



We want to give our children a positive outlook toward life. We will encourage our children to pursue their interests and to follow their dreams. We believe that families created through adoption are special and should be honored. Our children will always know their adoption stories and the wonderful way we became a family. We wish you the best. Thank you for considering us.

Greg

Karri

Job Description:

Production Manager for a Building Materials Manufacturing Company

Stay-at-Home Mom, Previously an Elementary School Teacher

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering

Bachelor's Degree in Special & Elementary Education

Favorites:

Childhood Toy
Legos

Childhood Toy
Cabbage Patch Kid

Family Activity
Camping

Family Activity
Picnics

Memory with Spouse
Vacation in Hawaii

Memory with Spouse
Relaxing on Boat

Performer
Dave Chappelle

Performer
Rhianna

Sport to Play
Golf

Sport to Play
Kickball

Children:

Jacob (2)

How Adoption Has Affected Us Personally

Adopting Jacob has been an amazing experience in our lives. We immediately loved him and felt bonded to him right away. We continue to love him more and more each day. Jacob was 14 months old when we adopted him from Russia. He turned 2 years old in July. The adoption was difficult because we had to spend a month in Russia to complete it. However he has been worth all the effort and time it took. Jacob is absolutely wonderful and we enjoy every moment with him. Jacob is very gentle with babies and has a sweet demeanor. He makes us laugh several times throughout the day. We are amazed how he thinks and of course we think he's extremely smart. We know that another baby will keep him busy and complete our family.

Also, Karri has 5 adopted cousins and Greg has 1 adopted cousin. We have had the opportunity to see how strong and loving families can be that are created through adoption. Both of our families are extremely excited about welcoming a new baby through adoption. Our families have given us countless books about adoption to read to Jacob. We will be very open with our children about how they came into our lives. We want our children to feel proud of adoption and to know that it is a unique and special way to become a family.

Karri's Passion

Quite early on, I found that I loved teaching children. I have taught grades 1st through 5th. I love discovering how kids learn and what motivates them. Bonding with a child and letting them know that I care for them has always been an amazing feeling. I always strive to make a difference in children's lives. Over the years, I have kept in contact with many of my former students. I've stopped teaching to be a full time mom to Jacob. When my children are in school, I hope to return to the classroom. However, being a mom will always be my first priority. Recently, I have volunteered at church for several youth activities. I have taught a first communion class for 4th graders, vacation bible school and Sunday school.

Our House and Neighborhood



We live in a family oriented neighborhood in Northeast Ohio. We live in an association that has a pool and park. Both are located a block from our house. Jacob already knows the way to the park since we stop by there daily. Our house is right by a cul-de-sac so we always have kids playing kick ball and riding bikes.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Sledding in Our Front Yard

The best thing about our neighborhood is the support it gives to each family. There were neighborhood kids and adults waiting in our driveway to welcome us home the day Jacob arrived.



Greg's Extended Family

Both Karri and Greg's families are very supportive with their adopted son, Jacob, and are equally excited with the prospects of a second child. Grandparents on both sides love visiting and spending time with him.

Greg's Family: Greg's parents live in Peoria, Illinois. They come out to visit frequently so we see them 5-6 times a year. Greg's sister, Kim, lives in Utah with her husband Ben and 6 month old son named Orlando. When Greg's family visits we stay busy with all sorts of activities. We usually are hiking, watching a baseball game, swimming, camping or playing board games. Greg's family also meets up yearly to ski during the winter. Jacob hasn't skied yet, but it probably won't be long before he joins the group. Greg's family is unique because it is very large and close. He has 82 first cousins. We have been to several family functions with his family. We recently took Jacob to his first family reunion in Iowa. He enjoyed playing with several kids his age.



Karri's Extended Family

Karri's Family: My family is an important part of my life. They are always there for me when I need them. My family lives in Iowa, but I usually see them 4-5 times a year. My parents have been married for 38 years. They are retired teachers, so they take extended visits to our house. I have an older sister named Carly. She and her husband, Nick, have two sons. Dominic and Gabe are 5 and 7 years old. My nephews love pushing Jacob in his stroller and holding his hand when we are visiting the zoo. Sometimes we meet up at a water park during the winter. Recently, we played baseball with the kids and tossed water balloons.



Jacob's First Halloween

Fun Games, Events and Hobbies We Look Forward to Sharing with Your Child

We look forward to sharing some of the same experiences with our children that we experienced. Traveling during summer vacations, hiking and camping in the woods, opening gifts, participating in little league games or any other activities that our children may be interested in. Greg participates in a yearly 2-day bike ride with his dad in Indiana. We're hoping that our children will participate in family bike rides or some other type of family activity. During the winter we plan on skiing and sledding with our families. We also look forward to watching them and helping them as they learn to read, write, drive and even when they begin to date!



Niagara Falls

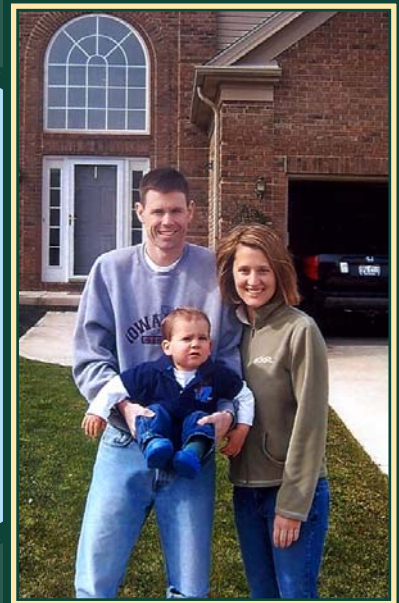


Hiking in Utah



Enjoying the Park
and Fountains

Greg
&
Karri



Saying Goodbye
to Relatives



Enjoying the Holidays



Vacation in Florida

Dear Birthparent(s),

We have been married for 8 years. Our love for each other continues to grow stronger each year. We are extremely committed to each other. We are different in many ways, but we both share similar values.

Greg about Karri:

Karri is the most loving and caring person I know. She is a very patient person and is a good listener as well. Karri's interests are traveling, reading, walking, gardening and cooking. Karri understands the importance of consistency and a stable family life. Karri, a school teacher by profession, currently stays home with our son Jacob. Karri and Jacob enjoy singing songs together and playing with play dough. During the week they stay busy with story hour, music groups and play groups.

Karri about Greg:

Greg is a wonderful husband because he always keeps me laughing. When I start to feel worried or upset he is always there to cheer me up. He also listens to me when I need to talk. Greg is an extremely supportive and loving husband. He meets Jacob and me once a week for lunch. We love meeting up at the beach and having a quick picnic. Greg enjoys taking Jacob to the zoo. He is always pulling Jacob out of his stroller to show him all the animals. Greg definitely loves playing around with Jacob by running through the house and dancing to music. He has worked 10 years for the same company and is home around five each night. Therefore, we are able to spend our evenings together.

The Future:

We were both raised in Christian homes and we use faith and prayer to help lead us through life decisions. We actively attend church and plan to raise our children as Christians. Religion has always been important to us and it has helped our family life to stay balanced.

We have always spent more money on experiences rather than on things. These experiences have helped to enrich our lives. We have traveled throughout the United States and a little over seas. We want to make sure our children have a chance to experience different cultures and traditions, so we look forward to many family trips with them.

We value the education we received and want to share the richness of a quality education with our children. It's important to us that our children have a chance to learn. Regularly, we visit the zoo, children's museums, and the library so that Jacob is exposed to an enriching environment.

We want to give our children a positive outlook toward life. We will encourage our children to pursue their interests and to follow their dreams. We hope to show them that even when things don't go as planned, the results can be just as good and sometimes can turn out better than expected.

We feel extremely thankful to Jacob's birth mom for the choices she made. At this time, she has decided not to correspond with us and we respect her wishes. We love her because of the incredible gift she gave to us. When Jacob is older, we will take him on a trip back to Russia.

We believe that families created through adoption are special and should be honored. We look forward to sharing letters and pictures with you as your child grows and develops. We are open to regular communication and we will understand your wishes as well. Our children will always know their adoption stories and the wonderful way we became a family.

We wish you the best.

Greg and Karri

