



Hello We Are...



Rachel & Drew



## Our Hopes & Dreams

The strong bond we have with one another defines our family. We hope to share those same bonds with you. Our dream is for you and your child to feel loved by our family, and share an open relationship with you and anyone else in your family who wants to be part of our family.

As we grow our family, we will continue to put one another first and make sure our family stays a priority above other things in life - sports, jobs, etc. We hope our children will go on all sorts of adventures, both near and far. Whether that is through learning new hobbies, meeting new people, traveling, spending time in nature or something else, we want to be a family that is actively learning new things and bonding together through shared experiences.

For you, regardless if you select us to parent your child, we want you to feel empowered and in control of this decision. We want this to be your choice and on your terms. We believe you know what is best for yourself and your child. If you choose us, we will do everything we can to support you and your child. We want healing, wholeness, love, forgiveness, hope, and peace for you, and your child.

Thank you so much for taking the time to look through our profile and learning a little bit more about our family. Please know we are thinking about you and praying for you as you consider all the options that will be best for you and your child. We also want to acknowledge how hard this must be. We hope that in whatever way, shape, or form, we can be an encouragement to you.

Respectfully,

Rachel & Drew

Graceful   
Adoptions™

*A Beautiful Experience*

YourPartner@GracefulAdoptions.com | GracefulAdoptions.com





# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**LOVE IS EVERYTHING** - We believe that love is the reason that we are here on Earth. The church we attend often talks about the four loves: loving God, loving others, loving ourselves, and loving creation. This is what we are trying to establish in our family. These four loves are the foundation for any of the other values or lessons we want to teach our children. One of the ways we will share this value with our children is by the relationship and bond we create with them. We will find opportunities to volunteer as a family and to care for our family, friends, and community as a way to model for our children what it looks like to love others.



**EDUCATION** - Our lives have been so rich and full because of our desire to learn more. This is one of the reasons that we love to read so much, because ultimately, reading is learning. This is also the reason we love to travel; we can learn so many things about others and about ourselves when we travel. And finally, it is the reason we became teachers, because we believe education is so important that we wanted to help others learn too. We hope to find schools and other opportunities that will allow our children find their passions and develop them into something that they can enjoy doing for many years to come.



**BALANCE** - It is incredibly easy to get distracted and thrown off course by any number of things vying for our attention these days. We believe that one of the keys to a joyful, good life is to be able to find balance. We are constantly having conversations about how and what we are spending our time on. Like a balanced diet is good for the body, so is a life that is balanced in terms of time spent with friends, family, or on hobbies, learning, and work. We strive to keep everything in balance so that one area is not overpowering another. While our children are young, we will be very intentional about the activities that we choose to do. We hope to find a wide variety of things that our children will enjoy doing, but also balance that with time spent at home playing and having unstructured time, which is so important for kids.



**PATIENCE** - In our fast-paced, no waiting world, opportunities to practice patience are becoming fewer and further between. However, we have found that in our adult lives, there are so many things that we have to wait for, and patience is something that we seem to be constantly needing. We have learned a lot in these last six years of parenting, and our ability to be patient has grown. We will give our children many opportunities to try something again and again. We hope to also help them develop patience in a variety of ways. Learning to entertain themselves with something that doesn't provide instant gratification is an excellent way to practice patience.

**INTEGRITY** - We believe that integrity builds character, relationships, and trust. Drew and I are very consistent people who take responsibility for our actions and follow through on things that we say we will do. We have found that this leads to greater responsibility and helps get things accomplished. People can trust and rely on us to get things done. We teach our children integrity by providing for them, showing up for them, and caring for them.

*A Beautiful Experience*





# Our Home

Our neighborhood is a great place to raise children! We are close to so many interesting, unique, and fun places like Nickelodeon Universe, museums, and playgrounds. We also love our neighborhood because it's beautiful and quiet. Though we live in the city, we live at the top of a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Within a block or two, we have woods and walking paths that give us a good dose of nature. We go on long bike rides along the river, leaving right from home. We also love the makeup of our neighborhood. There are young and old, well-off folks, people that are less fortunate, and people of different races including Caucasian, African American/Black, Hispanic, and Asian. It's good for our family to see people who look, think, and act differently than we do!

We live in a cozy two-story house. We keep things neat and tidy, yet lived in. We like that our house is a home. There are good people here, good food, and it's a safe place for everyone to be themselves. If kids come visit, we usually help our son find toys that he thinks the other children would like to play with. Recently we had friends over. The kids were excited to have their own "kid table" to eat lunch at. After lunch, we transformed that table into the arts and crafts table and the kids were busy making Christmas crafts. It was awesome.

Our life is very child-centric. We value time together as a family and support each other's interests. Making time for dinners around the table is important to us, and we make an effort to prioritize it whenever possible. Our favorites meals are pancakes for breakfast and tacos or homemade pizza for dinner. We also love playing board games, and so often when friends come over, we let them pick out a game that they would like to play. Favorites include Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, and Flapjacks & Sasquatches.

We try and get outside most days to play a little bit after school. Other days we come inside to read books or play. We eat dinner together and afterwards it's time to start the bedtime routine for our son. We switch off who is putting him to bed, and for the rest of the evening, we spend time as a couple or doing our own things like reading or watching a favorite show, right now that is Abbott Elementary.

Our life looks a bit different depending on the time of year. During the summer, our schedule is incredibly different because all of us are off work and school. We get so much family time together. We try to create a schedule, although it's built around fun and exploration. We meet up with friends once or twice a week, so our son has some socializing opportunities. We also go to the pool at least once a week and visit new playgrounds, museums, and nature centers to keep things exciting. It's such a great time of year for us to go on all sorts of adventures - vacations with the family, day trips to somewhere fun, etc. We enjoy sitting outside in the evenings to read and use our backyard to play games with neighbors and friends. We LOVE summer! We can't wait to share this time with another child!

We're excited to have another child in our home. Children bring new energy and life to any environment. We're also excited to go through the many different ages and stages again. Our son is looking forward to having another person in the family to play with and to look after. He will be a great big brother!

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Reading, traveling, spending time with friends and family, biking, being outside

**Adoptive Father:** Reading, hiking, biking, playing ultimate frisbee, gardening, cooking, baking, playing board games

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Gifted & Talented Services Coordinator

**Adoptive Father:** Online Tutor/Stay at Home Dad

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Masters Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Masters Degree

## PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

*A Beautiful Experience*





# Our Family

We met at an American school in Monterrey, Mexico where we both taught. We played ultimate frisbee together for a year, however we didn't have a lot of interaction beyond that. It wasn't until someone who knew us both thought we'd be a good match that we both looked at the other in a different way.

As we got to know each other, we discovered our most valued characteristics in the other. Rachel is selfless and giving, and she cares a lot about her family. One year for her birthday, she invited friends to volunteer at a food shelf with her. Drew is a kind and generous person, often thinking about how he can help others. We've been together for more than 12 years now. Being committed to growing and changing together helps us to keep our relationship strong.

We have one son, Bram, who is 6 years old. He is energetic and loves to run and play tag. He also enjoys playing with cars or other vehicles, building with Legos or blocks, and reading. Bram is excited to have a sibling. We think there are so many positives for both children to have someone to share life and adventures with.

No matter where we are or who we are with, we have fun as a family. We love playing board games, going for family bike rides and hikes, camping together, and visiting apple orchards. In the summer we often go to a "u-pick" blueberry farm as a family and then make desserts like blueberry pie.

We also are very intentional about spending quality time with our families. It's important to us to maintain relationships with our extended family, as well as have our son develop and maintain relationships with his grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles. We tend to celebrate life together, whether that is watching our son and nephews participate in activities, vacationing, or coming together for holidays.

Rachel's parents live on a farm in a small town. Bram loves walking the dog and riding around in the Gator, lawn mower, or tractors with his grandparents; and visiting his cousins. Thanksgiving is one of our favorite holidays. We eat all sorts of delicious food like turkey, ham, salads, stuffing, pie, etc. and at least half of us, go out for a football game no matter the weather! Recently, 34 of us came together to celebrate, and it was so much fun!

We also vacation together which is a lot more fun than even we anticipated. Every year with Drew's parents and his sister's family, we go to a lake resort and spend a week swimming, kayaking, playing mini golf, going for hikes, racing turtles, and just enjoying each other's company. The cousins love the time spent playing and hanging out together. With Rachel's family, we've gone to the Wisconsin Dells where we play in the water parks, compete at mini golf, and simply enjoy meals together and the time spent with one another.

Adoption is on both sides of our family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins are always excited to welcome a new member and this child will be celebrated just like all the others.



A Beautiful Experience

