the rest of the world is out of bed. This is a time when he feels most energetic and productive. Nothing beats a good round of golf as the sun is rising, warm coffee in hand. Paula enjoys evenings at home the most, as this is the time she spends with Aaron, watching TV, doing crossword puzzles, or just chatting.

We both enjoy having company over and people feel welcome and at home. Both of our families have stayed for extended periods of time. We prefer to cook ourselves instead of going out, and enjoy spending time together in the kitchen making and experimenting with new foods. One of Aaron's favorite things to do is cook for guests, but he's not one for recipes and most of the time doesn't use one. He likes to get out the smoker to make delicious grilled meats. We also love to play games--whether it be board games, card games, or lawn games like croquet and bocce ball.

We look forward to welcoming a child into our home and making them part of our daily lives! Paula looks forward to watching the child learn and grow in real time. She has watched her cousin's children growing up just during family gatherings and it is so fun to watch them learn new things as they play and explore the world around them! Aaron looks forward to passing down knowledge that he learned from his grandfather--learning how to fish, woodworking, and how to be a good person. We also look forward to being able to spend time with a child doing everyday things like mealtime and bath time as well as reading the child bedtime stories. We will incorporate the child in the fun activities like going on walks, going fishing, and working in the garden. It's important for us to have a routine for our child so there is time set aside for playtime and quiet time.

The child's room has a crib and is painted light green with hardwood floors. Aaron inherited a chest/trunk from his grandfather that we will use in the child's room for toy storage. We imagine the room as a calm, restful place for an infant. As the child grows older, we will let him or her make more decisions about how to decorate the room as we want them to feel comfortable and secure.



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Our Family

We met on the dating site Ok-Cupid. Paula was the first to message Aaron because he listed The Lord of the Rings as one of his favorite books and he is an active person who enjoys running. We enjoyed many of the same activities and had similar life goals. It was easy, comfortable, and natural. We quickly realized that we had fallen in love, dating for more than one year before we got married.

Paula's strengths are her compassion and her family ties. Aaron's biggest strength is being able to make a plan and follow through on the plan to accomplish the task. Paula tends to be more of a dreamer and Aaron tends to be more practical, but it balances out nicely because Aaron listens to Paula's ideas and helps bring them to reality. Both of us are flexible and good listeners. As a couple we have similar visions, therefore don't have many disagreements. We work well together, enjoy activities together, and support each other's interests. We like to spend our free time doing things together such as fishing, golf, watching movies or TV shows, and working on projects around the house.

Our families have always been a big part of our lives. One constant when Aaron was growing up was spending time with his Grandpa fishing on the Mississippi during the summer months. During these fishing excursions, Aaron's Grandpa taught him many things about life and how to be a good person. His grandfather was a special individual in the family, and Aaron and Paula have taken up some of his favorite traditions and pastimes. We spend time at the river because of him, we own farmland that used to belong to him, and we take annual trips to Gays Mills, Wisconsin for apples. It is these lessons and activities that Aaron wants to pass down to his future child.

Paula spent so much time with her extended family growing up that they remain close today. Paula's sister, parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all come together and stay together for multiple days between Christmas and New Year's. Mostly we just sit around the big dining room table and play game after game. Some of our favorite board games include Settlers of Catan, Trivial Pursuit, and Cranium. We also go to see a movie at the theaters around Christmas time, recently it was Star Wars and Jurassic Park. We also look forward to Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving, as well as continuing summer vacations to Rocky Mountain National Park, the Black Hills, Yellowstone National Park, and the Grand Tetons. We look forward to being able to spend this time with our family each year and will continue these traditions with our child. These were cherished memories for us as children and we would like for our child to have the same experiences.



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