

Dear Birthparents,

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We understand that you are putting a lot of thought and dedication into your decision and we would love to be a part of your plan.

We are Patrick and Julie and we first met while attending college. We each graduated with a master's degree, which we quickly put to use with Patrick working in accounting and Julie teaching elementary school. We were married in 2013 after several years of dating and moved to a house in a child-friendly community. Patrick has worked as a senior manager in accounting for the past twelve years. His personal hobbies include baseball games, biking, hiking, and trying new Mexican restaurants. Julie has also been in her profession since graduation and enjoys crafting, creating new lesson plans for her students, reading, and exercising.



After two years of marriage, we welcomed our son Jack into the world. He has changed our lives in more ways than we could have imagined and the love we have for him is immeasurable. Watching him grow and learn, as well as teaching him, guiding him, and playing with him, feels like our ultimate purpose in life. After Jack turned one, we started thinking about having another child and how amazing it would be to give Jack a brother or sister. However, since Jack's birth, we have suffered three pregnancy losses. Nothing could have prepared us for these losses and the devastation that we felt, and still feel. We know we are meant to have more children so we started researching adoption after talking to friends who have fostered or adopted. After these conversations and research, we are confident that expanding our family through adoption is the right path for us. We cannot wait to welcome another child into our family and share our love, values, and experiences with him or her.

Most of our free time is spent learning and playing with Jack, where we model kindness as well as perseverance and independence. We enjoy being active together through yoga, family hikes, and walks with the dog just as much as we enjoying being creative together. We love to build and create things together. On weekends, we enjoy visiting local festivals, trying new restaurants, and going to libraries, parks, and Jack's swimming or soccer practice. Our extended family, though spread across the country, is very important to us and supportive of our adoption decision. We enjoy traveling to Texas, California, and Chicago yearly to visit the people that matter to us most. Jack has a strong relationship with both of our families, as would our next child. We both grew up with parents who have now been married over 35 years, close siblings, and family values that included education, love, and spending time together on long cross country family trips.

We are beyond excited to add to our family through adoption. We would love to have another child to snuggle and read with us, share our family dinners, and travel with us on our family vacations. Of course, we are also excited to share the silly and everyday parts of our lives (which are just as important): dance parties, sing-a-longs, play wrestling, and anything else Jack's imagination gifts us with each day.

We are ready to dedicate our lives to raising another child and taking on the world's most important job again. We can promise to help our next child explore, discover, and grow. We are ready to help him or her learn to be an independent problem solver that finds joy in the little things. We are ready to help him or her regulate emotions, learn social skills, and develop a unique personality. We are also ready for sleepless nights, tantrums, constant neediness, and everything else parenting entails. Not only do we feel ready for these things, but also we cannot imagine not having another child to experience them with. We are so excited to grow and expand our family and cannot wait for this journey to begin.

We would love to share more with you and answer any questions you may have. Our thoughts are with you as you make this important decision.

With love,
Julie & Patrick