



Hello We Are...



Jen & Isaac



Our Hopes & Dreams

When I (Jen) was in my early twenties, I felt very lost. I did an internet search for how to change my life, and found a volunteer conservation corps on the other side of the country. Growing up, my family was very "indoorsy." I bought boots and a used tent, and two weeks later I was building trails in California. I learned then that the world is a giant place, full of new experiences. I found a unique community, full of positive people who wanted to make the world a better place. I learned that I'm not very good at building trails, but as long as I was trying, that was okay. Since then, I try my best to see the good in people and in events and value effort and experience over success. These are the values I hope to teach my children.

When I (Isaac) was around 7 years old, an older cousin came to visit and took me, my siblings and all of our other cousins to a local public pool. We were all playing together, being silly, and having fun. Being kids, we were unaware that there was another child nearby watching us play. As soon as my older cousin noticed him, he eagerly invited the boy to play with us. It was such a small moment, but it's an experience that I've tried to pass on as much as I can - to bring a bit of happiness and fun to anyone I can with even the smallest of gestures.

Our hopes and dreams are to offer love, acceptance, positivity, and opportunity for our children.

It's important to us that we bring more love into this world, and we hope to do that by bringing more love into our family. We want nothing more than to have another child to dote on and for our children to have a wonderful sibling in each other. We want to have adventures with our children and watch them find their own passions. More than anything, we want to have a family that is accepting and loving, as well as encouraging and healthy.

For the mother reading this, we promise to provide a safe home, open minds and hearts, and limitless support. We want the same for your child that we want for our child: the opportunity to be the very best version of themselves that they can be. We know that not everyone is as blessed in circumstance as we are. We hope that we can make your life a little happier, a little easier, and a little more full of love.

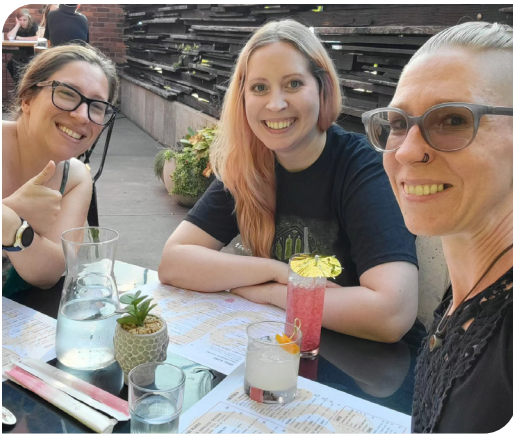
With gratitude,

Jen & Isaac

Graceful 
Adoptions™

A Beautiful Experience

YourPartner@GracefulAdoptions.com | GracefulAdoptions.com



Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

COMPASSION - It's important to understand and empathize with other people's struggles. We can all use a little more kindness. We talk through our feelings and listen to each other. We volunteer to help at our son's school. We regularly give to friends in need and donate to local charities. We will teach our children about compassion through conversation and our actions. We start conversations about compassion when we are watching kid shows, reading bedtime stories, and playing video games. We will share volunteer work with our children at an appropriate age.



LEARNING - The world is a fascinating place with many beautiful things to learn. We are both lifelong learners. We have college degrees and enjoy learning for fun. Isaac studies German for fun, keeps up with the news, and follows three or four podcasts. Jennifer is intrigued by stories, science, and math. She likes to solve math problems and read about physics. She is conversational in French and studies Spanish on her morning walks. We will encourage our children to learn and explore too! If our children want to learn about something, we want to learn about it too. If there's an adventure that is related to our kids' interests, we want to go on it. For example, our son is interested in lizards, so we often go to the botanical gardens and to the zoo. We are excited for our children to participate in after school activities that will support their interests.



CREATIVITY - Hobbies provide a unique opportunity to bond with others and find community. They're also a great way to express ourselves and to connect with our thoughts and feelings. We both think that regularly engaging in creative pursuits helps keep us mentally healthy. We also think family creativity time is a great way to connect and encourage each other. This might be as simple as arts, crafts, and drawing, but we like all forms of expression. Jen crafts, sews, knits, paints by number and writes. Isaac likes to draw, create character designs, remodel action figures, and build playscapes. Our son likes to build characters out of clay. We will continue to encourage our children to pursue creative arts both formally (music class, art lessons, acting, etc), and informally (playing and building as a family at home).

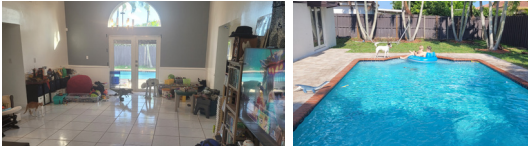


FUN - We think it's important to do things just because we enjoy them, and to teach our children the same. We are fortunate to be able to give our children a fun-filled and easy childhood, and we try to make the best of it. If it's silly, or looks interesting, we'll do it. This has brought us to national parks across the country, theme parks, and smaller adventures like mini golf and local last-minute events. We like to have daily play time, which might mean going on a walk and playing in the park, swimming together in the pool, or just hanging out and playing toys or video games.

RESILIENCY - Sometimes life doesn't go as planned. The faster we adapt in challenging times, the better off we are. We are a military family, thus move every few years. We adjust plans, expectations, and living situations, making choices as a family. Oliver's only request during our last move was to have a pool, so we only looked at residences that came with a pool. We think the best way to teach adaptability and resiliency is to let young people know we're there to support them when they need it.

A Beautiful Experience





Our Home

Home is love, safety, and acceptance. Wherever we are together is home.

The neighborhood we currently live in is active and beautiful. Jen walks the family dog every morning, and all three of us often go for walks in the evening. We're about 45 minutes from the heart of Miami and about an hour from Miami Beach. We're just a few hours from the Florida Keys. There are two playgrounds a short walking distance from our house. Just beyond, there are botanical gardens, the zoo, and a few super cool outdoor malls to play at. We're surrounded by mini golf, theaters, pools, and playgrounds. Orlando and Disney World, where we've been twice, is just four hours away.

Our home feels cozy, cheerful and lived-in. Our walls are lined with bookcases and toy cubbies. It always feels like you're joining some game or another when you enter. We eat dinner together every night, we have a large play area dedicated to creativity, and we bake together sending the scent of homemade cookies and banana bread throughout the house.

Wherever we live we keep a list of places we want to visit and add to it the longer we stay there. Our current list includes visiting the turtle hospital, Miami aquarium, the Coral Castle, Everglades Safari, and Berry Farms. Our planned activities are interesting enough to be fun and memorable but relaxed enough that they're not overwhelming. If we decide not to go anywhere, we relax at home. We'll swim, watch a movie, listen to music, or just spend time together playing games and with toys.

We have a fenced-in back yard, filled with vibrant grass and palm trees, a blue-tiled inground pool, and a covered patio. We usually eat dinner on the patio, although in the hotter months, we often eat inside. The hobby corner is covered in crafting projects, idea boards and paints. A small desk sits beside the clutter, neatly organized and covered in Oliver's artwork. This is Jennifer's desk for when she works from home.

On weekends we have a more relaxed schedule. Everyone wakes up at their own pace, and we usually make a big breakfast with waffles or pancakes. Everyone is free to play games, with toys, Legos, or whatever they want. We might watch a movie or play a video game together - we have a lot of multiplayer video games and board games. There is usually swimming, a nice walk, and a trip to the playground or beach on the weekends. We may also visit one of the places on our list.

We look forward to adding another child to our lives, someone else to share our time and love with. We look forward to better vacations, new adventures, and more fun. We already have a play-centric lifestyle. Time in the afternoons will still exist for play and homework, and we will all work together to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and loved. If your child needs swimming lessons, we will get them; if they need extra help in school, we'll arrange for a tutor or help them ourselves; if they have favorite foods, we'll make it; if they have a favorite type of toy, we will find it.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Reading, writing, hiking, knitting and crocheting, sewing, playing video games, watching movies, swimming and playing outside, and going on adventures

Adoptive Father: Playing outside, swimming, hiking, kayaking, camping, making custom toys, learning to make and playing video games, woodworking, painting, reading and scuba diving

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: USCG Construction Manager

Adoptive Father: USCG Marine Science Technician

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Masters Degree

Adoptive Father: Associates Degree

PLUS:

- Family dog
- Both non-smokers

A Beautiful Experience



Our Family

We met in Grand Isle, Louisiana where we were both stationed. Isaac was there to help clean up the BP oil spill, and Jennifer worked at a search and rescue station. We both babysat for a mutual friend on rotating Fridays, Jen one week, Isaac the next. One Friday, our friend accidentally asked us both to babysit. We spent all evening talking about one of our favorite authors, within weeks we were dating. Isaac fell in love with Jennifer's passion, intelligence and creativity, and Jennifer fell in love with Isaac's charm and curiosity. We quickly realized that we bring out the best in each other, as friends and as partners. We married six months later and are about to celebrate our tenth wedding anniversary.

We have one child, Oliver, who is seven years old. He is a little shy initially but loves to teach other children how to do things. He is creative and loves to draw and make things. He is a gentle soul and will be a great big brother! Our little family is amazing and happy. As a couple and family our strength is communication. We know that we can always talk to one another and know that we're not alone with a feeling.

We spend a lot of time outside and love to explore new places. Isaac has camped, kayaked, and been diving all over the Southeast. Jen has worked on trails in the US National Parks, including the Grand Canyon. Together, we have hiked, kayaked, and spent time in some of the most beautiful outdoor environments the country and the world have to offer. This is an experience we want to pass on to our children. We go on hikes, to museums, or even to the local malls to window shop and buy candy.

We enjoy the holidays with open invitations to all our friends and family. Every year for Easter, "the Easter Bunny" creates a treasure map and our son follows clues around the house to find eggs and a special surprise. For Halloween, we always wear family costumes. At Christmas, we all get new pajamas and watch Muppet Christmas Carol. We are excited to share holidays with another child and are willing to change or add new ways to celebrate.

During vacations, we try to get together with cousins and enjoy as many outdoor and child-friendly activities as possible. We may travel to Michigan to see Jen's family or Georgia where Isaac's parents live on the top of their very own mountain. Last year, a large group of us went to Disney together. We had an absolute blast! We spaced out the vacation so that the kids had a relaxing day in between each day at a park, and we set time aside watching each other's kids so that the parents could have time to relax as well. While we might not go to Disney every year, we do try to plan a large vacation to see something new and spend time with our families.

We are still writing our story as a family and look forward to the next chapter with another child.



A Beautiful Experience

