

Dear Expectant Parent:

Thank you so much for considering us! We have been married for more than 11 years (together for 18). God gave us the desire to have a family many years ago. Our dream to grow our family has always consisted of having biological and adopted children. We have two biological children Harris (8) and Sullivan (2). In between the boys we lost two babies who were born prematurely, Della and James. After Sully was born, we felt God was preparing us to move towards growing our family in other ways. After much prayer, God has led us to you. We hope you see the love our family has for one another and excitement for having a new miracle in our lives.

We very much desire an adoption that is open or semi-open. We would love to send you updates and photos and make sure you are always part of their life. We understand that you may not know what level of relationship you would like to have and we know that it may change with time. We are open to that. Please know that your child will always know how much you love them and how selfless you were to make the brave decision to place them for adoption. We will have a book made telling their adoption story so that they can always know how they came to us. You will be a part of their story forever. They will know where they come from and what ethnicities and cultures they were born into. It is a high priority to us that your child knows who their extended and birth family is and we commit to always make sure it is a part of who they are.

We believe in teaching our children to love to learn and think creatively to solve problems. We believe in talking with our children about what is going on around them and what to do with their feelings as they process them. We aren't afraid to have hard conversations about their lives as they grow up. We believe in natural consequences and allowing children to make their own choices.

We love to give our children new experiences and let them explore the world around them. We also have agreed early on in our marriage that we would stay in St. Louis to raise our family so that our children would have all the benefits of being near their grandparents and extended family. Jeremy's parents are in St. Louis and enjoy spending time with our boys going for walks on their bikes and playing with trains. Jeremy has three siblings (2 with spouses), 7 nieces and nephews, and a grandniece in St. Louis and the family gets together often to watch the kids' sports competitions, play tennis, bowl and celebrate birthdays and holidays. Rachel's parents moved to St. Louis to be close to their grandchildren. Her parents are very involved and have given the kids their own bedrooms and tons of toys and activities in their home. She has one brother (and sister in-law) and is very close to her two nieces. They travel together and their children are very close to our boys. Our families are very close and they cannot wait to welcome a child into them.

Our faith is very important to us. We are active in our church and promise to keep God at the center of our lives teaching our children the importance of having a relationship with Him. Faith has played a part in leading us to adoption. We go to church service weekly, participate in outreach programs and have also started a multi-racial family group that meets in

our home for other families in our church. This group also has several families of adopted children and they have been very supportive of us and great models as well.

We have lived in our home for over 5 years and love our neighborhood very much. We have a two story home with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. We have a fenced in yard and our basement is actually the in-home daycare that Rachel runs with her mother. Our non school age children would also attend our in-home daycare. We have made good friends here and love the diversity and amazing community that our neighborhood offers. Our children have made lifelong friends within the neighborhood and play on local sports teams with children who live in our neighborhood and surrounding communities. We live down the block from a school with a great playground where lots of local children ride their bikes and play together. Our neighborhood hosts tons of events where neighbors can get together with their families (block parties, chili cook-off, ice cream trucks, movie nights, yoga events, and concerts.

As a family we like to watch movies, go walking and hiking, visit cultural festivals, play games and puzzles, and camping. We also love books and visiting libraries. We read to the kids every night and enjoy taking a few minutes to talk about their day.

We also enjoy going on vacations to new places. We recently went to Chicago, Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City, and Disney World. We love to show our children new things and they love to travel. We also enjoy taking weekend trips, camping, celebrating birthdays and holidays with friends and families. Harris loves Halloween and we like to decorate the house and do Halloween movie marathons. He also likes watching and setting off a few fireworks around the 4th of July. At Christmas we celebrate with both sides of our families. Jeremy's family usually does a potluck and Secret Santa. There is always lots of food and board games. Rachel's family loves to bake and cook Christmas foods together. They like to watch Christmas movies gathered around the Christmas tree. Our family of four has our own traditions of decorating the tree, cooking, wrapping presents and going to Christmas Eve church service together.

We cannot wait to welcome a child into our home and we look forward to the journey ahead!

From a mother to a mother:

I promise I will love your child. I promise I will give them my very best and try to be the best mother I can be everyday to nurture them, teach them and keep them safe. Being a mother is what gives me purpose and joy. I will hold them when they cry, rock them to sleep, kiss their cheeks, wipe their nose and tell them I love them every single day.

-Jeremy and Rachel