

Dear Expectant Parent:

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

We met 12 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 8 years. Everett joined our family in November of 2020 through infant adoption with Good Shepherd. Although jobs and school took us all over Missouri, we eventually returned to St. Louis, where we both grew up. When we moved here we bought a house with plenty of room and a great backyard as we knew we wanted to grow our family. The nearby schools are wonderful and within walking distance, as are a large number of parks where we often go to play with our son, Everett. 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 three adorable nieces and 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 another 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 children. 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 family. We are so grateful we were chosen as Everett's parents by his birth mother in 2020. Raising him is the greatest joy in our lives. We believe this is the right time to grow our family again.

Jeff is 34 years old and practices law. He enjoys his work, however is looking forward to taking some time off upon placement to bond with our new child. In his free time, he loves spending time outside with Claire and Everett, fishing, golfing, attending and watching Mizzou and Cardinals games, and basically anything else active and outside. He has shared his passion for golf with Everett and they love playing together.

Claire is also 34 and works in the field of special education. She loves working with and helping kids every day, and has spent 12 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 Everett. 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 with Everett and spend time with grandparents while Jeff and Claire are at work.

Everett is an energetic, caring and smart 3 year old. He loves to be around his friends and cousins. He has a love for trains, trash trucks and superheroes. He has picked up a passion for golf from Jeff and reading from Claire. Everett often talks about wanting to be a brother and we know he will be a wonderful one. He loves to see others laugh and smile. We know he will enjoy making a younger sibling laugh and smile as well.

We love spending time together, whether it's running errands, going to the park, 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 another child into our family to share our lives and love with.

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 choice, 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