



Hello We Are...



Dave & Mariah

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## Our Hopes & Dreams

When we purchased our home 8 years ago, it was with the desire of having our family here. We could picture our children playing in the yard or at the kitchen counter helping to make cookies and the pitter patter of little feet running through the living room. We've always dreamed of having children. We've talked about adoption throughout our marriage, long before we knew pregnancy wouldn't happen for us. We're excited and dedicated to growing our family through adoption.

We have so much to share with a child. We look forward to family life where we enjoy playing, exploring, creating, cooking, and traveling together. We work from home most days which allows for additional quality time together. We laugh a lot and enjoy deep-hearted conversation. We hope to nurture a loving, close-knit family where everyone is comfortable expressing themselves and knows these are the people they can count on. We're excited to learn from our children and teach them about the world.

We come from loving and connected families. We have six nieces so far, so our future child will have lots of built-in friends to play with from the start. Our relationships with our siblings and their families are important to us, and we hope to give our child the blessing of a sibling someday too.

If you chose us to parent your child, we will consider it our highest lifework to offer them everything they need to thrive and experience joy in this world. They will be loved and cherished, days will be filled with laughter, learning, and yummy food. We'll continue to learn about your child each day and offer them exactly what they need in each stage of their development, and there will be love and support from our extended families as well.

We understand life might not be how you expected it. We pray that you'll feel peace and know what is right for both you and your child, the way only you can. If we can be a part of that plan, know we will do our very best. We hope you will have the relationship you desire with your child, and we'll work to make your dreams for them come true.

Respectfully,

*Dave & Mariah*

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents



**FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP** - We're incredibly lucky to have the support of family and friends. We value these relationships and love to spend time with these people. Our child will have built-in friends through many cousins and our friends' children. We'll be eager to build relationships with other families as our child meets new friends in our neighborhood, at school, or through activities. We think it's important for a child to also have other supportive relationships outside of parents.



**FUN AND JOY** - Mariah sometimes says, "If it's not fun, what's the point?". It's not a literal statement, but more of an ethos that life should be fun, and our days should be joyful. We don't take ourselves too seriously. Each day we laugh, sing, and dance... all before breakfast. When we are around our family and friends, you can count on roaring laughter. Your child will be raised in an environment where we find joy and contentment in the small things like beautiful scenery, cute animals, and pancakes, as well as the larger fun times like celebrations with family and trips exploring new places.



**LEARNING, CREATIVITY, AND EXPLORATION** - Dave had a homeschool education that included space to learn through creative exploration and his own curiosity and research. As a teenager he modified high-end yoyos, built computers and websites, and started his first lifestyle brand business (and learned how to pay taxes). We both continue as DIYers in photography and video production, in historic home renovations, crafts, art, and woodworking. Both self-learning and education are things we value and want to pass on. We'll pave the way for our children to explore and pursue their dreams. We are committed to providing the education needed to be successful and thrive, whether in a home learning environment, school classroom, or specialized school.



**GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS** - As humans it's important that we look out for each other and our environment. Generosity doesn't have to be financial; it can be with our time. Lending a helping hand when someone's car needs a jump-start, giving directions, shoveling out someone's car stuck in the snow, these are things we can do for one another. We try to leave a little extra time in our schedules so we can help our family, friends, and neighbors when something arises. This might be watching our friends' or families' children while they have a date night, helping someone move, or helping an older neighbor figure out complicated paperwork. We'll teach our child to be a kind and loving person and to be a good steward of the earth. We'll teach them about composting and recycling and about leaving nature better than we found it.

**FAITH** - Faith has been a constant in both of our lives since childhood. Our faith isn't stuffy with lists of dos and don'ts but a constant practice of following the way of Jesus that shapes our lives and hopefully those around us. We practice our faith by praying, peacemaking, seeking justice, and loving others. Our children will attend church with us on Sundays and meet other kids in our community. They'll learn songs at home and grow up learning the stories of Jesus. We will encourage our children to think for themselves, ask questions, and to one day choose how they would like to practice their faith and make it their own.

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# Our Home

We live in the center of the city which provides endless opportunities. There are great restaurants in every direction, professional sports, museums, art, science center, and many parks. The closest park, just a block away, has a playground, community picnic shelter, a large splash pad, and basketball and tennis courts.

Built in the 1890's, we have been patiently restoring and updating our beautiful Victorian home over the last eight years. The interior has original woodwork, hardwood floors, and a fireplace at the center. Beautiful daylight pours through the windows on each side of the house. Every morning, Mariah opens the curtains or blinds in each room to let all the light in. The house glows so softly in the mornings. We enjoy sipping coffee and starting the morning slowly. Every evening when the sun peeks through our front door window, we're met with "rainbow hour" where the light through the lead glass casts rainbows all around the living room; it feels magical.

We enjoy having our family and friends over to share meals, especially Saturday brunch when Dave makes crepes. It's easy to lose track of time and talk for hours around our table, curled up on the couches, or on the porch. In cooler weather, we enjoy our firepit outdoors or our indoor fireplace to roast marshmallows and make s'mores.

We've built a photography and video business that allows us and our employees to work from home when not on set. This allows for lots of flexibility and family time.

Mariah loves to bake and looks forward to baking with our child. We'll read books and play with toys on the floor of our living room. We will read together before bed, hopefully enjoying longer chapter books as our child grows older. There will be no shortage of craft time. We love to tinker and make things, whether its woodworking, leather crafts, or painting. We'll spend time around the dinner table each day enjoying our favorite meals that we prepare and cook as a family.

We love to spend time outside on our wrap around porch or in our yard but also going for walks in our neighborhood or on nearby trails. Dave looks forward to teaching our child how to fish and about plants and animals. We'll play with neighborhood children at the nearby park, we'll tend to our vegetable and flower gardens, or take a walk to the local ice cream shop. We'll draw with sidewalk chalk and play on scooters on our long driveway.

We're excited for the laughter, music, and playfulness a child will bring to our home. We look forward to sharing life with our child, teaching them, and watching them flourish.

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Arts & crafts, puzzles, flower gardening, baking, photography, hiking, music, camping, road trips, old home restoration, visiting flea markets and antique malls.

**Adoptive Father:** Photography, fly-fishing, camping & outdoors, canoeing, coffee, vegetable gardening, breakfast, cold weather, crafting, vinyl records, mountain biking, roller hockey, yoyos, guitar.

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Art Director & Photo Editor

**Adoptive Father:** Photographer, Cinematographer, and Creative Agency Business Owner

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Bachelors Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Associates Degree

## PLUS:

- Both non-smokers



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# Our Family

We met as teenagers through a mutual friend and became fast friends. Our relationship grew naturally. Mariah was impressed by Dave's creativity and his ability to follow through to achieve his dreams. Dave loved Mariah's outgoing and silly nature and her kindness. Mariah worked at a coffee shop where Dave would frequent, and we started spending more and more time talking. We fell in love and knew we would be happy joining our lives and passions.

Dave is innovative, strategic, patient, deep-thinking, outgoing, and kind. Mariah is empathetic, intuitive, encouraging, passionate, organized, and hardworking. We're both dependable, loyal, and creative. We are unwavering in our friendship and love for each other and have been happily together for more than 17 years. We enjoy going on walks together, biking, and hiking. In the winter, we often have a big jigsaw puzzle sprawled across our dining room table that we work on while listening to vinyl records or watching movies. We love road trips and the time to enjoy a book together or just spending hours talking and dreaming. We carve out time each year to vacation outdoors. This often looks like camping on the north shore of Lake Superior or in the mountains or enjoying a warm ocean beach and seafood. We love to make things, whether small hand crafts for gifts or building things for our house.



Our families are a big part of our lives. Our parents and siblings live close by, so we spend time with them regularly enjoying meals, playing yard games, going on walks, and water sports like paddleboarding, canoeing, and boating in the summer. We like any excuse to get together. We love playing with and entertaining our little nieces. We always get together to celebrate holidays and birthdays. Mariah's birthday is in November, and this has become the start of our holiday season. We like to put up the Christmas tree that day so we can begin enjoying the glowing lights as soon as possible. Christmas has always been a special season for us. We spend time with both our families, sharing meals, giving gifts and roasting chestnuts.

Mariah's family took a road trip each summer and has visited most of the states in the U.S. As a couple, we also love to go on road trips. We've driven to both coasts and all sorts of places in between. We love the unique family time in the car playing games and talking endlessly. We look forward to continuing our love of travel with your child, showing them new places, trying new foods, and helping them see the beauty the world has to offer. Dave loves landscape photography, so we are always seeking out places to enjoy a sunset. He's been photographing the Iditarod Sled Dog race across the Alaska wilderness since 2016. He also enjoys mountain biking with his brother and canoeing the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota with his Dad.

Our families are excited to welcome a new child to our family. Dave's parents have a hidden fort built under the stairs in their home they designed and built. Our older nieces have loved it over the years, and Dave's parents can't wait to share it with a new grandchild. Mariah's parents became first time grandparents in 2020 and have been having a blast. They have a play kitchen in their living room, and Grammie Carol always has the best craft projects planned. Our families, who are so supportive of us, are already looking forward to loving our child.



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