



Hello We Are...



Kyle & Kari

Graceful   
Adoptions™



## Our Hopes & Dreams

Our hope is that you come to know our admiration for you and we dream you will become part of our family as well.

Adoption has always been how we wanted to grow our family. Even when we were dating, we talked about the beauty and blessing of adoption - making a difference in a child's life and sharing our love with the child's parents. With family and friends who have experienced every aspect of adoption, we know that the joy of adoption also comes with grief and loss. While we may never fully comprehend the depth of your emotions, we have immense love and empathy for you.

We have been together for more than 10 years and married for more than five. We are defined by our love and commitment to each other, and both have an ingrained desire to be parents. We love to see children grow and develop, to watch them learn new skills, discover their likes and dislikes, and come into their own personalities.

For three years we led our church's Wednesday night kids' ministry. It was a large undertaking, with recruiting and leading 50 adult leaders, and with 250 children participating. During this time, we saw each other grow and use patience, leadership, planning skills, and love. Our last year leading, we were in a classroom teaching the three and four-year-old children. It was tremendously fun to watch each other be silly, creative and have fun with the kids.

We look forward to having a family. We are excited to provide a child a relationship with their birth family, provide love, stability, fun, opportunities and structure, care and attention, memories full of adventure, a good education, a deep and wide supportive network, and lots of friends. We recognize the unfathomable love you have for your child. We know that it is this love that has led you to this difficult, brave, selfless decision for your child. We hope you feel loved, validated, appreciated, and cared for - by us and our family.

Thank you for considering us to care for and love your child!

*Kyle & Kari*

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**FAITH** - Our faith is the guiding principle and lens that we use to look at life. It helps us focus on what's important, have peace in hard times, and spurs our love and compassion for others. We show this by serving in our church's children's ministry and giving to those in need by paying heating bills or buying diapers. We help our friends with house projects and yard work. We will share our faith with your child through prayer time, bible stories, participating in church, and ongoing conversations. We pray your child's faith will grow with them and they will want to serve alongside us at places like Meals from the Heartland and donate their gently used toys to those less fortunate.



**FAMILY AND FRIENDS** - We believe "it takes a village." We know that life is more meaningful when we are surrounded by people. We share deep and meaningful relationships with a network of people that we can count on and that can count on us. We have close friendships with our coworkers and enjoy getting together every week with a group of families from our church. We like to go hiking, BBQ, and play games with friends. Our family will spend time together at the zoo, swimming in the summer, and sledding in the winter. Your child will have sleepovers with cousins, one-on-one time with their grandparents, and play in the yard with our neighbors.

**LEARNING AND GROWTH** - The things we learn stay with us for a lifetime. From an early age, we hope to instill a desire in your child to be a life-long learner. For our four-year anniversary we were fortunate to take a trip of a lifetime, spending three weeks in Europe. At the beginning of the trip, we did tourist sites - the Eiffel Tower, Buckingham Palace. At the end of the trip, we went zip lining, hiking, ate Swiss chocolate and visited the house where Kari's great-grandmother grew up. This sense of wonder was encouraged in us at a young age and we will do the same for your child. We will be actively engaged in your child's learning, helping with homework, encouraging them to try extracurricular activities, teaching them life skills, and providing opportunities to try new things. We will support your child's desire to attend college or a trade school, whichever path fits their dreams best.



**TRYING OUR BEST** - We are not perfect, and we don't expect your child to be either. We believe when we have the determination to try our best, it builds self-esteem. We recently renovated our fireplace, changing the mantel, tile surround, and hearth. Late one night we found ourselves very tired grouting the tile. We did the best we could given how tired we were, and that's okay. We do a lot of house projects together. They may not come out perfectly, but we get to learn together, have fun, and spend time together. We will encourage your child to explore their interests and we will celebrate their efforts and courage to try new things. We want them to know that it's okay to make mistakes, and we will still be their cheering them on through life.



**ENJOY LIFE** - We believe joy, adventure, and fun are necessary for a balanced and healthy life. We will bring joy to every day with laughter and jokes. We will play with our dogs, jump in the fallen leaves, play games, go on hikes, make smores around our firepit, and enjoy popcorn and root beer floats while we watch movies in our outdoor theatre. Your child will crawl up the ladder propped on the neighbor's fence to visit their friends. We will go to the farmer's market on Saturdays, build forts, and explore new places like the forests and mountains.

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# Our Home

Our neighborhood is the perfect place to raise children. We live in a cul-de-sac where everyone knows each other, the families spend time together, and all the kids are friends. It's the kind of place where all the parents sit in their driveways while the kids play together in each other's yards. Our neighbors are always welcome for smores in our firepit and movie night in our backyard theatre. In the winter after a snow, we all meet outside and clear the driveways and sidewalks together.

Like our neighborhood, our home is a refuge - a place to relax, be ourselves, and for friends and family to gather. Here, it is more important that people feel comfortable than to keep things perfectly neat and tidy. The open floor plan is great for interaction and togetherness yet has places like the sunroom you can close the doors if you want to be alone. There are lots of places to gather, we have three couches, two loveseats, and two tables. Kari starts each day reading in front of the fireplace, with lots of blankets and pillows for warmth and comfort. Your child will have a fun place to learn, grow, and explore with toys and books always in reach.

We enjoy our time together - doing house projects, walking our dogs, spending time with friends and family, and hiking and enjoying the outdoors. Our favorite time of the day is in the evening when we come together to make dinner and spend quality time together. We have a large deck surrounded by globe lights with a table where we like to grill-out, especially hamburgers and peppers, when the weather is nice. If friends or family join us, we play backyard games while the kids play with the dogs or in the playroom.

Your child's room is ready. We have a white crib and dresser and a rocking chair where we will spend lots of time reading and snuggling. We are excited for more love to fill our lives and our schedules to change. We look forward to building memories and watching your child grow, just as we are look forward to seeing each other grow as parents.

We imagine watching your child climb on a playset in our yard and playing fetch with the dogs. We envision him or her smiling and giggling at the zoo animals and playing grocery store at the science center. As your child grows, there are walking and biking trails, parks, a botanical garden, sculpture park, farmers market, splash pads, amusement park and minor league sports nearby for us to enjoy as a family.

While we look forward to memories created every day, we especially look forward to sharing Christmas traditions. Cutting down our Christmas tree and decorating it with twinkling lights and ornaments collected from our adventures over the year. When Kari was young, Kari's parents gave three gifts to be opened the three days leading up to Christmas, an ornament, a book and pajamas. We are excited to wear our pajamas as we open our presents Christmas morning as a family.

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Being active, traveling, spending time outdoors, hiking, playing with our dogs, researching our ancestry, house projects, decorating, reading, watching West Wing, and spending time with family and friends.

**Adoptive Father:** Traveling, playing tennis, hiking, playing with our dogs, reading, grilling, going for walks, house projects, watching TV and movies, playing board and party games, and spending time with family and friends.

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Research Associate

**Adoptive Father:** Application Developer

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelors Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelors Degree

## PLUS:

- Family dogs
- Both non-smokers



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# Our Family

We met in college years ago. We sat right next to each other without any interaction for three months. Eventually, Kyle sent Kari a Facebook message asking for her number and our relationship grew from there. While we were dating, we loved to go to movies, go to restaurants, attend football games, go for walks and hikes, and hang out with friends. We dated more than four years before we got married.

There are a lot of qualities that we really love and treasure in each other. Kyle is thoughtful, kind, smart, patient, and loving. On one dating anniversary, Kyle came over to my house in the middle of the night and wrote in chalk on the driveway, he always paid for our dates, opened doors for me, and even took a biology class so he would understand what I was talking about for the rest of our lives. Kari is loyal, spunky, energetic, fun, encouraging, smart, and passionate. She is also a bit stubborn, which is the source of many of our jokes. Our relationship is based on love, mutual admiration, and respect for each other. It is strengthened by our communication, complimentary skills and temperaments, similar hobbies and interests, and meeting wherever the other person is at.



Our parents have each been married for more than 30 years and are great role models for our relationship. We each have one sibling, however we both have larger extended families – aunts, uncles, cousins - that are part of our support networks. We truly enjoy spending life together, rather than just watching it pass by. When we were growing up all the cousins would have slumber parties together to help build our bond. We look forward to our children's generation doing the same with their cousins.

Each year on Father's Day we spend the day cruising the lake with a cooler full of snacks, then anchor to swim and fish. We spend birthdays together, travel, and generally have fun together doing things like sledding. We also have family that is passionate for sprint car racing. Every summer our cousins race and family gathers to cheer them on. We have shared birthday celebrations that always include homemade cake, homemade ice cream, and homemade chocolate sauce. We open presents and then play games like Nertz, Apples to Apples, and Charades. For Halloween, we carve pumpkins and dress-up for trick or treat. At Thanksgiving, Kyle makes the family turkey with recipes that have been handed down and we gather for a big meal and then some outdoor activity.

Like us, your child will have a large network of support in our family and friends. Everyone is excited to have a new grandchild, niece or nephew, and cousin. We are so excited to become parents and hope to share our family with you!



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