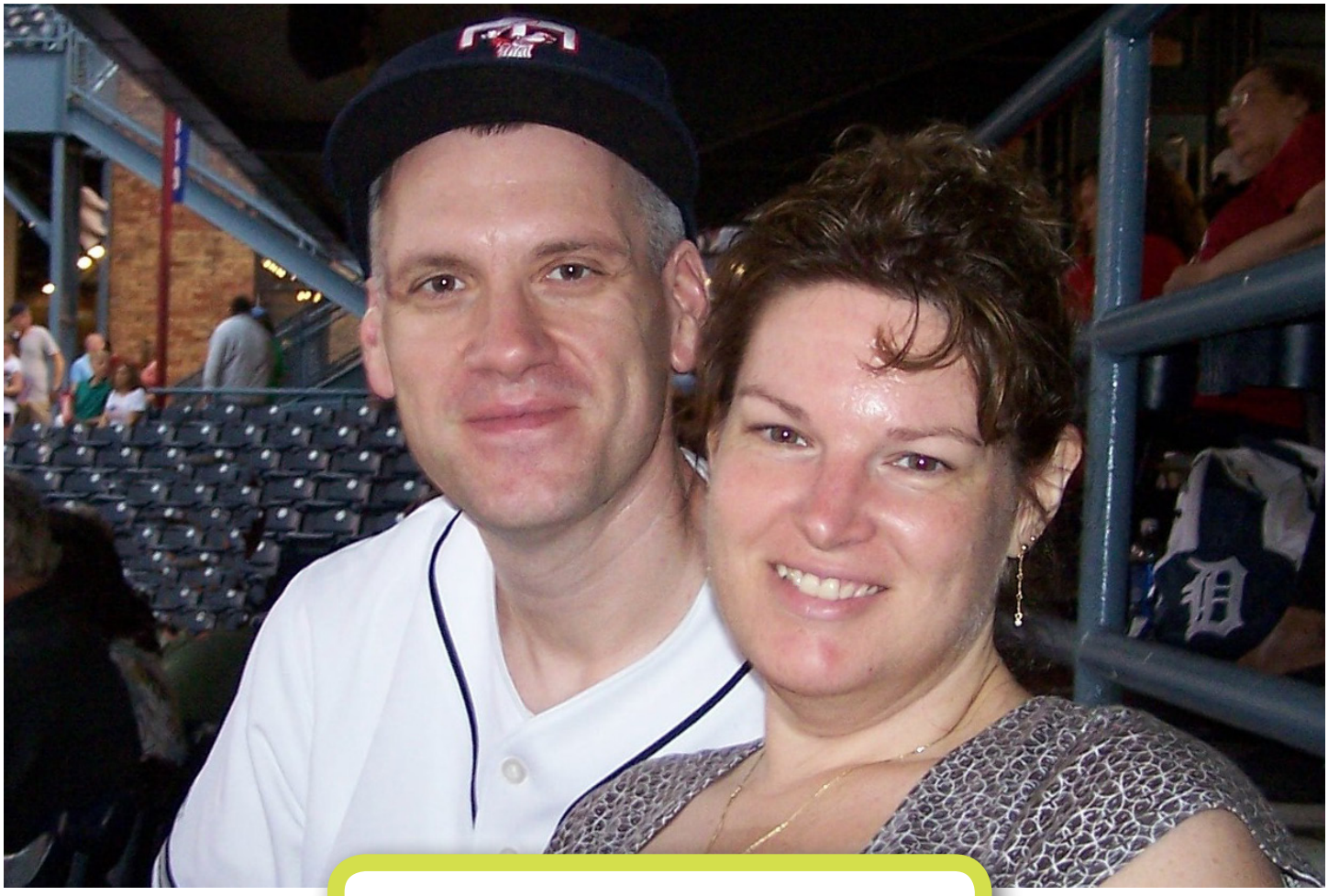


David & Dawn

About David
(as described by Dawn)

David is 6'1" with gray hair and green eyes. David's hair started to turn gray as he graduated high school. Coincidently that is when we started to date. I swear that I had nothing to do with it!

He is the oldest child and he has a younger sister. As I got to know David while we were dating, I learned we had many things in common. He has a generous heart, is willing to help those in need, and always finding time to spend with family and friends.

His sister has two girls and a stepdaughter. It's a blast to watch them play card games, the Wii, or put puzzles together. David emphasizes the importance of being together as a family and in visiting our parents, brothers, and sisters as much as we possibly can.

I couldn't ask for a better husband around the home. He is always willing to help around the house or with our son. Right after our son came to our home, David needed to take care of him alone while I was finishing with some clients at work. So here he was, alone with a newborn, with no one to call for help.

Our son

We were very fortunate to be able to adopt our son, almost five years ago. He's biracial and a bundle of energy. We have a circle of diverse friends so we're preparing for the day when he asks us on his heritage. They have helped us to better understand how he is different from us. We're open to adopting a child of a similar or different heritage.

About Dawn
(as described by David)

Dawn is about 5'5" – with curly brown hair and intriguing green-tan eyes. They're called Tiger eyes and they match her personality.

One of the first things that attracted me to Dawn was her generosity. She listens to people and is quick to offer her time or skills. She has a gift to talk with anyone, so she knows how to listen and respond to the needs of others. I think that is one of the things she liked about being a Cosmetologist. She can help someone feel better about themselves.

Family is very important to Dawn. She is a middle child, with an older brother and a younger sister. Dawn's brother and sister were married and started families while we were dating.

Dawn jumped right into being a doting aunt and loving sister-in-law. Dawn's mother helped by babysitting her grandchildren. Dawn would also help by changing diapers, making lunches, or just playing on the floor since she was still living at home. Her nieces and nephews would help Dawn get ready for work or greet her when she got home from work. Now that these nieces and nephews are adults, it's our turn to see them get ready for life. We travel frequently to see our families or attend reunions. We want our family to know that we cherish the time that we spend with them.

Finally, I love the perspective on life that Dawn provides. Maybe it's because she is left-handed. Did you know that left-handers might have a different brain organization pattern than right-handers? Dawn helps me to see different things, even when we do things together. She has a better common sense meter than I do, so she can filter out and concentrate on the decisions we face. For this and many other reasons, I am so glad that she is a part of my life as my wife.

Our Relationship

Our relationship started with prom dates our senior year. Those prom dates were over 25 years ago! Many people are surprised to know that we've been together that long.

As we approached our ninth year, Dawn was worried about whether David was ever going to ask her to get married. David spent eight years in college, first getting a Bachelor's Degree and then a Master's Degree. He'd just received a job offer from a firm outside our home area. She worried what would the future hold for them.

Dawn did not know that David had been preparing to propose to her, immediately before getting the job offer. His sister had helped him to shop for a suitable engagement ring. He met with Dawn's parents to ask their permission to marry her. David's mother helped to create a cover story – a joint dinner with both parents to celebrate Mother's Day. So prior to the dinner, David took Dawn to the Marblehead lighthouse. In a slight rain shower at the lighthouse, David proposed to Dawn and she accepted. The dinner with their parents was about an hour away from the lighthouse, and it took almost half of the drive for Dawn to realize that she was the last one to know what was going on that night.

Those ten years of dating paid off in planning the wedding and in learning to live together those first few months. It was so easy to commit to each other in marriage. We each felt that we knew and understood our partner.

Favorites

	David	Dawn
Sweet	Cookies	Peanut Butter Cup with M&M Blizzards
Sport	Baseball	Basketball
Hobbies	Reading a book/ Photography	Counted Cross Stitch/ Baking
Housework:	Handwashing Dishes	Mowing/Laundry
Color	Blue	Green
Occupation:	Human Resources	Homemaker
Education:	Master's Degrees in Political Science	Managing Cosmetologist
Favorite TV/Movie:	Amazing Race/Longmire Empire Strikes Back/Star Wars	Rizzoli & Isles/ Any Nicholas Sparks Movie
Favorite Food:	BBQ	Mexican

Our Home

We live in a three bedroom home on a cul-de-sac. The lot has a large sideyard with a playset. There's room for running, tumbling, and throwing a Frisbee. The house is open and modern. It has a fireplace to help keep warm on cold winter nights and a large sunny back porch for cooking out, visiting with friends, and drying clothes out on a clothesline. We have three bedrooms and two baths, a living room, family room, kitchen, and all season room. There a number of families with children all around us, so most summer evenings there are games of kickball in the cul-de-sac or large games of tag being played in the yard.

Our Families

We've written about the importance that we both place on spending time with our family. Let us tell you a little about them.

David's parents still live in the house where he grew up. It's in a small town. They've retired from work – his dad worked in an office and his mom was a nurse. They spend their time working around the house, volunteering with their churches, and traveling around the country in a RV. David has one sister who is married who lives about forty minutes away from their parents. She has two girls, both in elementary school. Her husband has a daughter from a previous relationship who is twenty, is married, and with a daughter.

David's Family

Dawn's family is about twenty minutes away from David's. They still live in the house where Dawn grew up, which is on the edge of a small city. Dawn's father recently retired from a nearby grain mill. Now he and her mom volunteer with their church and local veterans groups. They also help to watch some friends and family's children, while their parents work. Dawn has an older brother and a younger sister. Both live within ten minutes of her parents. Her brother is married with three children and two stepchildren, ranging in ages from 30 to 21. Her sister is also married with three children, two who are adults preparing to get married while the youngest is a high school junior.

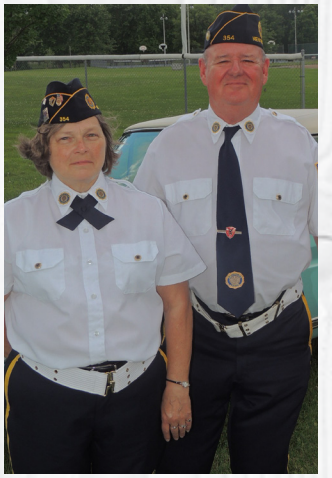
David and Dawn's Niece with Great-Niece

We try to get home to our families at least once a month. These are for holiday get-togethers, cook outs in the summer, church festivals, or visiting out on the deck under a starry summer night. We usually stay with one of our parents, alternating on each trip. That helps us catch up with our parents and help them with things like the computer or house projects.

In addition to our family, we have a circle of friends who we try to visit frequently. Some are from high school and others we've met through work or church. Each has helped us as they've learned about our adoption process and supported us.

Dawn's Family

Our son with his great-grandmother



Dawn's Parents

Our son playing with his cousins

Dawn with Great-Niece

Almighty Father,
You have created us for some definite purpose.
Grant us the grace to know the path
You have planned for us in this life
and to respond with a generous "Yes."

What adpotion means to us....

Dear Birthparents,

Over the last year, our parish has been offering a prayer on vocations at each mass. This prayer begins with what is written above.

Why adpotion?

We've realized that this beginning to the prayer describes adoption in many ways. Once we learned that we would not be able to have children, we asked God to help us know the path that He had planned for us. We know that it was His influence that led us to adoption and the arrival of our son to our family. We've responded with that generous Yes, even with the highs and lows of the adoption process. We continue to listen to Him in our parenting of our son. We hope to be part of an another special child's path – learning his or her way, guided by the love of both birth and adoptive parents.

Thank you for considering us to be parents to your child. We know that this is a difficult and important decision for you and those who may be helping you.

David & Dawn