



Hello We Are...



Amanda & Tony

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## Our Hopes & Dreams

Ever since we got married, our biggest dream has been to grow our family so that we can share the abundance of love we have for each other. We have been intentionally putting down roots for a long time with the hope of raising kids in a stable, loving environment. Our greatest hope for your child is that they feel a sense of belonging in our family and in our community.

Amanda found out in her early twenties that having biological children would be a risk. On our third date, Amanda was honest with Tony about her fears of having a biological child, and he was immediately supportive of her and knew growing a family can happen in many different ways. We both wanted to have a family with children, and for our entire relationship we felt that adoption would be a wonderful way to do so.

We want to give your child the opportunity and room to discover who they are without reservation. We will give them spaces at home that are more for them, than for us, so that they can express themselves freely. They will be able to explore their interests in music, sports, nature, food, and anything else in any combination. We also care deeply about their ability to get a good education, and we look forward to helping them both with the subjects we excelled in and the subjects we struggled with. Beneath it all, we hope to instill in them a strong foundation of unconditional love so that they know they can always rely on our love and support.

We're most excited to witness the special way that children make everyday life more fun. We want to teach them about the world around them including animals and their noises, all the different colors, and the moon and the stars. Amanda will cherish play using their imagination even with ducks and boats at bath time. When they're a little older, Tony looks forward to playing video games with them during family time in the living room.

We acknowledge that our opportunity to grow our family is in thanks to your decision to create an adoption plan for your child. We hope that your plan makes you feel confident and empowered. We want you to have the opportunity to pursue your dreams, whether they be education, career, or wherever your journey takes you. As you move through this adoption process, we want you to feel supported and appreciated. Please know that if you choose us, your child will know that you are an important part of their story and our family.

If you have any questions for us along the way, we are happy to answer them for you.

Sincerely,

*Amanda & Tony*

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY** - We both believe life is best when shared with others. Friends and family have helped us celebrate the most joyful times like getting married, as well as times of struggle. We rarely pass up an opportunity to be with friends and family despite our love for spending time at home together. Ultimately, the presence and connectedness of family and friends through all seasons of life makes them invaluable. We hope to model and share how special the bond of family and friendship can be for our child. Our family and friends are eager to welcome them with open arms!



**FAITH** - Our faith has been a guiding force in our lives and has helped us grow in times of struggle. By teaching our child about faith, we hope to give them a powerful tool to help them find peace throughout their life. Both of us grew up in strong faith traditions, including weekly Sunday church services, and celebrating religious milestones with our church families. As adults, we have continued to build on the faith, love, and kindness we were raised in. Tony is a member of the church choir, and Amanda likes to get involved in the social action committees to help others. In our day to day lives with a child, we will give thanks at mealtimes, and say prayers at bedtime for our family and the child's birth family. We hope faith will provide a foundation and a support system for our child through life's joys and challenges.



**HONESTY** - Our relationship is built on honesty. Being honest and admitting mistakes or when we are wrong helps us grow and maintain a strong relationship. Honesty also means openly yet respectfully communicating our feelings so that we can understand how to support each other. We hope to instill the value of honesty in our child so that they are not afraid to talk to us when they're scared, make mistakes, or just need us to listen to them. We want our child to feel it is okay to make mistakes or be wrong. We want to establish an environment where our child feels comfortable and confident expressing the truth even when it is hard in their life as they grow.

**LOVE AND COMPASSION** - Our interactions with others are built on love and compassion. We believe that we are at our best when we treat people with understanding and care for their well-being. It is important to us to be aware of how our actions affect others and avoid hurting others when we are able. We will teach our children to consider the feelings of others before acting and how to empathize with those around them. There will be times when they get angry at others, including at us sometimes, but we hope to teach them how to show their disappointment without hurting others. In those times of hurt, we want them to remember beneath it all that love and kindness are what heals and keeps us together.



**BELIEVING IN OURSELF** - Having confidence and the courage to chase our dreams is something we both strive toward. Amanda's courage to change her career path helped her become a diabetes educator, and Tony's confidence in his ability to learn difficult concepts helped him earn his Ph.D. We will encourage our child to try things they're curious about even when they are intimidating. We have a mantra that helps us find that courage: "Don't be self-limiting." We want our child to not be afraid of failure as failure often best teaches us how we can grow. Giving our child the confidence to try their best will help them discover their passions, achieve great things, and chase their dreams.

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# Our Home

Our neighborhood is a quiet community tucked away from busy streets and traffic with mature trees and lots of green space. We live a short walk to a big playground large enough to fly a kite or play wiffle ball, a community pool, and a number of parks. These parks have fishing ponds, basketball courts, sledding hills, and a summer splash pad, and are connected by a network of walking and bike paths.

Sidewalks in our neighborhood are perfect for riding bikes or playing hopscotch. We see kids drawing with chalk on the sidewalks, playing football in our neighbors' yards, and playing soccer in the grassy common space in the middle of our neighborhood where a net stays up all season. It's a quiet but active neighborhood well-suited for raising kids! We are excited to see our community's children grow up together.

We often entertain family and friends in our home. Our deck is ideal for entertaining large groups with access to our back yard, grill, and fire pit for evenings of hot dogs and marshmallows. Amanda maintains a small herb and vegetable garden to have fresh ingredients for our meals. We hope to expand this in the future with your child's favorite foods that they can help grow!

Our living room is full of natural light. With the skylights, we only turn on the lights once the sun goes down. There is lots of room to play on the floor, a TV for watching movies or playing games, and a fireplace to stay cozy by in the winter. When we gather with friends and family, we often do potlucks and fill the kitchen with food, nobody leaves with an empty stomach. The living room is open to the kitchen and dining area allowing everyone to feel a part of the same space. When they bring their kids, they're often the center of attention playing on the floor. Our Charlie Brown schoolhouse is a big hit with the toddlers. We look forward to our child joining the other kids.

Our favorite time at home is in the evenings during and after dinner. Cooking our meals together helps us unwind and gives us an opportunity to catch each other up on our day. We are ready to adapt our lives to love and care for a little guy or gal! We are both ready to get up in the night to give them a bottle, comfort them, or change a diaper. At home, we'll encourage our child to play and be outside while the sun is still out. We will take them to the playground, ride bikes, play with chalk, and feed the ducks at the pond. At bedtime, we are both excited to read books and stories, say our daily prayers, and kiss them goodnight.

The child's room is ready! It is right down the hall from our bedroom, furnished with a crib. We will add a rocker, toys, stuffed animals, and bookshelves full of stories to read. The room is freshly painted a soothing green, as we wanted to create a calming space for the child to sleep in each night. Grandma created a sign she wanted to include in the bedroom, that reads "Twinkle twinkle little star, do you know how loved you are?" As the child gets older, we will let them decide how their room will look, by letting them choose paint color, bedsheet colors or themes, curtains, and posters or pictures on the wall.



## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Spending time with friends, exercise and fitness, reading, gardening, playing softball, cooking together, always learning

**Adoptive Father:** Home improvement projects, playing softball, watching college sports, video games, singing, performing in plays, cooking together, always learning

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Certified Diabetes Educator

**Adoptive Father:** Data Scientist

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelors Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Doctoral Degree

## PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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# Our Family

We first met at a young professional's group. We both made a lot of friends in that group, including each other, but the relationship did not start out as romantic. After knowing each other for nearly a year, Tony finally asked Amanda on a date. Amanda was drawn to Tony because of his kindness, his value for family and faith, and of course because he's a good singer. Tony liked Amanda for her assertiveness, sense of humor, work ethic, and her ability to get along with anyone. We spent many nights sitting on a patio talking for hours about our lives. Six months into the relationship, Tony had to go live in Europe for his studies for over a year. This was a big test for us. We exchanged handwritten letters, talked on the phone every day, and watched TV shows together remotely. Though we were apart, we were still able to strengthen our relationship.

We are uniquely equal partners. We are both caregivers and breadwinners and want to be equally involved in raising your child. We want to show your child the joy of having a big community of people to share their life with. Hardly a week goes by without visiting a friend's house for dinner, hosting a get-together, or making a trip to see our families for any number of events.

Early in our relationship, we enjoyed taking walks together and watching weekly football games in the fall. We still like to catch up with each other about our days on walks today. We have always enjoyed cheering on the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish every Saturday during the football season, sometimes even in person! Recently we also rediscovered our love of playing sports by joining a coed softball team together.

As we grow as a family, we are excited to continue some old traditions and start some that are new. Every Sunday when we come home from church, we cook a big brunch that may include all kinds of eggs, toast or English muffins, sausage or bacon, and fresh fruit and orange juice. This is a tradition we're continuing from Tony's family. Others include Birthday Month celebrations, so they last longer than a single day, and vacations with family to the beach in Florida, a cabin in the mountains, or exploring a new city. We also have an annual clam bake and a weekend at a family pond full of swimming, lawn game tournaments, and campfires.

Fond family traditions always happen around the holidays with our families. Holidays are spent at parties with extended family: attendance can range from 20-60 people! We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day just like both of our families did growing up. The kids will write letters to Santa with their Christmas lists, and in the morning they will find their stockings filled with small treats and toys along with a letter from Santa himself.

Everyone in our family is thrilled about gaining a new niece, nephew, or grandchild! Both of our moms have offered to babysit at least a few days a week when we return to work. We both come from big families, yet we always have room in our lives for more people and look forward to being parents.



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