

Dear Birth Mother and Birth Father,

Hello! Our names are Ryan and Courtney and we are so happy that you are creating an adoption plan. Thank you for reading our letter, taking the time to look through our photos, watching our video and considering the two of us on your adoption journey.

The two of us met on New Year's Eve 2010, at a wedding through mutual friends. We have been inseparable and best friends ever since! We were married on March 8, 2014, and so we have been married for about 5 years. Since our wedding day and before, we have wanted to have children. Adoption is a beautiful, special gift and we are so excited to start our family through adoption.

Here is a little bit about me, Ryan. I am the middle child of three boys. Growing up in a household full of boys, sports were a big thing for me. I grew up in Ohio and so I was a fan of the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals and Ohio State football – I am still a big fan of all three! I went to college at The Ohio State University, and after graduating earned my MBA from Capital University. I enjoy golfing with friends and coworkers as often as I can, fishing, and I am a big music fan, playing the guitar myself as well. I currently work as a business process manager for a transportation company, working in sales and technology. I have been with my company for 15 years since graduating from college. With all of that said, I am so excited to be a dad, to share the experiences I had growing up with a child of my own, and to be able to watch my own children have wonderful experiences growing up and finding their own interests.

And here is a little bit about me, Courtney. I am the oldest of three girls. Growing up in a household full of girls was so much fun! Growing up we enjoyed playing with our doll babies, Barbies, playing dress up, gardening, and baking with Grandma. I currently work as a physical therapist for a major hospital system in the St. Louis area. I enjoy being very active and my interests include hiking, volunteering in the community, and participating in our church's ministries. I am very excited to be a mom and raise children of my own. I had such a wonderful childhood and cannot wait to make those same memories for my own children.

Together as a couple we have nine nieces and nephews, and so we both have a lot of experience interacting with and taking care of infants, toddlers, and young children. Our child will be the youngest grandbaby on Ryan's side, and the oldest grandbaby on Courtney's side. Both of our families are so excited to have a new baby in the family and he or she will be loved by all of them very, very much.

We have one pet, a small dog named Carlson. We love taking care of Carlson. Carlson is very friendly. He loves people and little kids. He is very protective of our young nieces and nephews and loves to play catch with them. We are so excited to introduce Carlson to his new brother or sister!

We are looking forward to bringing a new baby into our home. We live in a suburban community in West St. Louis County, Missouri. Our home is on a cul-de-sac with lots of younger kids in the neighborhood, and so our child will have lots of friends to play with when he or she grows up. We love our life in St. Louis and cannot wait to share it with our child. We look forward to many zoo trips, baseball games, walks, and community events with our new baby. We currently have no children, this will be our first child.

We are both Catholic and we are members of a parish and regularly attend services. We have a very strong and supportive family and all are familiar with adoption and excited for us. Courtney even has four adopted cousins. Our child will be able to see his or her grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins often.

We plan to take time off from work when our baby is first born. We will have visitors and help from family and friends as we adjust to life with a newborn baby. We believe bonding with our baby is very important and cannot wait to bring our baby home! Once we are both back to work, we would be sending our child to daycare until he or she is old enough to attend school. Education is very important to us and we will strive to instill a strong work ethic and a focus on education in our child.

We hope that by reading this letter you can get a small glimpse of who we are and feel our excitement to become parents. We have so much love for each other and we have so much fun together. We cannot wait to bring home a baby into the fun and love-filled home that we have.

Early on in our marriage we found out that we would not be able to become pregnant on our own, after which we immediately knew that we wanted to adopt. Adoption is such a beautiful gift and we would be open to any type of adoption arrangement that you would be comfortable with – Open, Semi-Open, Closed, etc. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for bringing the gift of life into our home.

With much love,

Ryan & Courtney