



We would gratefully accept the gift of raising your child, if you decide that it is what is best for you both. We will love and support this child infinitely. Our extended families are eager to open their arms and hearts to him or her as well.

Doug

Alanna

Job Description:

Philosophy Professor

Physical Therapist. Plans to be Stay-at-Home Mom

Education:

B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

B.S., Biology, M.S.P.T.

Favorites:

Hobby

Coin Collecting

Hobby

Photography

Family Activity

Camping

Family Activity

Playing Cards

Thing to Cook

Free Form Mixed Skillet (e.g. potatoes, beans, water chestnuts, meats, vegetables, spices, sauce)

Thing to Cook

Chicken Pesto Pasta with Mushrooms

Classic Movie

Back to the Future

Classic Movie

The Wizard of Oz

Shopping Store

Trader Joe's

Shopping Store

LL Bean

Children:

None

Qualities We Love, Admire and Respect in Each Other

In Alanna, I admire most of all her love and kindness. She is loving and kind to me and to others. Even when I do not show her I appreciate her, she is there for me. She tells me that she loves me quite often, but I know this is true from her actions as well. Because she is smart and challenging, she motivates those around her to grow. She has an engaging personality and connects well with others, especially children. All these qualities (and plenty more) make her a wonderful person and will make her a fantastic mother.

There are so many wonderful qualities that I love and admire in Doug. He has such a kind and gentle spirit, so loving and generous. I admire his work ethic and integrity. Doug will always stand up for what he believes is right. He strives to be the best husband, son, brother, and friend he can be. I know that will continue in his role as father.

What It Means To Be Parents and Our Strengths

To be a parent is to be a loving, nurturing caregiver. On a basic level, it is to provide healthy food, secure shelter, and unwavering love and support. Holistically, it means fostering a child's physical, emotional, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual development. In order to be a good parent, one must take on many different roles. Sometimes you have to be a disciplinarian, other times a therapist. Still other times, you may be a healer or an activities director or a spiritual advisor. We are ready to work together as a team to be all that and more for this child. We're sure to discover even more about what it means to be a parent as we experience it, and we're very excited to do that!

Our strengths begin with being two loving people who have dreamed of and are committed to being good parents. We are both flexible and thereby will be able to take on all those different roles. Another strength is our ability to be patient, which is evidenced in the kind of work we do everyday (teaching and therapy). Patience is important in allowing a child to be playful, as well as in allowing a child room to grow into an independent person. We also have a great deal of respect for ourselves and for others. That will be a strength in terms of showing respect to the child, earning the child's respect, and teaching the child how to be respectful towards others.

Our House & Neighborhood



We live in a great community in Northeast Ohio. In fact, we recently built our house and chose our neighborhood with a family in mind. Our house is on a cul-de-sac with a wooded area in the back with beautiful, tall trees. We enjoy the view as the seasons change and watching the deer pass by. The neighborhood is bustling with young families, so there will be plenty of kids around for your child to play with. The nearby elementary school has lots of fields for pick-up games of all sorts. Of the twenty parks in town, our favorite- just up the street- has an outdoor pool (with two large waterslides and a waterplay area for younger kids), a picnic area with an awesome view of the lake, and playground equipment.



Our Home

House & Neighborhood, (continued)



View From Our Backyard

Our community is very supportive of families. The quaint downtown area is host to lots of family-friendly activities throughout the year. The shops open their doors for a special event for trick-or-treaters at Halloween. Many visitors come to see the unique lighted Christmas decorations displayed each year. Another favorite is the annual summer parade celebrating the city and its history, including a huge train display and rides on the trolley.

In addition to the many activities our town has to offer, the metropolitan area offers many benefits as well. It is culturally and ethnically diverse, with various music and arts events throughout the year. There are several museums and sporting arenas only twenty minutes away. A beautiful large sandy beach with a bike path is only ten minutes away. Winter sports like skiing, snowshoeing, and tubing are also available nearby.

Our Extended Families

We are fortunate to have a large and loving extended family. Though some geographical distance separates us, we are very close to our parents and siblings. Alanna grew up in a large family in New England, the third of six children (one brother and four sisters!). Doug grew up in a small town in the Midwest, alongside his younger sister. Although we were raised with different backgrounds and family dynamics, we both learned the value of a committed relationship and a stable home.

Our entire family is excited about our fulfilling our dream of having a child through adoption. Our parents are thrilled with the prospect of another grandchild. They have much experience and we're sure they'll share many insights with us about parenthood. We are also blessed with six loving, supportive siblings who cannot wait to have another niece or nephew to shower with affection. All together, we have five nieces and three nephews, ranging in age from 13 to a newborn. They bring so much life and joy to the whole family; we enjoy every minute with them. They, too, are so excited to have a new cousin to love and play with!

Family time is very special to us. We enjoy visiting Alanna's family in Rhode Island for Christmas and on a couple of other occasions throughout the year. When the whole group is together, we usually have a big bowling outing. Other highlights include walks along the ocean shore, fresh seafood, and games with the kids. But the best is when we all sit down together for mom's Sunday dinner (with her famous chocolate cake for dessert, of course!). We often go up to the family cottage in Maine. The days are spent either shopping at the outlets in town or swimming, skating, or ice fishing on the lake. The evenings are for food, games/cards, and laughter.

Several times throughout the year, we go to Illinois to see Doug's side of the family. We all convene at Doug's parents' home—a relaxing place where the food and fun are always plentiful. Doug's dad is a fine cook, both in the kitchen (we love his scallop pasta) and on the grill (ribs are his specialty!). We love to take the kids to the park, go on bike rides, and play games. During the downtime, we watch sports and movies and play cards. Sometimes the extended family gets together for reunions or special events. In the summer of 2009, everyone (grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins) vacationed on a lake in northern Wisconsin to celebrate Doug's grandmother's 84th birthday. It was a special trip because Grandma and Grandpa lived there when Doug was a kid, so we revisited the swimming, fishing, boating, food, and campfires of days past.



Alanna's Extended Family



Doug's Extended Family



Hang-Gliding in New Zealand

Our Leisure Time

Travelling is a passion we share. We love to visit interesting places, meet new people, and learn about different cultures. We went to Ireland and Scotland on our honeymoon. Our adventurous side came out when we went to Australia and New Zealand, where we got a chance to go canyoning, bungee jumping, and hang-gliding! We've created many memories on our trips and look forward to many more as a family.

We share an appreciation for arts and music as well. We make it a point to take advantage of the great theaters, concerts, museums, and artistic/cultural events offered in our region. We love to just have fun, too! Every year, we get a season pass to Cedar Point, the regional amusement park, where we especially love the seventeen rollercoasters!



Exploring Water Caves in Nova Scotia

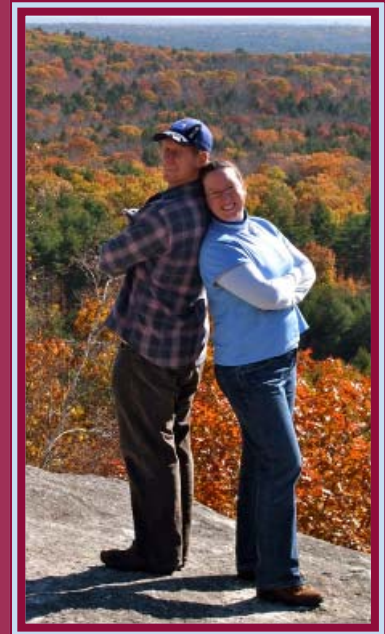


Celebrating a Friend's Wedding in Chicago

Doug & Alanna



New Year's Eve



Hiking in Maine



A Day with Our Niece and Nephew at the Natural History Museum



Lunch at Our Favorite Lobster House

Dear Birthparent(s),

We want you to know that we admire your courage in considering an adoption plan. It shows that you care about what is best for your child and we respect you for that immensely. We are privileged that you are taking the time to learn about us and excited that you might choose us to raise your child. For your consideration, here's an explanation of our lives, our values, and our hopes for the future.

At a concert several years ago, we found each other and have been together ever since. It was our shared love for music that led us to one another. But since then, we've found joy in sharing many things together; we truly are best friends. We enjoy just spending time with one another, even daily activities like exercising and cooking dinner. We run, swim, and hike together- and play tennis, too, when the weather is nice. We like to be active, be outside, and have fun. Each summer, we get a season pass to Cedar Point- we love the coasters the most! Someday perhaps we could share in some of these activities with your child.

We love to learn and try new things. It is that adventurous and curious part in us both that keeps us spirited in life. We are fascinated by different lands, people, and cultures, and have taken some fabulous vacations together. We're shutterbugs on our travels. Each year on our anniversary, we snap a photo holding up fingers corresponding to the number of years we've been married (on our third, we were floating through the sky in a hot air balloon!). We look forward to more adventures as a family.

Though our time together as a couple has certainly been wonderful, we have always had a strong yearning to be parents. Raising a child together and growing our family is our ultimate goal. We would cherish every moment and take great care to provide a stable, loving, nurturing home for your child, should you choose us. Between the two of us, we will stay home with the child at least until preschool.

Our goal is for your child to develop into a happy, independent, good person. We plan to facilitate that by emphasizing education and religion, and by providing a diverse breadth of experiences through which the child can learn what his or her unique interests and talents are. Our values can be summed up as family, faith, and education. We will continue to promote these ideals in the upbringing of your child.

We look forward to celebrating major milestones, as well as delighting in the daily joys of parenthood, like rocking the baby to sleep, reading bedtime stories, and helping with homework. But we are also ready for the sacrifices and challenges that come with parenting. We are committed to devoting our time and energy to this child, including the not so glamorous parts of parenthood, like late night feedings and diaper changes, tantrums, lack of sleep, and enforcing discipline. For many years, we have been preparing ourselves financially and emotionally for the lifelong responsibility of parenthood. We are so excited to begin the journey!

Without the blessing of adoption, none of this will be possible. We would gratefully accept the gift of raising your child, if you decide that it is what is best for you both. We will love and support this child infinitely. Our extended families are eager to open their arms and hearts to him or her as well. We would love to meet with you before the birth and continue as much post-placement contact as you may want. Of course, we will gladly send pictures and letters to update you on the child's growth and progress.

Please know that if you choose us to parent your child, we will always honor you in our hearts, in our prayers, and in our words. We promise to be open and honest with your child about his or her adoption and will create a "life book" to help explain your noble decision. Your child will always know your courage and compassion.

May God bless you and give you peace during this difficult time,

Doug and Alanna

