



Hello We Are...



JoAnna & Matt

Graceful
Adoptions™





Our Hopes & Dreams

From the earliest days of our relationship, we prayed for the health and happiness of our future family. When we made the decision to adopt, our prayers grew to include not only "the health and happiness of our future child" but also "the peace and wellness of their birth family." We know that for many birth parents, the choice to place a child for adoption is an act of deep, selfless love that also carries fear, uncertainty, and grief. To the birth parents reading this, please know that we hold you in our hearts. We see the courage, strength, and love it takes to make this decision for your child, and we honor you for it.

As we prepare for parenthood, we've spent much time reflecting on the life we want to provide and the values we hope to model. Like everything we do, our guiding principle is to lead with love, compassion, and respect. We want our child to grow up surrounded by unconditional love, not for what they do, but simply for who they are. Our hope is that they will carry confidence in their own identity and life story, always knowing that while their experience may look different from others, it is not less than. Instead, they will be deeply connected to a wide circle of adults who love and cherish them.

We also recognize that parenting comes with challenges and opportunities for growth. We don't pretend to be perfect. Like all families, we will make mistakes, have hard days, and learn as we go. As first-time parents, we know there is much to discover, but we promise that each day, we will show up for our child with warmth, kindness, patience, and grace.

Our adoption journey is not only about growing our family, it is about honoring every part of the journey and everyone involved. If we are chosen to walk this path with you, we will do so with open hearts and open minds. Above all, we hope to raise a child who knows beyond all doubt that they are deeply loved, by you, by us, and by the community that surrounds them.

With great admiration and respect,

JoAnna & Matt

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - We were both raised in the Christian faith, which continues to give us strength, guidance, and a deep sense of purpose. Our friendship began at a faith-based retreat, a reminder that love often grows from shared values. Our faith teaches us to lead with love, serve with compassion, and treat others with kindness. It steadies us in challenging times and reminds us we are part of something greater than ourselves. We look forward to our child joining children's activities at church and joyfully singing songs like "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Most of all, we want them to know they are deeply loved by us and a higher power, and that faith is about peace and connections, not rules or pressure.



COMPASSION, KINDNESS, AND SERVICE - For us, serving others isn't just something we do, it's part of who we are. JoAnna, as a therapist, and Matt, as a school counselor, both have the privilege of walking alongside people every day, offering encouragement, hope, and a safe place to land. However, serving isn't just something we do — it's a part of who we are. JoAnna and our dog, Graham, are a certified therapy team who bring comfort and joy to hospitals, schools, libraries, and nursing homes. We look forward to including our child in these moments, whether it's visiting with Graham, creating cards and drawings for those hurting, or choosing Christmas gifts for children who may not otherwise receive one. We believe compassion has the power to change the world, and we are committed to raising our child to see how simple acts of kindness can bring joy, healing, and love to others.



COMMUNITY - We feel deeply grateful for the communities that surround us. Living near JoAnna's family gives us the joy of regular time together, while Matt's family, though farther away, remains close through frequent conversations and visits. Our circle of friends is like an extension of our family; we laugh together, celebrate milestones, and support each other through life's ups and downs. We want our child to grow up experiencing the richness of meaningful relationships, their birth family, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and our friends and their children. We also look forward to encouraging them to create their own communities, whether that's through teams, clubs, library programs, or service projects. These experiences will help them learn how to cooperate, solve problems, collaborate, and communicate with confidence. Most of all, we want our child to always know they are never alone and are surrounded by people who cheer them on, encourage them, and create a strong sense of belonging.



A LOVE FOR LEARNING AND LIVING FULLY - We believe life is an adventure best explored with open hearts and curious minds. Learning doesn't just happen in classrooms, it unfolds while digging in the garden, asking "why" for the tenth time, reading bedtime stories, or discovering new places together. We want to nurture our child's natural curiosity, cheering them on whether they're building with blocks, kicking a soccer ball, painting at the kitchen table, or staring up at the stars. Whatever sparks their interest, sports, music, science, art, or something brand new, we'll encourage them to dive in with confidence, knowing they are loved and supported every step of the way.

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HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Volleyball, volunteerism, kayaking, nature walks, faith development, crafting, and spending time with family and friends

Adoptive Father: Going to the movies, watching sports, playing games, enjoys musicals, spending time with friends

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Therapist

Adoptive Father: School Counselor

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Master's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree

PLUS:

- Two family dogs
- Both non-smokers

Our Home

The most special part of our home is the feeling within it, a safe space where we can be our true, authentic selves without fear of judgment. It's where we navigate life, always knowing that we have the unconditional love and support of the people (and dogs!) inside.

We live in a quiet, welcoming neighborhood that's perfect for family life. Our home is close to both the elementary and middle/high schools, and on my days off, We love sitting in our gazebo, listening to the laughter of children playing on the nearby playground. We can already picture our child running to the swings, creating memories with friends, and our home becoming "the place" to gather before or after school activities.

Though our community is small, we're just a short drive from a nearby city, giving us the best of both worlds, a close-knit community with endless opportunities to explore. Inside, our home is cozy and filled with spaces we've lovingly made our own. We treasure our time together cooking meals, tackling creative projects, or curling up in the living room with books, board games, or music. We also love getting outside, whether it's neighborhood walks, afternoons in the yard, or adventures in nearby parks and trails. We can't wait to share these everyday joys with our child and proudly display their artwork right alongside our own.

Our home is also a place for gatherings. We love hosting friends and family for our annual "Survivor" party (a fun version of field day), murder mystery nights, potlucks, board games, and game-day get-togethers. We look forward to planning birthday parties for our child, whether they're obsessed with Bluey, trains, animals, or something entirely new.

Christmas is our favorite time of year. We love the magic of the season so much that we planned our wedding the week before Christmas. Each year, we decorate trees both upstairs and in our finished basement, and we can't wait to add handmade ornaments from our child. We look forward to opening presents together on Christmas morning and embracing the joyful chaos of noisy new toys.

One of our favorite rooms in our home is the nursery, decorated in a cheerful jungle theme. Bright animals, soft textures, and playful details make it a room full of wonder. We're excited to teach our child the animals' names and sounds, read countless books while rocking them, and add toys that will grow with them as they reach new milestones.

We can't wait to make memories in every corner of our home—playing, singing, dancing, decorating, cooking and baking, helping with homework, and learning from one another. More than anything, our home is filled with love, and we are ready to share that love with our child in all the big and little moments life brings.



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Our Family

We first met during a Christian retreat hosted by our college more than eight years ago. What began as a simple friendship grew into something deeper as we spent more time together. Over the years, we've truly grown up side-by-side, supporting each other through the joys and tests of becoming adults. JoAnna was drawn to Matt's sense of humor, his way of helping her slow down and enjoy life, and his steady desire to care for those around him. Matt admires JoAnna's passion, her deep compassion for others, and the simple truth that she is one of the kindest people he knows. Together, we've built a relationship grounded in love, laughter, and the ability to help each other enjoy the present moment.

Although our interests are very different and we support one another's individuality, we love sharing new experiences together. Some of our favorite activities include traveling to new places, cozy movie nights, attending musicals and live shows, trivia games, kayaking in the summer, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs. We also love afternoons at the dog park, wandering through the Farmer's Market, and spending time with friends. Summer is one of our favorite seasons, since Matt is off work and we get extra time to make memories together.

As we look ahead to becoming parents, we know life will look different, and we couldn't be more excited to embrace those changes. We imagine our days filled with playfulness, laughter, and discovery. We look forward to reading bedtime stories, singing, dancing around the living room, coloring, and "goofing off" with our child. We can't wait to hear the sound of thunderous laughter in our home, to play outside, to teach them how to catch, throw, and swing, and to add games like Candy Land and Chutes and Ladders into our family game nights.

Holidays and birthdays are especially meaningful to us, and we are eager to share those traditions with our child. From chocolate hearts on Valentine's Day, to egg hunts at Easter, to pumpkin carving in the fall, and family Christmases complete with Santa gifts and sparkling apple juice toasts on New Year's Eve, our child will know the joy of these special celebrations. JoAnna's mom always goes all out for holidays with decorated cookies, gingerbread houses, and egg hunts, and it's been such a joy to watch our nephews delight in those traditions. We can't wait to create those same memories with our own child, surrounded by cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

At the heart of it all, we are simply two people who love each other, love our community, and have so much love to give to a child. We know parenthood will come with challenges, but we are grounded in our faith, our commitment to one another, and our belief that family is one of the greatest gifts in life. We are honored to be considered, and we are ready to open our hearts and home to a child who will always be deeply cherished.



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