



Thank you for taking a moment to get to know us. As you make this very important decision in your life, our thoughts are with you. We grow more and more excited each day to start our family through adoption and share our love and our lives with a precious newborn baby. Please know we will work hard every day to ensure that your child has the best opportunities, helping hands and most of all, love, to grow into the best person he or she can be and to follow his or her dreams in life.

**Dave**

**Joan**

**Job Description:**

Program Manager at a Local Airport

Editor in University Communications

**Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Aviation, Minor in Atmospheric Science

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, Minor in Spanish. Graduated Summa Cum Laude with Honors

**Favorites:**

**Cartoon**  
Bugs Bunny

**Cartoon**  
Bugs Bunny

**Dessert**  
Joan's Homemade Cookies

**Dessert**  
Boston Cream Pie

**Family Activity**  
Beach Vacations

**Family Activity**  
Meeting for Ice Cream

**Hobby**  
Electronics (computers, stereos, TVs - basically anything with switches and lights!)

**Hobby**  
Acoustic Guitar

**Olympic Event**  
Winter Ski Long Jump

**Olympic Event**  
All Swimming

**Children:**

None

**What We Want to Share with a Child**

- \* Our love of the ocean: searching for shells, digging our feet into the sand, listening to the waves splash. We hope we can instill in a child the awe, amazement and peacefulness this brings us.
- \* Our interest in the weather. We met in a college meteorology class, and we share a fascination of all things weather related. There's nothing better than a good thunderstorm, and even as adults we wish for a blizzard to give us a snow day! We want to teach a child to wonder about the world around us like we do.
- \* Simply being together, whether it's on an exciting vacation or just sitting in the family room watching a movie. We will make sure your child knows that love comes in all forms, and we'll emphasize the importance of having respect and compassion for others.
- \* Exploring. We are excited for a child to discover new things and learn with us during vacations, weekend getaways or even visits to a local farmer's market.
- \* Holiday celebrations: Your child will join our traditions, from choosing and cutting down a live Christmas tree at a local tree farm and decorating it together, then watching the original Grinch cartoon; to joining large and boisterous family gatherings at holiday and birthday celebrations; to helping Joan put out her Easter bunny collection. This year we started a new annual tradition of hosting Father's Day for our families with a cookout at our home.

**Our Passion for Education**

Education is very important to us, and we will make it a high priority for your child. We know that without a firm education we would not enjoy the success we have today. After college, Dave continued his education by receiving an airport executive accreditation, similar to an engineering license or advanced degree in his field. This gave him exposure to all aspects of airport operation and administration, which made him more well-rounded and prepared for advancement in his position. Joan is active in an alumni group of Mortar Board Senior Collegiate Honor Society, which encourages scholarship, leadership and service. This year she will be helping a college chapter of Mortar Board, and she has served in local and national leadership positions. One of her favorite activities at work is mentoring young journalism students who are interns in her office to help them prepare for their own careers.

We plan to obtain the best education possible for the child who will join our family. In addition to formal education, we're eager to provide new learning experiences in daily life for this child.

**Our House and Neighborhood**



We live in a family-oriented suburban neighborhood in Ohio. Children regularly gather for basketball, bike riding and games on the court where we live. Our house is a two-story with four bedrooms and two baths. When we had it built in 2000, we chose an open floor plan for the family room, kitchen and dining room so we could have parties with family and friends. Now it seems like every time we have a gathering, the favorite place for everyone to be is circled around the kitchen island... Maybe that's because all the food is there!



**Our Home**

## Our House and Neighborhood, continued



**Our Cat, Mischief,  
Asleep on the Couch**

We recently put up birdfeeders in our back yard so we can watch the goldfinches and the hummingbirds. We share our home with one cat, who we brought home as a kitten when she was found on the city streets of a small Ohio town. We have decorated our family room with a flight theme, inspired by our hot air ballooning activities, Dave's flying and our memories of celebrating the 100th anniversary of flight in 2003.

Our neighborhood is diverse with families of many different ethnic backgrounds and ages. We live very near a metro park, where we often go to ride bikes or for "date night" picnics. We are excited for a child to join us in our tradition of walking the nature trails at the park, where he or she can also enjoy the playground equipment.

## Our Extended Families

We are fortunate that our extended families are very happy about our plans to adopt and are already anxious to lend us help and support. Our parents live in Ohio, so they are especially excited to take on new roles as grandparents.



**Joan's Extended Family at a Reunion**

Joan's family celebrates its strong Irish heritage with genealogy research and holiday traditions. She has a younger brother, Joe, who is married. We visit often with Joan's father and mother, who each live less than a half hour away. In Joan's family, cousins are extremely special and are not only relatives but best friends in each generation. We can't wait for our adopted child to join the youngest generation in this tradition!

Dave is the youngest of three children. His sister, Sue, lives in Ohio near his parents; she has two grown sons. Dave's brother, Rob, and his wife live near Washington, D.C., and each have two children. Dave and his brother share a love of all things technology and have a great time joking with each other.

Dave's grandmother was adopted as an infant, and one of Joan's aunts adopted a son who is now grown, so both sides of the family are open and accepting of our adoption plans. We have close friends who have adopted children and plan to build a network of even more families who will be there to support your child as he or she grows. We also have good friends who will be a part of your child's life: Joan has a group of very close friends from her childhood days as a Girl Scout, and both of us remain close to many high school and college friends.



**Dave's Family at Christmas**



**Elvis, the Colombian Boy  
We Sponsor**

## Volunteering and Seeing the World Through a Child's Eyes

We think it is important that our lives not revolve only around ourselves, and we will make every effort to instill those values in the child through our example and through helping the child find his or her own passions for helping other people. We are volunteers for the American Red Cross. For the first year we began volunteering, we were members of the Disaster Response Team, being on call certain days or nights to respond to house fires, floods or other disasters to help families. With the team we helped make arrangements for residents experiencing such emergencies to get clothing, food and temporary housing. This volunteer work made us realize just how lucky we are in life. One of the most moving moments came when a young woman's small rental house was destroyed by fire. While we were helping her, one of her neighbors, who had never met her, gave her a large bag full of clothing, shoes and makeup she had gathered from her own belongings. Seeing the generosity of strangers and knowing we could play a small part in helping someone through what may be one of the worst days of their lives is very rewarding for us. After deciding to grow our family through adoption plans, we changed our volunteer efforts for more flexibility, and we now do clerical work at the American Red Cross office.

An exciting volunteer opportunity for us comes through the Christian Foundation for Children and the Aging, where for five years we have sponsored a young boy, now 12, in Colombia. He, his parents and three siblings are supported only by his father's fishing wages, which provide less than \$40 in monthly income. He loves soccer, and while he struggles with writing, he enjoys math in school. The organization allows us to send a small monthly donation to help provide clothes, healthcare and school supplies for him. But the best part is that we get to exchange letters with him and share our culture. We send him photos and small gifts like pencils and paper for school and tokens for him to learn about the United States. He draws pictures for us and tells us about his family and academic progress. We hope we provide support and encouragement for him to have success in school and maintain his faith in God, even though it is from afar; we're looking forward to doing the same for the child we adopt into our own home.



On Our Way to A Christmas Party



Cheering on the Buckeyes  
at Ohio Stadium

# Dave & Joan



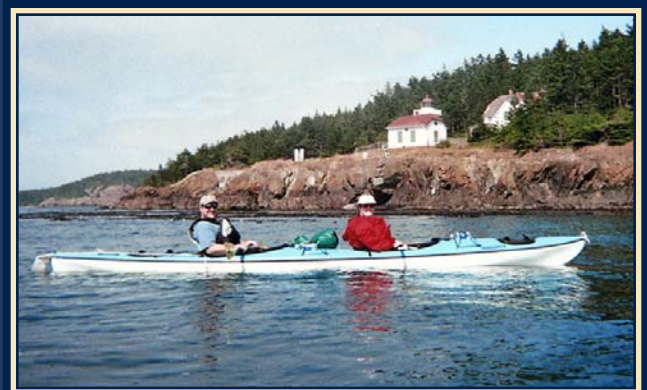
At The Boardwalk



Morning Bike Ride on Vacation



Swimming with Dolphins in Florida



Kayaking in Washington State

## Dear Birthparent(s),

Thank you for taking a moment to get to know us. As you make this very important decision in your life, our thoughts are with you.

We grow more and more excited each day to start our family through adoption and share our love and our lives with a precious newborn baby.

Our lives together have been built on the foundation of a strong marriage. Friends and family often tell us that they admire the relationship we have. We are both Catholic, and we have served as mentors to engaged couples in our church to be a good example and help others be as happy in marriage as we are. Our love is strong from the standpoint of dealing together with whatever life hands us, but we also know the little things matter: Dave often brings home flowers for Joan; Joan leaves notes in Dave's lunch. We sometimes call, text or e-mail each other during the day just to say "hello."

We come first in each others' lives and we love doing things together, whether it's traveling or just watching the evening news. It is this love and dedication we have for each other that made us decide to start a family. The bond we have, we think, is too good to keep to ourselves, so we want to share it with a child!

Please know we will work hard every day to ensure that your child has the best opportunities, helping hands and most of all, love, to grow into the best person he or she can be and to follow his or her dreams in life. We will discuss adoption openly with your child, telling him or her about it as early as possible. We want your child to have warm feelings toward his or her birth parent/s, knowing that your love is strong and that you wanted him or her to have the best life possible. As your child progresses through life, we will provide letters and photos to Adoption by Gentle Care so you can see them as you choose. We would like to share with your child as much information as we can - with your permission - about his or her birth family, encouraging the child to know all facets of his or her family history, not just that of our adoptive family. Overall, we just want to do everything possible to help the child feel positive about the adoption, about how important and close to our hearts he or she is, how we will love and care for the child forever, and to grow up free of questions or sorrow.

As you have undoubtedly read in many adoptive couple profiles, we, too, struggled for years with infertility and were heartbroken when we suffered a miscarriage in 2007. We will never forget the life we lost, just as we're sure you will hold close to your heart the child for whom you are making such an important decision regarding an adoption plan. Now we want to continue our quest to share our love and our lives with a child through adoption, and we're working hard to meet the adoption requirements and to be prepared to provide daily care and guidance for your child. What we don't need preparation for, we know, is to give our love to this child.

While many couples say they can't wait until their children leave home so they can have some adventures of their own, we have had several years of such adventures already while we built a strong foundation for our marriage. Now we want to continue those adventures with the new addition of a child! We also bring to parenting many life experiences - good and bad, happy and sad - that newly married couples have not yet seen. We are sure this will enable us to guide a child through life's challenges knowing what it takes to be happy and successful.

The ups and downs in our lives have taught us that important decisions, such as the one you are making with your adoption plan, require much consideration. You can do all the research you want to do during these times and talk to all of the significant people in your life about it as you seek answers. However, in the end we've found that the most important thing is to truly follow your heart so you will be at peace and will know you made the best choices possible. Our hearts will be with you as you decide the best options for you and your child.

**Dave and Joan**

