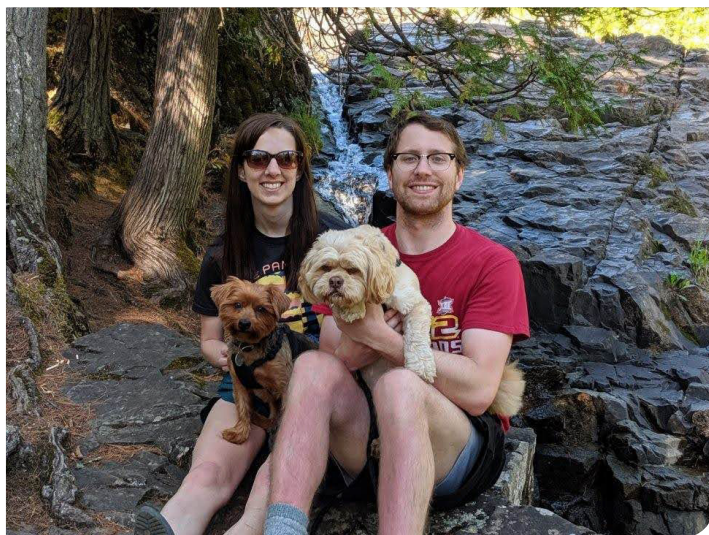


Hello We Are...



Erin & Nathan

Graceful 
Adoptions™



Our Hopes & Dreams

We are a stable couple with a large support system who can't wait to add a child to our family. We've been together for more than 12 years, married for six years. We are best friends and have many life experiences we have gone through together that makes us who we are today. We are lucky to have each other to go through life together.

Early on we realized we shared the same desire to one day have a family. We chose to spend the first few years of our marriage preparing our home for a family, pursuing our careers, traveling, and experiencing new opportunities together. Having taken that time to build a solid foundation, we are excited to welcome a child into our family. Erin has wanted to adopt for most of her adult life and this was something we talked about while we were dating. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to pursue adoption now.

Both of us know that we were very lucky growing up with parents who provided us with a home filled with all the things a child needs: love, joy, food, clothing, pets, toys, books, space to explore, a good education, and extracurricular activities to build bonds and learn to be part of a team. Our parents also gave us their time and commitment with family vacations, attending all of our events, and helped us pay for college. We hope to offer all of these same things to our child. The stability in our relationship and the support and unconditional love we get from our families will be a great environment to raise a child.

We can't wait to share our love of reading, family game nights, playing in the backyard and nearby park, and having family movie nights. Our intention is to provide a home where the child can grow up in an environment of love, security, and opportunities so they may develop into a strong, confident, and respectful person.

Regardless of if you select us to parent your child, we hope you will feel comfort and peace in your decision to pursue adoption. There is nothing more selfless and amazing than doing what you believe is right for another person and putting their needs ahead of your own. We both recognize the sacrifice you are making and don't take the responsibility of raising a child lightly. It would truly be an honor.

Respectfully,

Erin & Nathan

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAMILY - Our families are the most important people in our lives, and we are very fortunate to be able to spend time together for big moments like holidays and vacations to smaller moments such as game nights and grilling out. We have so many fond memories growing up with our families and want our child to have great memories to look back on too. Just as our families have always been and continue to be part of our support system, we hope to provide our child the same unconditional love.

RESPECT - It is important that everyone is treated equally, free from judgment. People may do or say things we do not agree with or understand but that does not change how they should be treated. We believe that by raising a child in a home with a strong moral foundation, our child will approach those they meet with respect. We want to raise our child with a sense of value, worth, and self-respect. It is important to remember and cherish the golden rule, to treat others how we would want to be treated.

KINDNESS - We believe in treating everyone with kindness. It is easy to treat friends and family with kindness, but we try to live each day treating strangers with kindness as well. We never know what people may be going through, and it costs nothing to be kind to them. For us, kindness goes beyond donating our time and money to how we act, even when no one is watching. Sometimes even the smallest acts of kindness are what people remember about us, so we want to raise our child to always be kind to others.

EXPLORATION - We cherish the opportunity to travel and enjoy new and exciting experiences. This comes from curiosity and a willingness to explore the world around us. We enjoy visiting different places, trying new foods, and learning about other cultures. We are excited to include our child in those adventures and inspire a sense of discovery. We will encourage them to be curious, to ask questions, and to gain an appreciation for places, people, and cultures that are different from our own.

HAPPINESS - We encourage each other to do what makes us happy. By surrounding ourselves with people who want us to be happy, it is easier to maintain those relationships and takes a lot of pressure off of trying to please everyone else. Erin's mom has always said "I just want my kids to be happy", and we think that's a great philosophy for life and for raising kids. Growing up that way has taught us that we want to provide opportunities and guidance for our child to ultimately allow them to do what makes them happiest in life as well.

GROWTH - We believe that growth is a lifelong pursuit, and we continue to learn new things every day. As future parents, we want nothing more than for our child to pursue and fulfill any goals they set their mind to. From a young age, we will encourage them to ask questions and seek to find answers. It's likely that their curiosity will help us to learn new things as we help them explore. We want to give them as many opportunities as possible to expand their knowledge and creativity. We are committed to providing our child with a well-rounded education and enable them to pursue any interests they are passionate about.



A Beautiful Experience





Our Home

When looking for our first home, we were fortunate to find a house with plenty of space to raise a family. We look forward to transforming one of the bedrooms into a nursery and filling our home with toys and activities that will encourage a child to grow and learn. From reading, to playing with our dogs, and sharing family meals together, we are excited to welcome a child to our family and home.

We live in a nice suburban neighborhood with all sorts of restaurants, shopping, and entertainment close by, including parks, lakes, the zoo, a science center, and an amusement park. We constantly see children walking and riding bikes along the sidewalks, either coming/going home from school or the nearby park that our backyard opens to. The park next to our home has a large field, playground, a basketball court, and picnic shelter. When the weather is nice, we enjoy using the outdoor space to relax, grill, and host family and friends.

Our home is comfortable, friendly, and inviting and tends to put our company at ease. Between the main level living and dining rooms, our downstairs family room, and the patio, there are plenty of places where guests can relax and socialize. Both sides of our family visit regularly. We often host family on the weekends and are excited to include our little one in baking and cooking new foods for everyone to enjoy. In the fall we host parties to watch college football games when our favorite team is on the road.

Nathan works from home, and Erin works half the week in the office and half from home. After work, we spend time catching up, playing with our two dogs, and sharing stories about our days. During the week, we plan and prepare home cooked meals. In the evening we enjoy spending our time watching tv, reading, going on walks, and planning our next vacation. Friday nights are our 'date nights' where we enjoy going out to eat or meeting up with friends and family. We use the weekends to work on any projects around the house or in the fall, attend college football games when they are at home. For most of the year, our weekends are normally pretty quiet where we enjoy relaxing and spending time together. On Sunday nights, we love to watch movies and eat popcorn and apples for dinner. Erin's family did this on Sundays growing up, and we have continued the tradition.

We are looking forward to when we can include our child in all of our family traditions. We can't wait to watch our child grow and develop over the coming years. We want to share the love of reading with our child. We also look forward to having adventures, silly times, teaching our child things, and cheering our child on to pursue their passions.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Reading, traveling, baking, playing with our dogs, spending time with family and friends.

Adoptive Father: Watching sports, traveling, hiking, golfing, cooking, playing video games, spending time with family and friends.

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Senior Solutions Analyst

Adoptive Father: Advanced Quality Engineer

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Masters Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelors Degree

PLUS:

- Family dogs
- Both non-smokers



A Beautiful Experience



Our Family

We met while both attending Iowa State University. We were at a college party and hit it off when Nate's friend tapped a random girl, Erin, on the shoulder and introduced her to Nate. We surprisingly discovered that we had a lot in common and even knew a lot of the same friends from Erin's hometown. It was truly a small world connection. At the end of the night, we exchanged phone numbers, and Nate promised not to text or call for at least a few days to not come off as "weird or desperate." This didn't last, and within an hour Nate texted Erin. We haven't stopped talking or texting since. At first, we just shared a small world connection, but upon getting to know each other more, we discovered our interests matched and our views on life perfectly aligned. We have built a strong foundation in life together, and are excited to share it with a child.

Our strengths are communication and cooperation. We always try to share our feelings and opinions with each other to ensure we are aligned and supportive. We make it a priority to always eat meals together and enjoy spending time together. For fun and to get out of the house, we enjoy going to see movies as well as going out to eat on the weekends. For vacations, both of us really enjoy traveling and make it a priority most years to visit new places both in and outside of the United States.

When we add a child to our family, we hope to continue our traditions that we have with our extended families. We always spend Christmas Eve at Erin's grandparent's house with our extended family. We wake up early in the morning to open our stockings and eat brunch together before breaking out the board games. Some of Erin's favorite memories growing up were spending time with her cousins at her grandparents' houses. We want our child to have those experiences as well.

Every 4th of July, we have Family Olympics, which is a big tournament of yard games with extended family. We've been participating every summer for more than 10 years. On both sides, we have lake homes where we spend time boating, playing yard games, and relaxing outside with our families. In the fall, we enjoy tailgating and attending the football games of our favorite college team. Erin's family has been doing this every fall for longer than she can remember. We currently travel in the spring for our birthdays and in November for our anniversary and look forward to including our child on these adventures.

For both of our parents, this will be their first grandchild, and as a result they are both extremely happy for us and eager to help out in any way possible. All of our siblings are also very supportive and excited for us and to welcome a new family member!



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