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Andy

Aimee

Job Description:

Sales Manager for an Aerospace Company

Part-time Human Resources Professional for a Large Insurance Company

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a Major in Marketing

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a Major in Human Resources.

Favorites:

Childhood Toy

My First Two Wheel Bicycle (it had a banana seat!)

Childhood Toy

My Bicycle (racing all over the neighborhood with friends)

Family Activity

Playing Baseball in the Backyard

Family Activity

Going on Hikes Together

Thing to Cook

Chicken Wings

Thing to Cook

Home Made Pizza

Magazine

The Economist

Magazine

Adoptive Families

Hobby

Golf

Hobby

Amateur Photographer

Children:

Mayna, age 4

What It Means To Be Parents And Our Strengths

Neither of us has ever grown so much in who we are until we became parents. As children grow developmentally, what it means to be a parent shifts and changes. We will support our children where they are developmentally and in whatever interests they have. Spending time together playing has been, and will continue to be, the number one priority we have. Our house may be messier some days than others, but we actively choose to spend quality time playing as a family each and every day. Be it board games, family walks, family movie night, hitting baseballs or going to a playground, we are together laughing and growing. We also firmly believe that being able to listen to and support our children with whatever emotions and feelings they have are most critical in raising healthy children. While we will discipline and teach our children, we will rarely punish them by use of fear, but rather provide nurturing guidance. Being parents, to us, means always putting family first. Choosing love, every single day, and being flexible, kind and patient, even during the challenging times is critical. Being a parent, to us, also means being a strong role model, and a safe and secure base to allow children to be exactly who they really are.

Our Daughter, Mayna

Our daughter, Mayna, is 4.5 years old and has been in our family for 3.5 years. She is an amazing little girl who truly enjoys every minute of life. There are so many ways that she is like us and so many things we know she has inherited from her biological family. She is a tomboy and loves doing anything where she can run, jump and climb. She is a natural athlete which I know she has inherited from her biological family. Preferring Spiderman to princesses, she knows what she likes and is willing to talk to anyone about her latest adventures! She is completely outgoing, social and is already going around telling everyone that she is going to be a big sister! One of her biggest strengths is her heart...she has an amazing sense of empathy and doing what is "right" in the world. She can't wait to "teach her baby brother or sister everything!"

Our House & Neighborhood

OHIO

We have both always loved the character and originality of an old house! When buying our home, we knew our house would "choose" us. When we walked into our 75 year old home for the first time, we knew by the way the floor creaked, the solid wood trim, and the way the house "hugged" us, that this was where we would raise a family. While an older home is more upkeep, the reward in originality and familiarity make our house a home. We have a quaint backyard, including a patio we often eat on, a new playground set that gets constant use and a yard and driveway that sees a large amount of scooter and bicycle activity.



Our Home

We love to spend time on our back patio having "outdoor family movie nights" during the warm summer evenings. Our summers are filled with neighborhood walks to one of three playgrounds within walking distance of our home, or stopping by a neighbor's house to allow our kids to play. There are restaurants, coffee shops, and stores all within a short walk from our home. Every year we join our community pool and spend hours of the summer swimming as a family. Our school district is amazing and is known nationally for its International Baccalaureate program.

House & Neighborhood, (continued)



A Typical Summer Day in Our Backyard

We had known for some time that we wanted to move into our neighborhood. Our city is one of the most historic in Ohio and has retained its family/ community centered feel. The homes in our neighborhood are all close together so you get to know your neighbors in a way you don't if you live on a large property in the country. More importantly, we fell in love with the diversity of our community. Living in a diverse area, with diverse role models for our daughter and future children has always been our priority. Our community is 45% non-Caucasian, and our neighbors represent all races and ethnicities. There are six transracially adoptive families within a 1 mile radius of our home. The daycare/ pre-school in our neighborhood (where our daughter attends pre-school) is a 3 star "Step Up to Quality" facility and the teachers, as well as student body, are extremely diverse, which continues to be extremely important to us.

Our Extended Families

Our extended family has always been very important to us. In 2004, we moved back to Ohio from Philadelphia in order to be closer to our families. While we loved the Philadelphia area, we knew we wanted to be near our families as we embarked on our journey to parenthood. Today, we live about 40 minutes from the town we grew up in, where most of our families on both sides still live today. Being so close has allowed our daughter, Mayna, to grow deep and rich relationships with her grandparents.

Our parents became best friends after we married and at least every other week, we all get together at one of our houses for dinner and get a chance to catch up, play "chase" with Mayna and take our dogs for a walk together. We are also very lucky to spend all holidays together as a family, including both sides of our family. We all get together at our house every year to watch our daughter trick or treat and have a "scary" dinner together and enjoy a tradition of going out for Chinese food every Christmas Eve. For Christmas, we eat Tamales (traditional Christmas food from my daughter's homeland) and Salmon. Andy also has one brother who lives in Colorado. We enjoy every chance we get to spend time with them as they have a two children (and one on the way!) very close in age to our daughter.



Our Extended Family

Our Adoption Experience

We always knew we wanted to build our family in a way that included adoption. We got married at 24 years old (on Andy's birthday!) and knew we wanted to have a few years together first to forge a strong marriage. At around age 29, we knew we were ready. Aimee had always known that adoption was the way she wanted to build a family. Andy quickly agreed and we were considering going the international route. We had made a date



**Andy and His Brother
at The Fiesta Bowl**



Mayna and Gracie

for lunch together to finalize our decision. As soon as we walked into the restaurant, the family at the first table was a family that had been formed through transracial international adoption. We took it as a "sign" and moved forward with our plans to adopt a child from Guatemala. Needless to say, Aimee had a huge lump in her throat through that entire lunch.....we were over the moon with our decision!

In May of 2007, we received the referral of our daughter who was 3.5 months old at the time. They always say that you can look at a picture and just "know" it is your child looking back at you. As soon as we opened the jpeg file, we knew she was it! Once we were far enough along in the process, we went to Guatemala to visit her, though we were not allowed to bring her home. She was 10 months old at the time. We spent four days with her and having to leave her at her orphanage not knowing when we would be allowed to bring her home was the single hardest thing either of us ever had to do. Four months later, when she was 13 months old, we received our approval and were allowed to pick her up. The details and emotional memories of that day will be forever imprinted in my mind. After being Mayna's parents for 3.5 years we can say that she is the center of our lives. Mayna is excited that we are again building our family through adoption and that she will have a sibling who will share a similar story and past.



A Family Hike in Colorado



On Vacation in Montana

Andy & Aimee



Attending a Family Wedding



Mommy and Mayna are Always Smiling



Aimee Holding Mayna
for the First Time



Family Boat Ride

Dear Birthparent(s),

While this letter is one of the hardest we have ever had to write, we know that it can't compare to the difficult decision you are facing in reading it. We are Aimee, Andy and Mayna, and we are welcoming you into our family. It is an honor to us that you have chosen to read this letter and hope it provides to you a sense of comfort in learning a bit more about us and how we will love and nurture your child, should you decide we are the right family.

We have been married for 10 years this year, though we began dating 6 years prior to our wedding (Aimee still gives Andy a hard time for waiting so long to propose!). We have lived in a number of states before returning home to raise a family in Ohio, where we both grew up. Though we have had many years to enjoy hobbies and travel together, nothing has been a more rewarding experience than parenting together. We first began adding to our family by rescuing two retired racing greyhounds, who can still be found taking up too much space laying on the floor!

Andy has worked in Sales in the aerospace industry for years. After bringing home our daughter in 2008, Aimee reduced her work hours to a part-time schedule in order to maximize the time she was able to spend with our daughter, Mayna. Being a part time "working mom" has allowed Aimee to have the best of both worlds: time with our daughter and a rewarding career.

We adopted our daughter, Mayna, from Guatemala when she was 13 months old. When people meet Mayna one of the first things they say is "what a happy child"! She is the kind of person who can light up a room when she enters it, flashing her big dimples and giggling her infectious belly laugh. Our days together are filled with our favorite family activities, including hikes, trips to the playground, festivals, museums and family movie and game nights. Of all the priorities we have as a family, spending quality time together is number 1. After being parents for 3.5 years, we are excited to be on the journey to add to our family again. Mayna is so ready to be a big sister and has already started to make a list of all of the things she is going to teach her little brother or sister and all of the toys she wants to give him or her. She has such a huge and nurturing heart that we know she is going to make an amazing sister to your child.

Because we are a transracial family, one of our priorities in parenting our daughter is to surround her with diverse role models and people from differing backgrounds. We teach our daughter about her birth culture and believe that surrounding ourselves with all types of families and people will allow her to create a positive self identity in herself and in others. Before bringing Mayna home in 2008, we moved to a more diverse area in order to ensure she would have diverse role models, peers, teachers and neighbors. We will also work very hard to bring your child up being proud of who they are, where they come from and their culture.

Our daughter has known her adoption story from the day she entered into our lives. We are fortunate to have an ongoing relationship with Mayna's birthmother, despite her living in another country. This has been a blessing to all of us, but especially to Mayna. We truly believe that openness is critical in adoption and would love to have an open and ongoing relationship with you, if you decide we are the right family.

While we have not walked in your shoes, we know that this decision is incredibly difficult to make. Our hearts and thoughts are with you as you make this decision, whichever direction you decide to go.

With all of our respect,

Andy and Aimee

