



Hello We Are...



Billy & Laura



Our Hopes & Dreams

Our hopes and dreams are to build a loving, open, and caring family and for our home to be a safe and comfortable place where our child can grow and learn with confidence.

There were a lot of factors that drove us toward adoption. When we decided to have children, we experienced initial fertility issues. We briefly researched treatments, but quickly decided that adoption was the route we wanted to take for our family. We have always been drawn to adoption and some of our friends adopted three children which encouraged us to explore this option. We love the idea of providing a life of opportunity to a child already coming into this world, rather than forcing a pregnancy through treatments.

We will love this child with all our hearts and work to ensure they are happy, have lots of fun learning, feel secure and relaxed enough to share their feelings and experiences. We hope that they will share the company of many friends and family and will enjoy lots of social activity as we both had growing up.

We will bring our child into a comfortable home in a culturally diverse and safe community with excellent scholastic opportunities. We will provide a child an open-minded and loving family, with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins that are ready to love, play, and care for this child.

In the short term, we are most looking forward to the excitement and energy that a child brings. In the long term, we are looking forward to guiding this little person into adulthood. We will ensure the child has everything they need and teach them to work towards the things they want. We will teach them the values that will help them through everyday life.

For you, we know this is a difficult decision and we think you are very brave. Thank you for letting us share our family with you. If you select us to parent your child, we hope you feel secure in your decision. You will always be an important part of this child's life and we want you to be proud of your child, seeing them grow up as a loving and caring adult. If you are thinking of an open adoption, we look forward to staying connected.

Sincerely,

Billy & Laura

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

EQUITY & INCLUSION - We will teach our child to be inclusive of others and recognize that everyone is unique and our differences are something to be celebrated. We are open to new people and experiences every day and we want our child to be accepting and open to new ideas and cultures as well. We will foster open-mindedness and respect for others, regardless of ethnicity, ability, gender, culture or income, to ensure our child understands we are all equal.



EMPATHY & COMPASSION - Empathy is the ability to be aware of the feelings of others and imagine what it might be like to be in their position. This ability reduces conflict and misunderstanding and leads to kindness and greater success in life. The more children receive empathy and compassion, the more likely they are to offer it to others. By expressing compassion, we are better community members. We will teach empathy as a skill that develops over time by modeling it ourselves, talking openly about emotions and listening to our child.

INDEPENDENCE - A sense of independence helps a child develop confidence, self-esteem, motivation, and courage. It also fosters a sense of freedom. Life comes with challenges and a strong sense of self will help our child trust themselves. We will provide a rich learning environment to explore and encourage new experiences. We will promote problem-solving and praise our child's efforts. We will encourage our child to do things like put air in their bike tire and ride their bike to get ice cream, and order for themselves at restaurants to help establish independence.



LOVE OF THE NATURAL WORLD - We want our child to live in the world with a love and respect for nature. Clean air and water are basic human needs. To ensure a sustainable future with enough clean air and water, we need to support our local ecosystems. We do this at home by reducing, reusing, and recycling. In our garden we plant species that are native to the area to protect the ecosystem. We will teach our child about local farming, different plants and animals that we rely upon, how energy works, and what happens to our waste. We will support the natural world by teaching sustainable habits to our child, such as using reusable bottles, buying seasonal foods and shopping for products made in the USA.

SENSE OF HUMOR - We create community with humor at home, with friends, and at work. We are part of two families that refuse to take life too seriously. We are always joking, always looking for the humor in a situation. In our everyday lives we like to keep things light to create connections, make difficult situations easier, and make good times great. We love to make each other laugh and will model this behavior for our child so they may be able to use this tool as they mature.



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HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Swimming, biking, running, painting, sketching, reading, watching old movies, learning about plants and animals, going on adventures

Adoptive Father: Skiing, running, playing and watching golf, basketball and baseball, and all kinds of card games, board games, crossword puzzles, Wordle, and pub trivia with friends

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Media Assistant

Adoptive Father: VP of Finance

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

Our Home

We live in a walkable community in a suburb of Chicago, steps away from a forest preserve on Lake Michigan. The neighborhood is great for kids! We are a 2-minute walk from a park with a playground, basketball court, tennis courts, and a large field. With the elementary and middle schools close by, there is a parade of children walking home from school on nice days. There are sidewalks and bike lanes everywhere. There is also an outdoor music venue that families frequent in the summer for weekend picnic dinners. We love the area because we have amazing access to nature, such as forest preserves, prairies, hiking paths, and bike trails.

Our home is on a quiet tree-lined street just around the corner from a park. During the summer, groups of kids get to know each other on the playground or while looking for extra teammates for group games. Year-round we see kids on bikes and skateboards making their rounds up and down the street.

We live in a ranch-style house that is calm and welcoming. It has an open floor plan, neutral walls and furniture, and large windows that let in a lot of natural light in the morning and afternoon. In the living room, we have a gas fireplace that makes the space cozy, and in the basement, we have a playroom where our friends' children and our nephews play. We love weekend mornings. We can get out to the backyard, do a little bit of yardwork, tend to the garden, and then relax by the pool. It's a perfect opportunity to feel calm and centered after a long week.

We love to host in the summer. If it's warm out, then we are in and around the pool swimming, playing pool-games, splashing, or racing. We love having our nephews over to play all day in the pool. Summer nights, we spend in the backyard playing board games, listening to music, eating, and telling stories. Occasionally, we'll bring the TV out and have a movie night or watch the Chicago Cubs game.

In the winter, we host game-nights. We'll have friends and family over to play anything, cards, Skip-Bo, Ticket to Ride, we're always up for a game night. Whenever Laura's mom, Lindy, stays over we play Bananagrams. Laura eventually gets bored and bows out, but Billy and Lindy will play way past bedtime.

We can't wait to bring a child into our lives and home. While there will be changes to everything we do, we are excited to make those changes. We both believe that as much activity as possible is important. Not necessarily structured activity, but we want our child to be physically tired by the end of the day. Billy is excited to include the child on his morning jogs by pushing a stroller. Laura is looking forward to playing outside with the child teaching them how to garden and identify wildlife through walks and hikes in the prairie that's next to us.



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Our Family

We met by chance at a family friend's restaurant during a trivia night. Billy was going to play solo, but was invited by Laura's team to play with them. After Billy answered his third geography question correctly, Laura was smitten. Billy was impressed that Laura was taking sword-fighting lessons. We started dating shortly after meeting and got married three years later. Despite being very different in personality, it was clear that we shared a similar family background and life-philosophy. We were interested in a lot of the same things and had a lot to talk about right away.

Laura is empathic, advocates for things she is passionate about, and loves being outside. If Laura is on your side, you will always have someone to defend you, no matter what. Billy is patient and caring. He has a logical mind that likes to solve puzzles and figure stuff out. He is very playful and loves cracking silly jokes. Together, we balance each other very well. We enjoy spending time together, and usually, the activities we're doing are irrelevant. We love to be in each other's company and will ensure that our child is surrounded by love and trust as well.

We have a shared sense of curiosity. We enjoy travelling together. We think of traveling as a learning adventure. We research the history, local customs and traditions of the area, and use that to better understand the place and people while we are there. We also love exploring locally. Recently, we've been on historical tours of Chicago's neighborhoods - learning their unique cultures and significance as it relates to both the city and the world.

We hope to build all sorts of fun traditions with our child, like going on an annual vacation to exciting places to learn about other people and cultures. To us, traditions are things that start spontaneously and continue because they are fun. Traditions are important because they help create memories and bring friends and families closer together.

We love our families! Billy grew up in Tennessee and Laura grew up in the Chicago suburbs. We each have a brother and a sister. Laura is the oldest and Billy is the middle child. We will spend time with our families as much as possible, spending Thanksgiving with Laura's family and Christmas with Billy's family. Family trips are the best- we love to gather in a different place, usually by a lake, to spend a lot of quality time together. This year we are going to Disney World. We go to Ohio for Thanksgiving, where we spend some time with Laura's grandmother, cousins, and their kids where laser tag and board games are always on the agenda. Laura's sister (future aunt) and mother (future grandma) live nearby so we get to see them often. Whenever we get together with Laura's family, everyone has a crazy fun time. Laura's sister is pregnant with a girl and we are looking forward to our child having a cousin to play with.

Everyone is very excited about the possibility of adding another member to our family!



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