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Qualities We Love About Each Other

What David loves about Ali: There is nobody who is so warm and so generous as my Ali. The moment anyone meets her, she is so welcoming and open that anyone feels comfortable, immediately. If any of our friends are in need, she doesn't hesitate to give what she can. Or, if someone we know could really use something that we have, she doesn't hesitate to give it right away (one time, our guest room bed!). Her heart and spirit are so warm and accepting—a great combination with her generosity. Ali is a wonderful mother—she is always seeking the best for our children. She is a woman with a very strong faith. What a combination—a dedicated mom of faith with a generous, warm heart and with 10 years professional experience as a middle school teacher! I am so proud of my partner and wife.

What Ali loves about David: When I was a teenager and used to dream about being married, I never realized that marriage would bring me my best friend! David is a truly amazing person. He is the most loyal, dedicated, and loving person I have ever known. He never ceases to amaze me with the love he has for us.

David is not only a man of integrity, he is a wonderful, loving father. Every evening when he pulls up in the driveway, cheers erupt through the house as the kids run to meet him. He takes time to listen to them talk about their day and takes the opportunity to share a cup of tea at Jaden's tea party or share in Caleb's joy at his latest Lego creation. David is easy-going and fun-loving, but he sets clear boundaries when it comes to safety and morals. David is extremely patient and kind, and he loves me deeply.

Why We Chose Adoption

You might ask why we would want to adopt if we already have two children? We could have pursued more biological children, but we might have to struggle with infertility again. More importantly, we believe that adoption is part of God's plan for our family. On our fifteenth year wedding anniversary, just the two of us went on a cruise to the Caribbean. We discussed our lives together — past, present, future. We spent the entire trip excitedly discussing and planning on growing our family through adoption.

We have spent the last year praying, researching, and preparing for the adoption of a child. We will love and cherish this child and teach them of God's amazing love in Jesus. We would love to meet with you, if that is your preference. We also are hoping to maintain contact with you after the baby is born.

Our House & Neighborhood



We live in the suburbs and have been actively involved in our community for 13 years. We are so blessed to have deep friendships with other families from our community, from our church and from our neighborhood.

We live in a warm and comfortable, two-story home on a quiet circle in a suburban neighborhood. We have four large bedrooms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, a spacious two-story great room and an inviting, family-friendly eat-in kitchen and dining room. We also have a fully finished basement family room that is perfect for kids' slumber parties and family movie and game nights!

David

Ali

Job Description:

Senior Counsel in Legal Department of a National Retailer

Stay-at-Home Mother, Former Middle School English Teacher

Education:

Law Degree
Bachelor's Degree in Business-Finance

Master's Degree in The Art of Teaching
Bachelor's Degree in English Education

Favorites:

Childhood Toy
Legos

Childhood Toy
Fashion Plates & Barbies

Family Activity
Camping/Bike-Riding

Family Activity
Family Game Night

Thing to Cook
BBQ on the Grill

Thing to Cook
Homemade Macaroni & Cheese

Hobby
Coffee Roasting/Coffee Barista

Hobby
Singing

Board Game
Scrabble

Board Game
Monopoly

Children:

Caleb (age 6) and Jaden (age 3)



Our Home

Our House & Neighborhood, (continued)



**Trick or Treating
in Our Neighborhood**

Outside, the kids enjoy a wooden swing set in our fenced-in backyard that backs up into a wooded reserve with a small creek running through the middle. We are only blocks away from four neighborhood parks and ponds.

Our street is a quiet circle, but only from a traffic standpoint! Including our Caleb and Jaden, there are at least 12 other children on our street. There is always a good time going on: riding bikes, campouts, cookouts, ball games, playing in the creek and bike rides to the nearby parks.

Our Extended Families

David grew up in Ohio in a family of 5—Dad, Mom and three boys. David's family usually had an older foster sister living with them. David's Dad is a businessman who started his own real estate company almost 40 years ago. After being a career teacher, David's Mom is a now a licensed therapist for kids with learning disabilities. Both are devoted grandparents. David's parents, brothers and their families live around Ohio, too. Growing up, we boys learned the importance of family, work ethic and responsibility. Mom was happy to let us three (then probably 8, 7 and 5) make cupcakes, pancakes and whatever else from scratch in the kitchen, as long as we were responsible to clean up what ever happened (flour fight!).

Ali and her only brother moved from Connecticut when Ali was 6 years old. Her father works in computer sales and her mother is a retired English teacher of over 35 years. Ali became deeply involved in school activities—excelling in student theatre, musicals and band. Summers were spent as a family in a cabin community in the mountains of New Hampshire. Growing up, Ali learned from her family to value honesty, to care enough to speak truthfully and to always say "I love you." We are very close with Ali's parents. Ali and her Mom are the best of friends and never miss a chance to see each other. Her father is also in Ohio and we get to visit with him periodically throughout the year, especially when he hosts us for Thanksgiving! Ali's mom and step-dad spend half the year living near the beach in Florida, but still keep a condo in Ohio only 5 minutes from our home, where we get the opportunity to see them often throughout the year; when they aren't in Ohio, we also love visiting them in Florida on vacations, once or twice per year.



David's Family Photo

Our Thoughts on Education

Education is incredibly important to us. Ali, Ali's mom and David's mom are all teachers. We believe in giving our children every opportunity to excel in their strengths. Caleb is currently in the 1st grade at a local Christian school, where he is doing wonderfully! Jaden is enrolled in the public Preschool, which she loves.

We will have college savings funds set up for each of the children. We believe in helping with their college costs, while still requiring that they pay for books and basic living expenses. This way they

will understand the value of the money and the education that they are receiving.



Ali's Family: Fun at the Beach



Participating in a Charity Walk

Volunteering Our Time

We are both actively involved in many of our church ministries. David has served on our church board two times. We both serve as leaders for a small group and church leadership team. Ali coordinates the Blood Drive Ministry that works with the Red Cross to host bi-monthly Blood Drives.

As a family, we have also been sponsoring children through World Vision for the past 6 years. We also give to Charity:Water to raise money to build wells, providing clean drinking water in Africa to families and schools who do not have clean water.



Happy at Home Together



Our Family Portrait



Impromptu Family Picture at Easter

David & Ali



David and Ali on Our 15th Anniversary Caribbean Cruise



Ali's Dad and the Grandkids



More Family Fun with Nieces and Nephews

Hello Friend,

Before we start telling you about ourselves, we want you to know how courageous we think you are for trying to make the best decisions you can. We are honored that you are even reading this note, and really, our greatest hope is that you find happiness and peace of mind with whatever decision you make.

We are a family of four, and we are looking forward to growing to a family of five! We are: David, Ali, Caleb (age 6) and Jaden (age 3). After a four-year struggle with infertility, we know we are so blessed with our two children. We've been married for 16 years, and we are still best friends. In our family, our "together-time" is precious, whether cuddling up to watch a movie, eating together in the backyard, going out on a "family date" or serving other people together in our community. We are people of faith: we worship in a Christian church and are active in our community serving others. As Caleb will tell you, the "most important thing" at our house is "to love God back and love all other people."

David was born and grew up in Northeastern Ohio. Ali was born in Connecticut, and moved to Ohio later on. We met while in college in Ohio, and became best friends. After Ali's graduation, we got married; Ali started her first teaching job and David started law school. After getting settled into our careers, we decided to start working on growing our family. After several years of trying, we continued praying and continued the fertility treatments, even though they were not expected to work. We finally got pregnant! In 2005, our dear son Caleb was born—now a strong and sweet six-year-old. In 2008, our second answer to prayer was born. Our daughter Jaden is now 3, and full of laughter and joy. Caleb and Jaden are our treasures, and we can't wait to add a precious little one to our family with yet another answer to prayer!

Once Caleb joined our family, Ali decided to come home from her middle-school teaching career to be a full-time mommy. While it was hard to leave her school system after 10 years, Ali was committed even more to our growing family. Ali still is passionate about teaching writing, but right now she is completely dedicated to being home with her family.

Since staying home, Ali started connecting with other stay-at-home mothers and created a Moms' Group. Now, the Moms' Group is 6 years old and going strong—with over 13 families, 42 kids and dozens and dozens of events. We love hosting the annual Christmas potluck with everybody over at our house—what a houseful! When Ali takes some time for herself, she loves to read on many topics, write poetry and sing. She always has an eye for unique purses and bags!

After working at several law firms, David has worked as an attorney in the legal department for a national retailer for the last 5 years. He is passionate about real estate and about negotiating. More than that, he is passionate about being a husband and a dad. David really enjoys watching soccer—even though Caleb likes football better. When David takes some time for himself, he likes home improvement projects, home-roasting coffee and non-fiction reading.

Caleb and Jaden are both excited about a new brother or sister. Jaden is a spunky little girl with a wonderful sense of humor. She loves to dress up in princess clothes, play "Mommy" to her baby dolls, "cook" dinner for us in her kitchen, create unique works of art and sing silly songs! She is such a girly-girl! We think she wants a baby sister so that she can have someone with whom to play dress-up. Caleb is looking forward to teaching his new brother or sister how: to tie shoes, to brush teeth and to ride a bike with only 2 wheels! "Don't worry," he says, "it's easy." Caleb is an amazingly kind and empathetic young man who is always ready with a smile and a hug. He plays soccer and flag football, loves building with his LEGOS and Transformers, and enjoys playing with the neighborhood boys riding bikes and exploring the creek!

Our extended family is excited, too. In our extended family, we have here in Ohio 11 cousins and several aunts, uncles and grandparents. We are very close with our families. We have already started talking as an extended family about our hopes for a new baby to join our family. And, our families are all getting involved in helping us get ready. We often talk about how much love our extended family has to offer and we look forward to offering that love to your child and to you, in the ways you are comfortable. We are excited about an open adoption, but respect that the degree of openness will be your decision. We will send pictures and letters often so that you can find peace in knowing that your child is being loved, cared for and adored! We are also open to setting up a private family blog for you on the internet.

Caleb and Jaden are the loves of our lives and yet we have so much more love to share with a new child. We are open to sending photos and updates periodically and maintaining contact so that when the time comes, those deep and important connections can be understood by your child. We will always want them to be able to learn about their birth family. It is important that they always be able to connect with their past as they grow into adulthood. We would also be open to listening to your needs and to creating a relationship that would be comfortable for all of us and most importantly, in the best interest of this new beautiful child coming into the world.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider us as potential parents for your child. We know that you are in the middle of many deep decisions for your life and the life of this new baby. We believe that God will guide you in all these decisions—even if that means a family other than us.

Blessings to you,

David, Ali, Caleb and Jaden

