

Dear Expectant Parent:

We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about us as you consider adoption for your baby.

We met 8 years ago when we were both going to school at Mizzou (Jeff for law school and Claire getting her Masters) and have been happily married for the last 4 years. Although jobs and school have taken us all over Missouri, we have recently returned to St. Louis, where we both grew up. We are both excited to be near our families as we hope to grow our family. Last year, we bought a house with plenty of room and a great backyard, where the schools are great and we hope to stay for a long time. Our dog, Bailey, is 7 years old and loves going on adventures with us. Claire's parents are close by and Jeff's parents are only an hour away on the family farm. Claire's sister, brother-in-law, and two adorable nephews are also just a short drive away. Jeff's extended family is scattered all over St. Louis. All have been extremely supportive and are very excited to welcome a little one to the family!

Our adoption journey started with infertility. We knew we wanted to raise a family and have an abundance of love to give to a child. Although the source of the infertility is unexplained, we have been unable to have biological children. Through careful reflection, we have found adoption to be the right way to grow our family. We believe that our journey to parenthood has made us stronger as a couple and prepared to take on all the challenges of raising a child.

Jeff is 30 years old and practices law. He enjoys his work but can't wait to take a break from it upon placement to love and care for a child. In his free time, he loves spending time outside with Claire and the dog, fishing, golfing, attending and watching Mizzou and Cardinals games, and basically anything else active and outside. He also enjoys working with his hands, keeping the house and yard looking good, and even partially remodeled our first house.

Claire is also 30 and works as a teacher. She loves working with and helping kids every day, and has spent 7 years working in early childhood and elementary schools. Claire enjoys reading (especially Harry Potter), the occasional reality tv show, and being active outside with Jeff and the dog. She is also a huge fan of Cardinals baseball and Mizzou basketball. She loves country music and shows and is always on lookout for a good concert or show at the Muny. She will be able to take 10-12 weeks off in order to care for and bond with a child upon placement. After the leave, our child would attend a local daycare and spend time with grandparents while Jeff and Claire are at work.

We love spending time together, whether its running errands, cooking dinner, going for walks and hikes with the dog, dancing around the house, or any of the other common interests and hobbies we share. We take trips when we can to see Claire's extended family in Chicago, and love going on trips to Colorado, Michigan, and Florida. Jeff's family owns a farm about an hour away from St. Louis. We try to go out there whenever we have the chance to relax with his parents, ride the horses, and spend some time helping with whatever projects come up. Our relationship is based on a mutual respect for each other, love and laughter. We can't wait to welcome a child into our family to raise and share our lives and love with. We are both Catholic and hope to raise our children to be thoughtful and compassionate people.

We want you to know how much respect and love we have for you already. We cannot imagine the difficult decision ahead of you, and we pray that you have the strength and courage you need throughout this process. Adoption is such a beautiful gift, and we look forward to discussing an adoption arrangement that will be comfortable for everyone. We know you are seeking what is best for your baby, and we hope that you will find us to be all that you want for your child.

Sincerely,

Claire and Jeff