BEN ♥ JESS

A Note From Us

Hi There!

Thank you for taking the time to view our profile. We are excited to be able to give you a glimpse into our world! We first and foremost want to recognize YOUR courage and strength. We deeply admire your decision to proceed with adoption. We can't imagine what you must be feeling right now as you sift through profiles and try to choose the family that will raise your baby. We firmly believe that people come into each other's lives for a reason. Although our stories and journeys are different, we feel connected to you, in that our ultimate goal is the same - to provide the best life possible for the tiny miracle you are carrying.

We are a fun, loving, energetic couple who above all else, are deeply committed to opening our lives and hearts to becoming an adoptive family for your child. We truly appreciate you considering us and pray that you will find peace and comfort in whichever adoptive family you ultimately choose.

All our love,

Ben & Jess

BEN

Top of Bucket List: month long cross-country vacation
Favorite Place: grilling out on our back deck
Favorite TV show: White Collar and Blue Bloods
Can't Live Without: my tools and sunglasses
Picture Perfect Day: Jess's homemade pancakes followed by a "family adventure" (zoo, playground, bike ride...)
Cherished Childhood Memory: farming with my dad and grandpa

JESS

Top of Bucket List: run a marathon
Favorite Place: the beach or watching the sunset on our back deck
Favorite TV show: This is Us and Gilmore Girls
Can't Live Without: my camera and coffee
Picture Perfect Day: family bike ride (topped off with ice cream of course!)
Cherished Childhood Memory: our annual family camping trip and making Christmas cookies

About Us

We were **high school sweethearts** and have been **happily married for 10 years!** Our opposite personalities, which originally drew us together, have turned out to be one of the greatest assets of our relationship in terms of the **balance and support** we provide each other. We don't take things for granted and try to make the most out of everything we do in life. Although we have had the opportunity to take some wonderful vacations, some of our favorite family memories involve the simple Friday nights we spend at home together with our daughter, making homemade pizza and dancing in the kitchen! We also **LOVE being outdoors!** Some of our favorite family activities include bike rides, playing at the park, building sandcastles at the beach and going to the zoo!

In addition to working as a construction laborer, Ben is also a firefighter and emergency medical responder for our local fire department. Jess is an internal bank auditor and transitioned to a part-time work schedule once we **adopted our daughter.** We have both been working at our current jobs for 10+ years. We are **financially secure** and believe that saving for our children's education and future is an absolute priority.

About Ben (from Jess)

Ben is so much more than my husband. He is my rock, soul-mate and best friend. I absolutely cannot imagine my life without him. No matter what curve ball life throws at us, I know that as long as we have each other, we will be able to get through anything. Ben is by far THE hardest worker I know and seems to know a little bit about everything. There is seriously nothing he can't fix! Ben is the type of person who would drop everything to help someone else out. Ben has a relaxed, easy going personality. He takes things as they come and enjoys life to the fullest. His zest for life is contagious and he can bring humor to any situation. He truly is a big kid at heart which is why he is such an AMAZING Dad. To see Hailey's face light up every time he walks in the door completely melts my heart.

About Jess (from Ben)

Our life is filled with so much love and happiness and I attribute that all to Jess. There is not a day that goes by that I don't stop to realize how lucky I am to have her. She truly is my best friend. Jess is the most caring, honest and loving person that I know. She cares deeply for others and is always putting other people before herself. I really don't know how she does it all. Our everyday life runs so smoothly because she is always on top of getting everything done. Not only is she able to juggle a thousand different tasks, she somehow always manages to do it with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. I know my opinion is bias, but she truly is the world's greatest mom. The love she has for Hailey is apparent the moment you see the two of them together.

Why Adoption?

"Have faith in your journey. Everything had to happen exactly as it did to get you where you're going next."

Our dreams today are the exact same ones we had when we started dating at 16 years old - to live a simple, happy and beautiful life together. We always aspired to have a large family, as we both have multiple siblings and are so grateful for the unbreakable bond we have with each of them. We truly feel that family is more important than anything in the whole world. However, our dreams of starting a family were put on hold when we were faced with the reality that we would not be able to have biological children of our own. Throughout our six year struggle with infertility, the one thing that always remained strong was our desire to start a family. After much discussion and prayer, we decided to pursue adoption. Our decision brought us much peace, as we now realize that God led us down this path in life for a reason.

A little over two years ago, our prayers were answered when we were blessed with the opportunity to adopt Hailey. She completely transformed our world and has brought us more happiness than we ever imagined possible. We wish we could put into words just how blessed we feel... a complete and utter sense of gratitude. We thank God every day for her birth parents and the opportunity they gave us to start the family that we always hoped and dreamed for. We love being able to provide Hailey's birth parents with periodic updates and pictures!

We are now looking to expand our family and are beyond excited at the thought of welcoming a new baby into our lives! We have so much more love to give and would be honored for the opportunity to share that love with your baby. We promise to love him or her unconditionally and will provide a life filled with love, laughter and happiness.

~ We can't wait to become a family of FOUR! ~

Our Adventures

10 mile family bike ride!

We purposely bought a 2-seat bike trailer... plenty of room for 2 kids!

- We are always looking for new family "**adventures**." You'll often find us having a picnic at the park, feeding the fish at the dock, or cruising the bike path!
- When we're not on-the-go, we love relaxing at home together. We're always cuddling up with and reading books to Hailey (we literally have 100's of children's books that we have accumulated!)
- Some of our favorite family traditions include picking apples at the orchard (for homemade applesauce), carving pumpkins, and our annual scavenger hunt Easter morning before church.

We had SO much fun zip-lining!

We love spending our weekends outside!

Getting ready to camp!

We take full advantage of our zoo membership!

Fun on the paddle boat!

Enjoying a baseball game!

While we thoroughly enjoy our adventures, there is definitely a missing piece to our family puzzle. We look forward to welcoming your baby into our family and to begin making lasting memories as a family of four!

Our Family

Amusement park with Grandpa

Hailey and her uncle reading books

Girls day with Grandma

"Being a family means you are part of something very wonderful. It means you will love and be loved for the rest of your life. No matter what."

We live within a short drive of our parents and all our siblings. We are very blessed to have such a strong support system. **Your baby will be welcomed with open and loving arms!** He or she will be surrounded by so many incredible role models. Our immediate families include a banker, construction worker, teacher, police officer, nurse, Army veteran, farmer, store manager and firefighter. Not to mention a whole slew of cousins (instant best friends!)

Holidays and birthdays are always **celebrated together**! And we always look forward to weekly Sunday dinners at Jess's parents' house. It's a chance to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reflect upon what is truly important.

Hailey playing dress-up with her aunt

Hailey and her uncle being silly

Home Sweet Home

We live in a rural area, in a house that Ben has completely remodeled over the past ten years. During that time, we have truly transformed our house into a home. Our home sits on over **12 acres of land** which we take great pride in maintaining. Jess loves working in the flower beds and every year Ben always adds another row or two to our garden! Our backyard, which overlooks a large field and wooded lot, offers a **beautiful view** (especially in autumn when the leaves are changing color!) We love spending the evenings on our back deck grilling out, watching the sunset, and sitting around the fire pit until the stars come out. We have a **large yard which is perfect for playing, exploring and endless fun!** Swinging, riding in the wagon and blowing bubbles are definitely some of our favorites!

We thoroughly enjoy the peace and quiet of our rural setting. However, we are also very fortunate to be within a quick 30 minute drive of several large metropolitan areas which have many family-friendly attractions such as zoos, amusement parks, museums, and sporting venues.

We love relaxing on our back deck!

The majority of our summer is spent playing outside!

Enjoying our afternoon snack outside

Nothing beats this view!

Getting ready to watch the sunset

In Our Spare Time

Ben

Ben enjoys fishing, boating, kayaking, biking, grilling, and the challenge of fixing anything & everything.

Jess

Jess enjoys running, biking, kayaking, cooking, crafting, scrap-booking, and gardening.

Checking out the tractors at our county fair

Never too old for a game night

Kayaking down the river

Perfect afternoon for a hike

More than anything, we love spending time **together** as a family. We enjoy everything from cooking in the kitchen together to skipping rocks down by the river. We always look forward to weekly gymnastics class and story time at the library!

Our world no longer revolves around just us… and we wouldn't want it any other way!

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to view our profile, we truly appreciate your consideration!

We are so glad to have had the opportunity to share a little bit of our world with you! We hope our profile gave you a small glimpse into our life filled with love, happiness and adventure. We know you are looking for a wonderful home and future for your child and we are looking to share our love and lives with an amazing baby. Perhaps we are looking for each other?

Much Love,

Ben & Jess