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**Parenting**

Being parents to a child is an amazing and humbling gift. We both grew up in households that differed in parenting styles, one being more laid back than the other; however, we were both raised with the same morals and expectations. Those expectations included treating others with respect, learning to be responsible, working hard in school, and eventually continuing our education after high school. Because our parents were always kind and tough when needed, we were both able to accomplish those goals and so much more. If given the opportunity to become parents ourselves, we plan to help your child meet these same goals by being supportive, nurturing, and offering constant encouragement. Being raised by different parenting methods has allowed us to consider techniques from both sides in order to develop a well-rounded parenting style of our own. Above all, your child will be loved unconditionally and we vow to support them through every milestone from now and into the future. We are fully committed to meeting all of your child's needs. Of course, a little spoiling along the way never hurt anyone (OK, who are we kidding....there will definitely be a lot of spoiling!)

**Our Leisure Time**

We both agree that the best memories are made by spending time with each other. We both like to do many of the same things, but differ in others as well. We have found that many times our similar preferences along with our differences have strengthened our relationship.

In his spare time, Bob enjoys reading, watching movies, and building things around the house. His next big project is going to be building a children's play room off of the media room. Though Bob enjoys staying busy, his favorite thing to do is curl up on the couch with Shari and the dogs and watch a good movie.

In Shari's spare time she enjoys reading, shopping and spending time playing with the critters. She is also trying her hand at gardening, but is still learning all of the tricks of the trade. Ultimately, Shari's favorite pastime is cooking and baking. She loves to create new things in the kitchen and is pretty well known throughout the family for her homemade cookies and cupcakes. Shari is often asked by friends and family to whip something up to bring to a gathering or luncheon; however, her favorite person to cook for is Bob. He is always appreciative of Shari's efforts and doesn't mind playing the role of taste tester either.

**Our House & Neighborhood**



Our home is situated within a very family oriented community in Ohio and is also located within a very good school district. We live in a 1 1/2 story colonial home with 3 bedrooms and 3 1/2 bathrooms. The basement has been finished and turned into a media room. We also have an extra room in the back that we plan on turning into a play room for your child. There is a large deck overlooking our backyard with a small fenced in area off to the side for our two dogs. Because we are located on a cul-de-sac, our yard eventually meets the backyard of four other homes. This makes for a nice little park-like setting as the children who live in the other homes are free to play in any of the four backyards.



**Our Home**

**Bob**

**Shari**

**Job Description:**

Aerospace and Defense Engineer

Special Education Teacher, (Possibly a Stay-at-Home Mom)

**Education:**

Bachelors Degree in Computer Engineering and Masters Degree in Systems Engineering

Bachelors in English Literature, Certified High School English Teacher, Certified Special Education Teacher (Grades K-12)

**Favorites:**

**Hobby**

Building Things

**Hobby**

Cooking/Baking

**Quality About Spouse**

Her Kindness

**Quality About Spouse**

His Bright Blue Eyes

**Thing to Cook**

Pop Tarts

**Thing to Cook**

Turkey and Stuffing

**Movie**

Lord of the Rings

**Movie**

Gone with the Wind

**Magazine**

Sports Illustrated

**Magazine**

Country Living

**Children:**

None

## House & Neighborhood, (continued)



**Our Backyard**

The neighborhood that we live in is full of children. Our neighbors always joke that “when the weather turns warm, the children come out of the wood works.” We live in a very tight knit community where everyone knows everyone and takes part in each other’s lives from babysitting to celebrating milestones. Our community also holds annual events ranging from garage sales and festivals to trick-or-treating and holiday activities. During the winter time, children in our neighborhood bring their sleds and slide down the minor slope that connects our house from our neighbor’s. We always enjoy watching the families playing in the snow. We can’t wait to make our own backyard memories with the future addition to our family.

## Our Extended Families

Our extended family members are absolutely wonderful. We are both very close to our families and visit with them often. They have been consistently supportive of us throughout our lives. Both of our parents live within a few blocks of each other and occasionally get together. They are all very excited with our decision to adopt a child. As a matter of fact, some of our family members have already started sending us baby items in preparation for the new addition to our family.



**Bob's Family**

**Bob** is the middle child of three boys. He has an older brother and a younger brother. Bob’s older sibling and his wife recently welcomed their first child into the world. Adelyn is Bob’s parents’ first grandchild! All three brothers are college graduates thanks to the support and dedication of their parents. Bob’s parents are both hard workers and are very family oriented. They have been married for 31 years. They are always holding get-togethers and informal parties at their home. Sometimes there is a special occasion, but more often than not, the get-togethers are just for spending quality time with family. Bob’s family has also recently purchased a cabin where we all can gather for some more fun, food, and games. Of course, it wouldn’t be camping without S’mores.

**Shari** is the older of two sisters. Shari’s biological mother passed away when she was only two years old; however, her father remarried a wonderful woman a few years later whom Shari has considered to be her mother ever since. Shari’s parents have been together almost 28 years now. Her parents also own a camp and enjoy the outdoors as well. Shari’s immediate family is small, with only one other sibling, but her extended family is very large. Her large family makes holidays and special occasions a blast. During the holidays, the family gets together to bake huge amounts of Christmas cookies and hold decorating parties. There have even been a few holidays when the family got together and went caroling throughout the neighborhood. Shari’s family is a very close knit group and are greatly anticipating having grandchildren.



**With Shari's Family in Cozumel, Mexico**

## Our Wonderful Pets



**Jack and Charlie**

We have two dogs, Charlie and Jack, and two cats, Mr. Henry and Oliver. Charlie and Jack are both longhaired dachshunds. They both love other animals and are very loyal to their family. There is never a dull moment with these two. They are the first to snuggle up with us on the couch at the end of the day, but also the first to let us know if we are a few minutes late giving them their dinner.

Mr. Henry and Oliver are our two cats. Shari rescued Mr. Henry from a pound. He is the oldest of our animals. Mr. Henry is a very fat, healthy, and happy cat. He isn’t bothered by much and absolutely loves attention. Bob rescued Oliver, the youngest of our clan, from a dumpster. He is a complete handful! Oliver is still in the kitten stage and likes to play with everything he can get his paws on. Just the other day, we found him on our kitchen counter ripping through a

Ziploc bag filled with homemade chocolate chip cookies! What kind of cat likes cookies? Despite his mischievous behavior, he has such a sweet disposition. He loves to snuggle up close to our faces at night and purrs all of the time.

All of our animals hold a special place in our hearts and continue to enrich our lives on a daily basis. We love them dearly (even though Bob still hasn’t completely forgiven Oliver for eating all of his chocolate chip cookies).



Weekend Trip to the Gardens

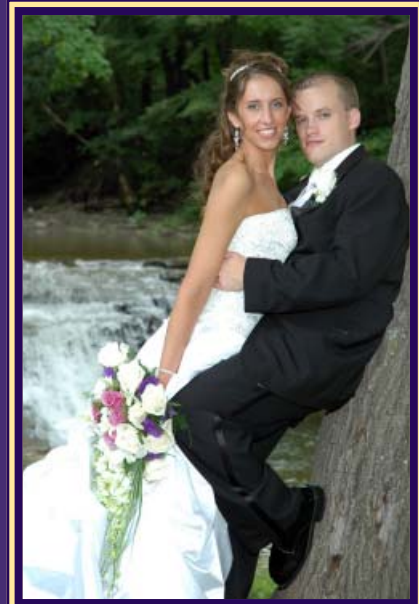


Enjoying a Boat Ride in Belize

## Bob & Shari



Cozying Up By The Fireplace



Our Wedding Day



Taking a Cruise



Out to Dinner

## Dear Birthparent(s),

As we sit down to write this letter, we both are overwhelmed by admiration and respect for your decision to consider adoption for your child. We hope that whichever path you choose, will be one in which you and your child find peace, love, and contentment.

We have been married for almost 4 years now, but have been a couple for 10 years. We met while working at a fast food restaurant during our high school years and have been together ever since. Not only are we high school sweethearts, but we are best friends. We are completely committed to one another and enjoy each other's company daily.

We knew early on that pregnancy wasn't a realistic option for us so we decided to expand our family through adoption. We are looking forward to being able to shower a child with all of the love and support that we have to offer. We promise that your child will grow up knowing the strength and courage of his/her birthparents and the love that they have for their child. We have already started putting together a baby book that will tell of his/her adoption story, one which we plan to share with your child regularly.

Bob is an engineer who works to develop highly technical military defense projects and Shari is a middle school special education teacher, which allows her to have the summer months off. Shari is also considering being a stay at home mom and is looking forward to the extra moments spent with your child.

We believe that education is very important. We are prepared to offer your child encouragement and support throughout his/her schooling. We also believe that social activities such as sports and clubs are equally important and we will strive to make those opportunities readily available. Our dream for your child is that he/she will be able to utilize their own individual talents to accomplish all of their goals in life.

We are both very close with our extended families. We live within driving distance of our relatives and visit them on a regular basis. They also come to visit us often as well. Most of the time, these visits are spent just hanging around the house and enjoying each other's company. We also have many holiday traditions that we still participate in even now as adults. One, in particular, is our annual Christmas party and cookie weekend. Yep, it takes all weekend to bake all of the cookies that we make every year! Some other traditions that we have include decorating the house, dressing up the dogs for Trick-or-Treating, Thanksgiving dinners, and New Year's Eve shopping excursions. Despite all of the fun and chaos during the holidays, most of our fond memories are of spending quiet evenings together watching movies or talking over yummy snacks.

In our spare time we love to go on cruises. We have been on many different ships and have visited many different ports, primarily in the Caribbean. Some of our favorite places to visit are Belize, Cayman Islands, and Honduras. In the future, we would like to travel to Hawaii, Ireland, and Scotland. We also enjoy going on short weekend trips to nearby cities or spending time at the camp sites that both of our parents own. We can't wait to be able to share these adventures and memories with a child.

We feel extremely honored that you chose to consider us as a family for your child. We can assure you that he/she will be loved and cherished more than words can express. Your child's happiness and well-being will always be our top priority. Although we can't imagine the emotions and fear you must be feeling while trying to make the right decision for your child, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

Sincerely,

**Bob & Shari**

