

# Lee and Mary

Hello!

We are Lee and Mary and we are excited at the opportunity to share a little about ourselves through this letter. We cannot begin to imagine how difficult taking this path might be for you, and we can only hope that our letter might provide some encouragement and hope along the way. Should you decide to get to know more about us, we pray that it will result in an answer to prayer for all of us.

Lee and I have been married for two years. Lee has two daughters from a previous marriage, Amanda, 16 and Jessica, 13. They are looking forward to the possibility of being big sisters.

I, Mary, am a licensed minister and currently work as an individual and family counselor for children in foster care. I have worked with both children and teenagers for the past 15 years and I love investing in their lives. I love drama and music and teach theater classes at a local college part time. I love being on stage and making people laugh. I get nervous and blotchy, but knowing that I made someone have a good hard laugh is the best feeling in the world! I love Starbucks, Mexican food, and singing in the shower (I'm fairly certain I sound like Whitney Houston).

I, Lee, served in the U.S. Army (Special Operations) for ten years. I loved being a part of a team where you could count on each other. I still tear up when the National Anthem is played. I currently work as a certified welder. I enjoy working with my hands and seeing the end result of hard work and dedication. Mary cracks me up! I love spending time with her and my daughters, working out, and being an encouragement to my friends and family.

Adoption is part of what makes our family unique and it holds a special place in our heart. Mary's dad and uncle were both adopted and Mary's brother and sister-in-law are in the process of adopting a child from Africa.

We are committed to offering your child a life of unconditional love and constant nurturing. We believe that he or she should always know and feel your love and we will do everything we can to make sure of that. We are eager to build a relationship with you and will communicate through letters, pictures, meetings, or any other way you desire.

Sincerely,

*Lee & Mary*



# Fun Family Facts

## Views on Adoption

Adoption is part of what makes our family unique and it holds a special place in our heart. Mary's dad and uncle were both adopted and Mary's brother and sister-in-law are in the process of adopting a child from Africa. It's very important for us that our child knows about his or her birth parents and how much they are loved. We are eager to build a relationship with you and will communicate through letters, pictures, meetings, or any other way you desire.

## Views on Parenting, Education, & Discipline

We want our children to know that nothing they can do will make us love them more and nothing they can do will make us love them less. That's why it's called unconditional love. We encourage them to be everything God wants them to be and will support them whether they choose to go to a college, technical or trade school.

Discipline is evidence of love. We discipline our children out of love with compassion, under control, and with consistent boundaries and consequences. We want our children to become strong independent adults, capable of having happy and healthy relationships with others.



Amanda and Jessica are excited to be big sisters!

## Religious Life

We both have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Because of that, we believe that our faith and our actions should go hand in hand. It's our desire to live out our faith every day in such a real way that our children will come to know and love God too.



Lee and the girls love to go sledding!



On a trip to Chicago



## Home

We live in a remodeled 1928 Spanish Style Bungalow with lots of trees and a big yard.

## Family Life

We place a high value on close family relationships. Amanda and Jessica are looking forward to being big sisters and plan on spoiling their little brother or sister. We love our nieces and nephews and spend a lot of time cheering for them at their soccer games and dance recitals. Our family is active and enjoys watching movies, golfing, swimming, playing cards, and of course, family barbeques. Lee is a beast on the grill. Seriously.

We have a photo in our home that has become our motto. It says, "In this house—we do second chances, we do grace, we do real, we do mistakes, we do 'I'm sorry', we do loud, we do hugs, we do family, we do love." We are still learning. Ultimately, we are real people who try to honor God and enjoy life to the fullest.



The girls love the Chicago White Sox!



Mary enjoys her Starbucks while Lee works out



## Child Care Plans

Mary is self-employed and creates her own hours. She will stay home most of the time. Lee works four 10-hour days to create a 3-day weekend so he can spend more time with the family.

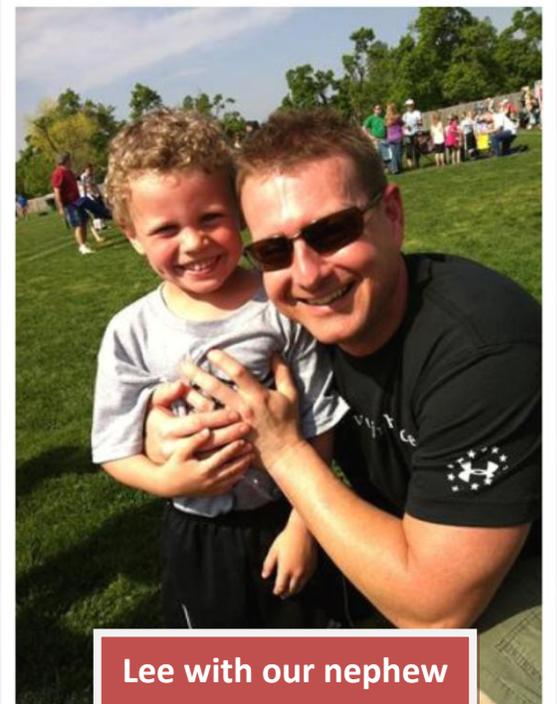


Mary teaching our niece very important life skills...She learned pretty quickly!

On vacation in Cancun!



Lee on a MASSIVE roller coaster with our niece and Mary on the "kiddie swings"



Lee with our nephew at his very first soccer game!