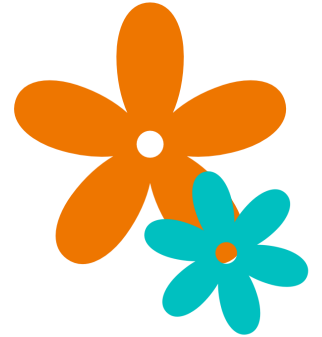


Erik & Rachel

Dear Birth Parents,

Your decision to consider adoption is such an act of love for your child. You are trusting a family to love your child as much as you do. As you read our album, we hope it gives you some insight into our lives; who we are as individuals, who we are as a couple, and who we will be as parents. We have longed for a child for so long and we will devote our lives to ensuring that your child is loved and cared for every day. We hope that you will be able to see the love that we have for each other and the love that we have to give to your child. Selecting us as parents for your child would be an incredible gift; something we would never take for granted. We will hold you in our hearts each and every day we look at our son or daughter that you blessed us with because of your decision. We pray that God is with you every step of your journey, as He has been with us.



Thank you for considering us,

Erik and Rachel



Fun Family Facts

Views on Adoption

It is important to us that you know how loved your child is and how well he or she is doing. Ultimately, we want you to feel comfortable with your decision. We love the idea of staying in touch with you, sending pictures, even arranging visits if it is something you want. Our child's adoption story is something we will tell our son or daughter from birth and all throughout their life. They will know how loved they are from the very beginning by you and us. We want our child to feel accepted and comfortable in our home, with our family, but above all, with him/herself. Knowing their story and the love that was involved in your decision, will be something that is shared always. Erik is looking forward to sharing a special bond with our child since he was also adopted.

Kiki & Charlie



Child Care Plans

We look forward to snuggling and staying home with our son or daughter the first few months home. We hope to take up to 12 weeks off after the baby is born. After 12 weeks, we plan to take our baby to a trusted day-care in our town. We know that socialization with other children will be important for our child so we look forward to the social skills our child will gain from his/her interactions with other children.

Views on Parenting, Education & Discipline

We are prepared for the huge responsibility of being parents knowing that it means putting someone else's needs above our own. As parents we want to set a strong foundation for our child, instilling values, morals, a sense of right from wrong, and above all an acceptance of and kindness toward other people, other cultures and differences in general. We believe that being a good parent means allowing our child to be who they are and providing guidance and support along the way. Above all, we promise to love your child unconditionally and he or she will know what a blessing adoption is in all of our lives.

Both of us place a high value on education and are excited that our child will attend school in the same district where Rachel works. The schools are all diverse and are well known for having wonderful education programs for kids at all levels. Erik is one of the volunteer coaches for the 4th and 5th grade basketball team at Rachel's school. We will encourage our child to work hard in school and find extracurricular activities they enjoy.



With Erik's family at the latest Christmas Eve gathering



With Rachel's family at Rachel's parent's 40th wedding anniversary

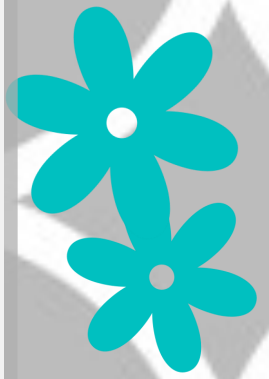


Family Life

Since we are from the same hometown, just a few hours away from where we live, it makes going to visit our parents pretty convenient. Some of our favorite times to visit are around Christmas time (because we get to see lots of our extended family), in the fall, and for Erik's parent's annual chili cook-off! We are both close with our parents and have good role models to look up to. Rachel's parents have been married for 42 years and Erik's parents have been married for 25 years. We each have one sister and two brothers and are very close with our siblings. One of the greatest gifts we've been given are the titles of "aunt" and "uncle". We look forward to our child growing up knowing his/her cousins.

Traveling

We love to travel and explore the world. Some of our adventures have taken us to Mexico, Jamaica, Colorado and Texas. We can't wait until our child can join us on our vacations.



Religious Life

Our faith is incredibly important to us and we look forward to raising our child to know God's love. We are members of a Catholic church in our town and find our faith community to be supportive and loving. Rachel volunteers at the church nursery and loves interacting with the babies and toddlers during Sunday service.



Our Home

We live in a very diverse town in the heart of Missouri. Our home is located close to a park, trail and a lake and we enjoy taking our dogs there on our evening walks. Families with kids of all ages reside in our neighborhood and it's fun seeing the kids out playing, riding their bikes, and playing at the park. We have a large fenced-in backyard that is perfect for our growing family.

