



**B.J.**

**Nicole**

**Job Description:**

Certified Public Accountant & Audit Supervisor for a Regional Accounting Firm

Sales Representative for a Specialty Pharmaceutical Company

**Education:**

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

Bachelor of Arts in Advertising & Bachelor of Arts in English

**Favorites:**

**Childhood Toy**  
Basketball Goal

**Childhood Toy**  
Cabbage Patch Doll

**Hobby**  
Running

**Hobby**  
Reading

**Tradition**

Annual Trip Back to Texas

**Tradition**

Family Vacations in the Summer

**Thing to Cook**

Anything on the Grill

**Thing to Cook**

Big Pots of Homemade Soup

**Holiday**  
4th of July

**Holiday**  
Birthdays

**Children:**

Lyla (March 2010)

Our names are Nicole & B.J., and we want you to know that you are on our minds every single day. It is amazing to think that our lives and yours are crossing at this moment, even though we have traveled very different paths to get to this point. We recognize that this time for you may feel very uncertain, but we guess that it might also be 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.

**Lyla's Adoption**

2010 was a very special year for us. Our daughter Lyla was born in March, and we have an open adoption with both of her birth parents. We were matched with them in January and we spent time getting to know each other in the weeks prior to Lyla's birth. They are each very important to us and we feel completely blessed to have them present in our lives, especially for Lyla. We have been able to visit with them every few months since Lyla was born, and we text or talk on the phone whenever there is something big to share. Lyla is an amazing child—she is super sweet and very curious. She loves music and books, she loves to go for rides in her stroller or swimming at the pool, and she loves playing with other kids. She has brought so much joy to us and we can't wait to grow our family again through adoption.

**What We Love About Being Parents**

Some say that parenthood will change you, but we believe it has made who we were to begin with even better. We love including Lyla in our experiences—going to the farmers' market, taking a walk in the park, meeting up with friends for dinner at a restaurant. We also love having little moments with her at home—reading a book, snuggling with her before bed, playing in the bath tub. We love seeing how her curiosity helps her learn something new every day, like when she figured out how to sit down from standing or how to turn on her music table by pushing the buttons with one finger. We laugh a lot, we tell Lyla how much we love her all the time, and we can't wait to see what the next day will bring. Having a child in our house has been so much fun! We are so grateful for the opportunity to watch her grow and we look forward to sharing these same memories with another child.

**Our House & Neighborhood**

OHIO

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. We have a large, open backyard and our own vegetable garden where we grow tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, & broccoli. Our neighborhood is close to several parks, restaurants, & shopping as well as our community recreation center and library. We live in a great school district that is focused on academics but also offers many different sports and activities like music & drama.

The larger area around our town is known for its vast system of parks, and we spend a lot of time in the summer walking, running and hiking on these trails. One of our favorite things to do in the summer is to visit the farmers' market in the town square every Saturday morning. 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 Home**

## House & Neighborhood, (continued)



**Our Backyard**

Our town square also hosts other seasonal events like the Ice Festival in the winter and the Arts and Crafts show in the summer. Each year, we brave the cold to attend the lighting ceremony for our town's Christmas tree. We eat dinner in the square, we wander the shops that are all decorated for the holidays and we listen to the carolers while waiting for the tree to be lit. We love having these experiences so close to home!

## Our Extended Families



**With Nicole's Parents & Sister at Lyla's Baptism**

**Nicole's** parents live about thirty minutes from our home and we see them often. They have been married for 34 years, which sets a wonderful example for us, and we are very close to them. Nicole's younger and only sister is in the U.S. Navy and lives in Maryland. After years of moving around quite a bit, we're glad she's finally close enough for a weekend road trip. The rest of Nicole's extended family spans the U.S., living in Montana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Nebraska—it's a great excuse to travel the country!

**B.J.** was born and raised in a suburb of Houston, TX. Each year we take a trip to visit his mom, stepdad & younger sister in the town where he grew up, right on the Gulf coast. His dad and stepmom 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 visit, we love having a big BBQ with all the traditional southern & Creole dishes we miss up north!

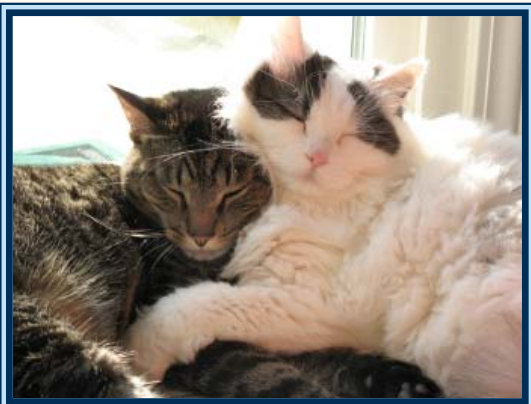
We consider many of our friends a part of our family too. When we are in Houston we eat out at our favorite restaurants or cook out while enjoying the warm Texas weather. At home in Ohio, we get together regularly with our friends who also have small children. We go to the mall for some window shopping or we meet up at someone's house so the kids can play. We are huge sports fanatics, especially college football, so if there's a game on you can be sure we'll be watching!



**Enjoying a Visit with B.J.'s Dad & Stepmom**

## Our Favorite Vacation

We enjoy taking trips that are active and include lots of exploring, but we also love time to relax. One of our favorites was a road trip to Asheville, NC & Charleston, SC. We spent several days exploring the Blue Ridge Mountains—we toured the Biltmore Estate, hiked in a state park, and kayaked on the French Broad River. We continued our trip in Charleston where we shared a gorgeous beach house with our friends from Houston and Atlanta. Every day was different—we either spent time on the beach relaxing and boogie-boarding or we went in to Charleston where we visited many amazing places. B.J. loved touring the historical sites, like Fort Sumter, and Nicole enjoyed the beautiful southern architecture. We loved eating the great southern cooking, walking on the beach, and playing board games with our friends. This really was one of our favorite trips, and we can't wait to bring our family back here!



**Two of Our Kitties - Scout & Shadow**

## Our Pets

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.

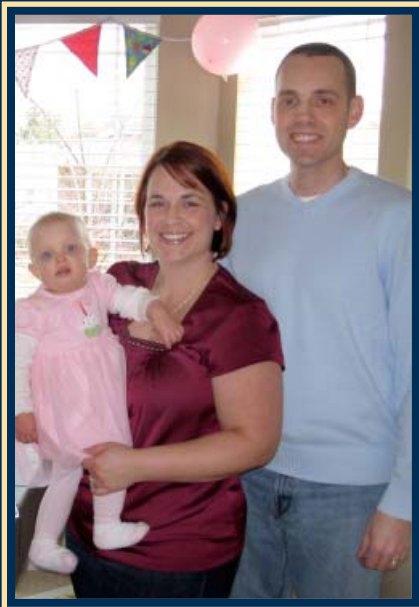
Each one has a different personality and it is fun to see how they interact with each other and with Lyla. Her favorite is by far Kirby because he lets her pat his head and pet him while she is also pulling his tail. The cats have been a great incentive for her to start crawling and now walking—she wants to follow them all over the house! We are sure they will just love having another new baby to play with!



Out to Dinner with Friends



Visiting the Biltmore Estate  
in North Carolina



Celebrating Lyla's  
First Birthday

**B.J.  
&  
Nicole**



Our Thanksgiving Tradition  
- Frying a Turkey



After a Long Day at the Beach  
in Charleston



Swimming with Lyla

## Dear Birthparent(s),

Our names are Nicole & B.J., and we want you to know that you are on our minds every single day. It is amazing to think that our lives and yours are crossing at this moment, even though we have traveled very different paths to get to this point. We recognize that this time for you may feel very uncertain, but we guess that it might also be 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.

Ten years ago, our future together began while we were living in Texas. We have been married since 2003 and it is an adventure every day! Nicole works in sales for a small pharmaceutical company and she has a pretty flexible schedule since she works from home. B.J. is an audit supervisor at a small accounting firm. When we are not working, we enjoy playing with our daughter Lyla, doing active things like running or hiking, spending time with our family and friends, or simply hanging out over coffee or dinner, just the two of us. We are both conversationalists and since we keep up with current events and politics, we love to talk about big issues and we share our opinions on pretty much everything! In our down time, we both love getting caught up on our favorite TV shows (including *Community* & *Thirty Rock*) or learning something new on the History or Discovery channels.

The greatest aspect of our marriage is how deep our friendship really is—we couldn't imagine life without one another. B.J. is "the funny guy" in our house; his dry sense of humor and goofy commentary on nearly everything means we spend a lot of time laughing at ourselves and each other! Nicole is good at remembering small details, and she does a great job at balancing *what needs done* with *what we just want to do for fun!* Overall, we believe that mutual respect and open communication are vital to keeping our marriage strong. We share everything we have, we tell each other the good and the bad, and we trust each other with complete certainty. These qualities helped us on our three-year ride through infertility and then as we went through the adoption process the first time.

Our initial decision to adopt was a relatively easy one because we knew early in our relationship that we were meant to be a family and not just a couple. The adoption of our daughter Lyla has changed our lives for the better and we are certain that God intends for our family to grow through adoption again. We are blessed to be in an open relationship with Lyla's birth parents and we want you to know that we are committed to sending pictures and letters about your child on a regular basis. We are also open to meeting face-to-face now and to setting up visits in the future. 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.

More than anything that we could just say here, what we will do is promise to parent your child with ***complete honesty, confidence, a bit of humor, & with unwavering love.*** We will raise your child in the Christian faith and with a caring, 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 an to education that will encourage his or her talents, creativity, and independence. Having the opportunity to grow our family through adoption again means getting the chance 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 the child's sense of self into adulthood. We couldn't begin to express how much this would mean to us.

Please know that 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—you already have our whole hearts.

Warmly,

**B.J. and Nicole**

