

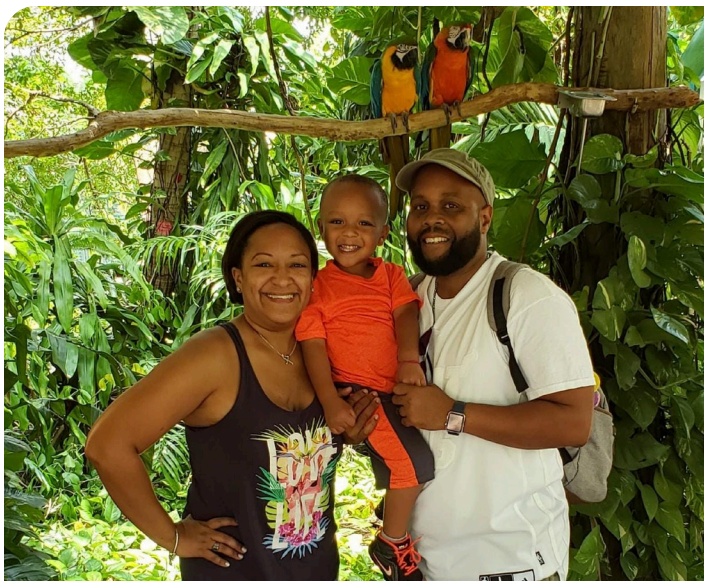


Hello We Are...



Gary & Mary

Graceful   
Adoptions™



## Our Hopes & Dreams

Our first date was at Starbucks more than 13 years ago. Good conversation and a couple of sips of hot cocoa led to our wedding two years later. Our marriage is based on a strong sense of family with the utmost love and respect for each other. We both value the hard work and sacrifices that our parents made for us as we grew up. As we raise our son and future child, we see ourselves in them. We know that our efforts will benefit and shape them into the people they want to become.

Early in our relationship, we talked about our hopes and dreams which included career aspirations, a home, and children. After several years of trying to have a child, we discovered we both had infertility issues. We began treatments and put our faith in God. In 2016, we were blessed with our son. We were more than elated to have him, but we always knew that we wanted another child. We are excited to grow our family through adoption.

We cannot wait for our second chance to be parents and give our love and care to another child, and for the children to build a life-long connection as siblings and friends. Our son, Nick, is anxiously awaiting a little brother or sister to grow up with and can't wait to be a big brother. He shares with us how he will take care of his little brother or sister and the things he will teach him or her. It's very cute!

We both come from humble upbringings. We realize that sometimes playing a board game or reading is just as important as a new bike or other material things. Time above all things is the most valuable commodity that we will provide. We cherish the time that we can spend together as a family. We eat dinner together every evening. We have movie nights and family game time. We have fun joking around and playing. We make sure that communication is open, and our son is comfortable speaking to us about anything that is on his mind.

We are very excited about adopting a child. We have the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial resources to add another child to our family. We will treat your child as he or she was born to us.

Blessings,

*Gary & Mary*

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**LOVE** - We believe 'it takes a village' and our family loves big and unconditionally. We not only say it, but we also show love daily. Even if Nick is sleeping, we give him a kiss and tell him we love him. When we leave him at school, we kiss him and say, "I love you." He sees us expressing love and respect to each other and he shows the same love to us and others. Our extended family attends our son's activities, showing their love and support to him and our family. We talk to our parents daily and they welcome all their grandkids to have sleepovers with their cousins. All our children will receive so much love, not only from us, but from our extended families as well. Our family is love to the core, all day every day!



**RESPECT** - We believe that everyone should be treated with respect. We are not in the world to judge. We respect everyone, no matter their walk of life, no matter how they look, no matter where they are from. We teach our son, and will teach our next child, to respect strangers as well as friends and family. Mean spirited teasing, bullying, or raising your voices are not part of our life. Our children will be taught that while there are people that may do something that we may not understand, it doesn't give us the right to disrespect them in any way.



**CHARITY** - We believe that giving back to those in need is important. We've volunteered at homeless shelters, donated our time, money, and tangible items to a variety of organizations, and we have worked with our church to help in our community. We teach our son to provide to others through donating his toys and clothes to children that are less fortunate. As he gets older, we will continue to show him different ways to support others such as donating to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. We look forward to teaching all our children the act of giving.

**PERSEVERANCE** - Life throws us curve balls; we must endure. Sticking to a task until it is completed is a value that we'll teach your child. Whenever we start a task at home, even something as small as a game like Uno or Monopoly, we teach that we need to finish what we were doing. Quitting is not an option. Teaching our children that we finish what we start is important. It will help them have tenacity when they run into obstacles in school, in sports, with future jobs, and in relationships.



**FAITH** - We believe that God will lead us to what is best for us. We attend church on a regular basis and often talk about the things we are grateful for in our lives. Our son attends Sunday school, and we enjoy the community of support we have through our church. We will teach our children about giving grace, loving others, forgiveness, and helping others in need. We will tell our children that faith is knowing that God has our back. Our family is stronger because of our faith, and we will continue to love and help others each day we are able.

*A Beautiful Experience*





# Our Home

We moved into our home more than a year ago, looking for more space in a diverse neighborhood. It's a quiet and friendly neighborhood in a more rural area. There are lots of palm trees, you can hear the birds in the morning, and see all the stars at night. Our home is in a cul-de-sac so there is no traffic. We've seen all types of wildlife in our yard from Peacocks, Raccoons, and Iguanas. There are good schools to choose from nearby. Several families in our neighborhood have younger children that are often outside. Sometimes they come over to play basketball or run around in the yard.

Although our town is considered rural, we aren't far from the zoo, beach, movie theaters, malls, restaurants, and several parks. Local farms are open to the public to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables as well as smoothies! Also, the Florida Keys and the southernmost point of the United States is within driving distance. Orlando is about three hours away and when we visit friends who live in the area we take our kids to Disney, Universal Studios, and other parks.

Our backyard includes a screened in area with a pool. We have a television and sound system outside as well which allows us to enjoy the outdoors even more. Since the weather in Florida is pleasant most of the time, we spend quite a bit of time enjoying the outdoors. We look forward to our children being confident in the water and having their friends over to play in the pool.

We enjoy movie nights, board games, and visiting with family and friends. We like to have pizza or taco nights, and we plan trips to places we've never been. It could be a staycation, or a road trip. Since the pandemic hit, our movie nights have been at home. We have several options where we love to relax, including the living room, man cave, or outside by the pool. We rotate who selects the movie. Our son, Nick, typically selects the latest cartoon movie while Mary and I try to introduce him to movies that we grew up on. Some of our favorite animated films include Sing I and Sing 2, Encanto, and Moana. We enjoy Uno, Monopoly Junior, and Chutes & Ladders board games. Teaching our son strategy and good sportsmanship while playing is a bonus. These games are also popular when our nieces and nephews visit. Most importantly, it gives them time away from electronics. We look forward to all our children playing with their cousins!

Sharing the love that we have for each other with another child will be awesome. We will nurture him or her from the beginning. We both will take off time from work to spend time with the child at our home. We'll read books to our child, provide them with age-appropriate toys, visual stimulation, as well as play music. We will play in the yard and pool, go on bike rides, go to local parks, and go on family walks around our neighborhood.

We have our next child's room ready, painted in a neutral color with two windows that provide lots of natural light. There is a bed, dresser, nightstand, and several cubby units filled with toys and books. If the child is a boy, we might decorate the walls with monster trucks or a sports theme. If the child is a girl, we may have a princess theme, maybe Frozen or the Princess and the Frog characters. We are happy to let our child choose their passions and room decorations when they are old enough.

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Arts and crafts.

Photography and baking. Volunteering for a non-profit and at church. Spending time with our son. Helping with homework, watching movies and shows, and treating him to different adventures. Spending time with family.

**Adoptive Father:** Watching football and basketball. Playing golf, tennis, basketball. Landscaping projects. Spending time with our son. Board games, watching movies, listening to music. Volunteering as a coach for Nick's sports teams. Spending time with family.

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** System Administrator

**Adoptive Father:** Budget Manager

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelor's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Master's Degree

## PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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# Our Family

We met more than 13 years ago thru E-harmony. We talked on the phone for a couple of weeks until our first date which was at Starbucks. Gary's laid-back nature kicked in because Mary was running late. For our first five or six dates we played a five-question game that helped us get to know each other. It was so much fun! Gary proposed a year and half later on Christmas Eve.

We have a strong sense of family and value the time that we spend together. Gary is the finance person, and long-term planner in our family. He is levelheaded, predictable, and a great father and husband. He steers the ship. Mary is the more emotional partner, plans all the fun stuff, wears her heart on her sleeve, loves everyone and loves big. Our marriage is built on Faith and open communication. Like everyone, we have had struggles in life. However, we look back on these hurdles with a smile, knowing that we can make it through any storm that crosses our path.... together.

Our son Nick is 6 years old. His hobbies include golf, tennis, swimming, basketball, Nintendo, and spending time on his tablet. As parents, we know that we need to be there for our children, for everything. We attend every school event, team practices and games, and we are both there for every doctor's appointment. We will always show our children that we will be there for them no matter what. Toys, experiences, treats, trips are part of life, but what's the point of doing all of that without showing love and affection. It all goes together!

Our parents have set a good example for us as they have a combined 90 years of marriage between them. We hope to follow in their footsteps by providing a legacy for our family based on the love and respect that we share. We are blessed to have both sides of our family within a 45-minute drive. On the weekends, you'll find us visiting with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins catching up on life's events, reminiscing about old times, and making new memories.

Celebrating birthdays and holidays are big in our family. We have many nieces and nephews and have at least one birthday each month. It creates a time for our family to gather and show love for the birthday person. For Christmas and Thanksgiving different family members host dinner. We eat, laugh, and give thanks for everything that we have and the time that we can share together. Mary likes to host so our home tends to be a popular venue. The guest list features both sets of our parents, our siblings and their family's including our nieces and nephews ranging from 0 to 7 years old, which are seven children and counting. On Christmas Eve, we use to open gifts at midnight. Now that we have so many kids in the family, we try our best to open them Christmas day with the anticipation of Santa. On Christmas day, we wake up to gifts under the tree!

Our families are excited that we are adopting. Both sets of our parents are retired and can't wait to spend time with another grandchild. Birthdays. Holidays. Vacations. Everything that will make them feel loved, included, and appreciated



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