



B.J.

Nicole

Job Description:

Certified Public Accountant,
Senior Audit Associate for a
Regional Accounting Firm

Territory Sales Representative
for a Specialty Pharmaceutical
Company (work from home)

Education:

Bachelor of Science in
Chemical Engineering &
Master of Science in
Accountancy

Bachelor of Arts in Advertising
& Bachelor of Arts in English

Favorites:

Cartoon
Family Guy

Cartoon
Duck Tales

Dessert
Bananas Foster

Dessert
Cupcakes with Lots of Frosting

Leisure Activity
Watching the History Channel

Leisure Activity
Watching Reality TV

Musical Group
Barenaked Ladies

Musical Group
Fall Out Boy

Quality About My Spouse
Her Loving & Generous Nature

Quality About My Spouse
He is Incredibly Intelligent

Children:

None

Family Traditions

Our names are Nicole & B.J., and even though we have never met you, we think of you every day. We know that your journey to this point and our journey have been very different, but we believe our paths have led us to the same place—a place that despite uncertainty is filled with love, hope, and a desire to consider adoption as a plan for the future. We are honored to be at this crossroad with you, and we are truly humbled to have you learn more about us.

Growing up in Texas, B.J.'s family would fry a turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner. Nicole had never had fried turkey until she met B.J., but once she tasted it, frying a turkey has become a tradition that we have continued. Even though Thanksgiving is usually much colder in Ohio, B.J. bundles up and mans the turkey fryer outside while Nicole prepares the other dishes like cheesy potatoes and the stuffing (Nicole's favorite!). All together, it is a delicious twist on the traditional turkey dinner!

One of our other favorite traditions happens at Christmas. We live close to Nicole's parents, so we attend Christmas Eve service at church with them. It is always so beautiful and filled with singing many of the traditional Christmas carols. Afterward, we head home to enjoy hot chocolate and watch the movie "A Christmas Story." We have even been to the original house from the movie and the movie's little museum, which are not too far from our town. Christmas morning, we are not allowed to open presents right away. We have to wait until we are all dressed and then we have breakfast and open our stockings. Once the dishes are finished, we settle around the tree and take turns opening gifts one person at a time. It makes the fun last all morning long. Christmas is a wonderful holiday for us, and we look forward to starting new traditions as our family grows!

Our Favorite Vacation Spot

We enjoy taking trips that include chances to be active and learn something new but also have some relaxation time. One of our favorites was a trip to the east coast. We went to Washington, D.C. over the Fourth of July and had the opportunity to visit many of the monuments, museums, and places of government in our capital. B.J. loved seeing the World War II memorial and the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives, and Nicole enjoyed seeing the dinosaur fossils at the Museum of Natural History. We toured the U.S. Capital building and then watched the famous fireworks display on the National Mall with thousands of other people. After several days we drove south to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. We spent a week there with some of our friends in a house we rented. We spent the days playing games like Bocce ball on the beach, building sandcastles, cooking our dinner on the grill, and relaxing in the hot tub. We look forward to sharing many vacations like this with our future family!

Our House and Neighborhood



We live in a great suburban town located between two larger cities in Ohio. Our three-bedroom, 2 ½ bath home is in a small but new neighborhood, close to several parks, a variety of restaurants, shopping and many community resources like our recreation center and large new library. Our local school district has been designated "Excellent" by the state and offers a wide variety of sports and other activities like music & drama for students. The larger area around our town is known for its vast system of parks where people can go hiking, fishing, boating or even just walking on the many paths. We spend a lot of time in the summer running and hiking in these parks, and they are perfect for families with strollers or bikes as well.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Our Backyard

One of our favorite things to do in our community is to visit the farmers' market in the town square every Saturday morning during the summer months. We love sampling the fresh baked goods, picking out great peaches and berries, and getting all the ingredients we need to make homemade salsa. Our town square also hosts other seasonal events that we enjoy attending, like the Ice Festival in the winter and the Arts and Crafts show in the summer. We always try to find a little something to bring home that we know has been made locally-like the pine tree reindeer we put out on our table at Christmas!

Because we live near two larger cities, we also have access to many museums, sports venues, concert halls and theaters. There is an outdoor pavilion close by where we can take a picnic dinner, lie on a big blanket, and listen to the orchestra play during the summer months. In the winter, we can go snow tubing and skiing or snowboarding at one of the two small ski resorts near our home. There is always something to do and we love having such a variety of activities to choose from.

Our Extended Families

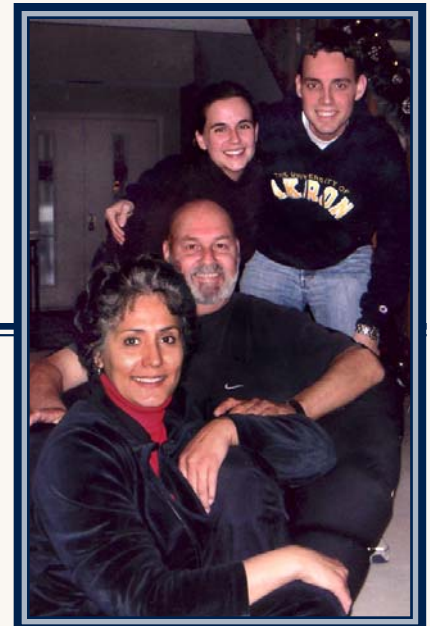
Nicole's parents live about thirty minutes from our home and we see them often. They have been married for 32 years which sets a wonderful example for us, and we are very close to them. Nicole's younger and only sister is a pilot in the U.S. Navy and lives in Florida. Even though she travels around the world a lot for her job, we speak with her as often as we can. The rest of Nicole's extended family spans the U.S., living in Montana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nebraska, & California-what a great excuse we have to travel the country!

B.J. was born and raised in a suburb of Houston, TX, and we actually met while both of us were working there after college. We love Texas and every year, we visit his mom, step-dad & younger sister in the town where he grew up right on the Gulf coast. His dad and step-mom also live in Houston, with B.J.'s four step-siblings and their children close by. Altogether, there are nine nieces and nephews to play with, plus his step-mom's large extended family to see. When we are there, we love having a big BBQ with all the traditional southern dishes we miss eating up north!

We consider many of our friends a part of our family too. When we are in Houston with our Texas friends, we love to eat at our favorite Greek restaurant, play Guitar Hero or watch movies, and cook out while enjoying the warm, humid weather. At home in Ohio, we get together with our friends regularly for "Game Night", where we play board games like Apples to Apples or maybe shoot pool. We also love college football, and we watch many of the big games on TV. There is almost always a friendly rivalry between some of us!



Nicole's Parents and Sister



Enjoying a Visit from B.J.'s Dad and StepMom

Our Pets



Two of Our Kitties, Scout and Shadow

We have five furry kitties-Shadow, Scout, Tink, Bella, & Kirby. We each adopted two of the cats from a rescue shelter before we were married, and we added Kirby to the family about a year later. We chose to have rescue kitties because we knew we could provide a home for them that they may not have ever had otherwise. They bring us such joy when they are snuggling with us while we are watching TV, laying with us in bed at night, or chasing around their collection of toy mice. Each one has a different personality and it is fun to see how they interact with each other and with people. Our kitties are extensions

of our family and they always know how to make us laugh or feel better. They will enjoy having a new little person in our home to keep them company!



At the Pier in the Outer Banks, NC



Celebrating After B.J. Finished the Chicago Marathon



Only Ghostbusters and Greek Goddesses at this Halloween Party!

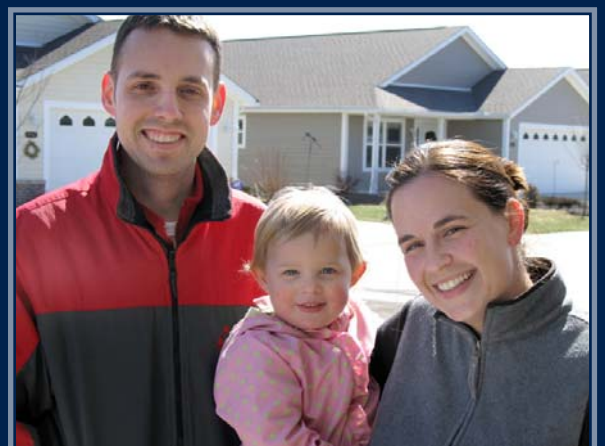
B.J.
&
Nicole



Our Thanksgiving Tradition - Frying a Turkey



Hiking in the Rainforest in Costa Rica



Visiting with Our Goddaughter

Dear Birthparent(s),

Our names are Nicole & B.J., and even though we have never met you, we think of you every day. We know that your journey to this point and our journey have been very different, but we believe our paths have led us to the same place—a place that despite uncertainty is filled with love, hope, and a desire to consider adoption as a plan for the future. We are honored to be at this crossroad with you, and we are truly humbled to have you learn more about us.

Our story begins eight years ago when we met while still living in Texas. We have now been married for six years and it is an adventure every day! Nicole works in sales for a small pharmaceutical company and she has a pretty flexible schedule as she works from home. B.J. is a senior audit associate at a small accounting firm. When we are not working, we enjoy being outdoors, visiting historical places, spending time with our family and friends, and taking time to just be with each other, like going for coffee or out to dinner. We are both conversationalists and since we keep up with current events and politics, we love to debate big issues and share our opinions on pretty much everything! In our quiet time, B.J. enjoys reading science-fiction novels and Nicole enjoys classic women's literature. An occasional reality TV show or program on Discovery keeps our attention just as well!

One of the best things about our relationship is how deep our friendship is—we really are each other's best friend. B.J. is a constant joker and he is great at making silly sound effects while keeping a straight face. We spend a lot of time laughing at ourselves and each other! Nicole is good at remembering small details, and she loves surprising B.J. with little treats, like buying his favorite dessert when she shops at the grocery store or having cookies delivered to his office on his birthday. Our marriage is built on mutual respect and open communication. We share everything we have, we tell each other the good and the bad, and we trust each other with complete certainty. These qualities have helped us on our three-year ride through infertility and today our marriage is as strong as it has ever been.

The decision to adopt is one we arrived at with relative ease because our desire has always been to become a family instead of just being a couple. We believe that God intends for our family to grow through adoption. We are open to on-going communication with you, including sending pictures and letters about your child on a regular basis and even meeting face-to-face. We will share your child's birth story and their adoption story from as early as he or she can understand—your child will always know how much love and hope surrounded their very beginning. We know we will raise your child in the Christian faith and with a loving, supportive extended family as his or her foundation. We will do our best to expose your child to places both close to home and far away, to experiences that are daily and to some that are once-in-a-lifetime, and to an education that will encourage his or her talents, creativity, and independence. Most importantly, know that we will parent—

with unwavering love & dedication - so there is never doubt that your child is our first priority;
with honesty - asking for help when we need it;
with humor - to keep the smiles on our faces;
with confidence - because we know that all things are possible;
and with deep faith - knowing that God has built our family and has a plan for us.

We see the opportunity to raise a child as just that—an opportunity. It is an opportunity to love and nurture a child, to develop the child's self-respect and respect for others, to teach right from wrong, to counsel on making wise decisions, and to support a child's sense of self into adulthood. What an amazing responsibility! We don't doubt for a second that it will be a tremendous challenge. And yet, we wish for nothing more than this opportunity to be parents.

As this child's first family, you will be a part of our forever family. We are blessed to have you consider us as adoptive parents and please know that you already have our whole hearts.

Sincerely yours,

B.J. and Nicole

