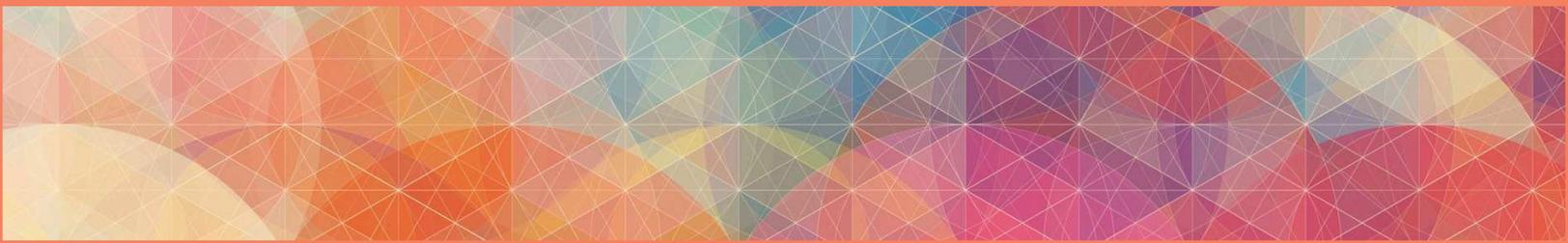


**Jon &
Heather**



Dear Birthparent,

Hello!

We would first like to thank you for taking the time to read our story. We know that it is difficult to get to know us through a few paragraphs but we will do our best to show you who we are.

We are Heather and Jonathan (Jon). We met one weekend while visiting a mutual friend's new home out of town. That one conversation turned into weeks of phone calls, text messages and several amazing dates. After several years of dating, traveling, and many amazing memories made together, we tied the knot surrounded around our families and friends. We have now settled into the town that Jon was born and raised in to be closer to family and friends. Heather's parents are just a short thirty minute drive away so we spend a lot of time with our families and are very close.

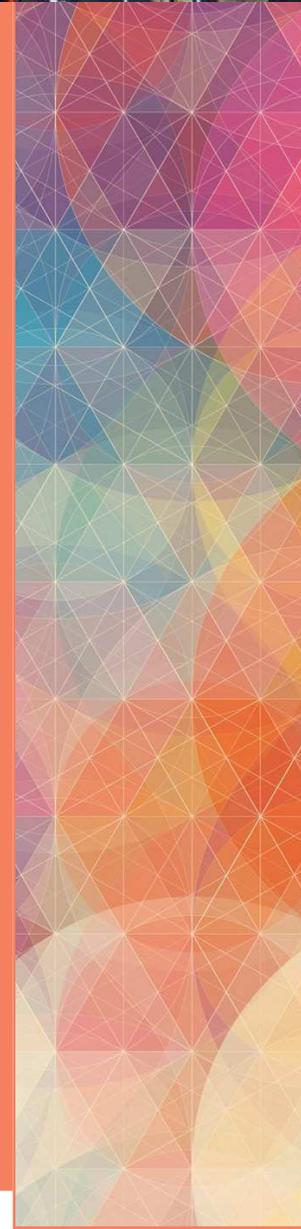
In addition to having amazing family and friends that support us, we also have jobs that make living in this community amazing. Heather is in her 13th year of being second grade school teacher in the local school district. Jon owns, and operates, his own local hardware store. We both love working in such an amazing community and making lasting relationships with the people we come in contact with. We truly look forward to raising a child in this community. We want our child to have all the amazing experiences we have had living here. We will never let our child go a day without knowing about the thoughtless love that went into making it possible for us to be the ones to get to bring that joy and experiences into their life.

We enjoy spending our free time doing a wide variety of things. We both love sports and can be found either watching them on the weekends, especially during football season, or attending sporting events. We volunteer with a charity that helps families who have lost their homes and all their belongings in house fires. We also enjoy attending church together. We plan to raise our child with the guidance of our church family.

We have both been raised in a very diverse community. We both believe that everyone deserves to be treated and loved based on their character and nothing else. We feel that there is no cookie cutter family and that a family is built off of love. We have so much love to offer to a child. For that reason we want to raise a child of another race.



Jon & Heather



Free time



There are many things we love to do in our free time. Our jobs allow us to have the time to spend with our families and friends or for us to take a weekend away together. Most of our large travel plans are done in the summer while Heather is out for summer break and the hardware store is a little slower. We love spending time at the lake that is near our house, going on family vacations, and going to baseball games with friends. We try to take a week long vacation together every summer.

When we are on our own we also enjoy doing separate things for fun. Heather enjoys reading, working out, and on really lazy days binge watching shows on Netflix. Heather also enjoys cooking and baking. Every November Heather and her mother spend an entire day making cookies and treats for the holiday season. Jon enjoys watching almost any kind of sport that is on TV and going golfing. On his days off Jon enjoys going out to breakfast with his parents. He also loves finding new recipes to try and master on the grill. This has sometimes ended with us ordering take out for dinner.



Jon written by Heather

People always told me that you will find true love when you least expect it. It took a long time for that to happen, but it did! It was totally worth the wait. I went to visit my best friend out of town to see her new home. I thought it was just going to be me there that weekend and when I

walked in Jon was there to visit her husband as well. We all went out to dinner and when we got back to the house Jon and I stayed up until two in the morning talking. That conversation has now carried on for ten years and turned into me marrying my best friend.

Jon is such an amazing individual. He has such a caring heart for others. He goes out of his way on a daily basis to make sure that I know that I am loved. Jon has an amazing sense of humor and wit. He makes me laugh all the time with his jokes and witty remarks. Jon is also the one person in my life that can talk me down and make me see things from other's points of view when I get too emotionally involved something. Watching Jon interact with our nieces, nephews, and friend's children shows me over and over again what an amazing father he will be. Jon was very involved in sports as a kid and through high school, so I know he looks forward to possibly sharing those memories with our child. I am very excited to watch Jon become an amazing father and feel truly blessed that I get to take this amazing journey with him.

Heather written by Jon

Let me tell you a little about my wife Heather, she is beautiful, hard working, and the most loyal person I know. She loves being a teacher, her goal every year is to get her kids to learn as much as they can and help them in any way possible. Some things Heather likes to do is listen to Country music, watch movies and go to sporting events. Her greatest quality she will possess,

in my mind, will be being a mother. Every time someone talks about us adopting a child, her eyes light up and she can't stop talking about how excited she is. This is why I love her so much, she is very special women, and I am very lucky man to be able to be in her life.



Our home



We love the neighborhood that we live in. We live outside the city in a quiet country neighborhood. Our street is a dead end street, so most of the traffic on it is from the people that live here. Our neighborhood is a mixture of families at different points in their lives. Our dog Izzy loves spending her days patrolling the backyard for squirrels and rabbits. We have worked hard at updating our home over that past 7 years and enjoy spending time here with family and friends. We also enjoy spending time in our fenced in backyard either doing yard work, gardening, or cooking out. Two blocks away is an amazing park where we enjoy taking Izzy for walks and playing frisbee in the large soccer fields. Every year we host our families Christmas here filling the house with many people and lots of love. Our favorite memory made in this house was when Jon proposed on Christmas Eve with our families surrounding us. We look forward to making many more memories in this house with our own family.



Izzy and Heather on the lake taking a boat ride



Jon and Heather on a movie tour while on vacation in Hawaii.



Jon and Heather with friends enjoying a baseball game.



Jon golfing with friends in an annual golf outing.



Jon and his older brother at the hardware store.



Heather and friends at a concert.



Heather and her friend headed to a swim meet with her friends kids.



Jon with friends at a baseball game.



Heather and Jon at a dinner party.



Heather and Jon celebrating their anniversary in Chicago.



Heather and her friends on a swing while on a vacation together.

Our family & friends

We both have been blessed with some of the most amazing families. We both are the youngest in our families and have amazing older siblings. Jon has two older brothers and one older sister while Heather has one older brother. Since they all live out of town we do not get see them as often as we would like but when we do we have an amazing time together. Between the two of us we also have seven amazing nieces and nephews that we love to spend time with when we see them. Jon's parents live five minutes away from us and his dad works with Jon at the hardware store. Heather's parents have just recently retired and moved back to the area, and live about thirty minutes away. When we are able to get all of our families together it is filled with lots of love, laughter, and food!

We have also developed an amazing circle of friends that we consider a second family. We enjoy taking trips, going to their children's sporting events/birthdays, and being a part of their lives. Our friends support our decision to adopt 100% and look forward to being a part of our child's life the same way we have been to theirs.



Heather with friends at an outdoor concert.



Heather with her nephew at his high school graduation.



Heather with co-workers on field trip to the library.



Jon with all of his cousins at our family Christmas Party.



Heather with her best friends daughter at her swim meet.



Heather's family at her nephew's graduation.



Heather having movie night with her friends son.



Jon's parents and niece celebrating his parents 50th wedding anniversary all the kids surprised them with.



Jon with friends at a concert.



Our ultimate goal in this process is to be able to provide a loving, safe, and stable home for a child to grow up in and to make memories that will last a lifetime. We can't thank you enough for taking the time to learn about who we are and how our lives have been fostered by each other and the ones we love. We are thankful that you are here and taking the time to learn about us while making such a loving choice, even if at the end we are not part of it.

Jon and Heather