



We assure you that we will provide your baby with a home filled with love, laughter and support. If you choose us as the parents, we will be forever grateful for this wonderful gift you have given us.

Jeff

Job Description:
Financial Analyst
MBA, Business

Hobby
Playing Music

Cartoon
Bugs Bunny

Food
Seafood

Dessert
Ice Cream

T.V. Show
Modern Family

Holiday
Christmas

Lara

Job Description:
Tutor/Nanny

Education:
BA, Education

Favorites:
Hobby
Making Greeting Cards/
Rubber Stamping

Cartoon
Veggie Tales

Food
Trader Joe's

Dessert
Chocolate Cake

T.V. Show
Parenthood

Holiday
Christmas

Children:
None

What Jeff Loves About Lara

We met in a Bible study as part of Vineyard Christian Church. The first things that drew me to Lara during fellowship were her pretty smile and her compassionate heart for children. As a teacher and tutor for many years, Lara has encouraged kids to learn and develop. I have seen this first hand when I've helped her babysit, care for foster kids and teach Sunday school. In every case, she brings tenderness, fun and happiness to each child.

Fortunately, Lara also shares that joy with me, and often has ideas for fun things to do. Sometimes we'll go to dinner or a concert; other times we'll relax at home amusing ourselves with games or playing with our cat, Josie. And Lara's creativity really shines when she's decorating our house or making homemade greeting cards for friends. Whatever Lara is doing, she makes it fun. That's why simply being with Lara is one of my favorite activities.

What Lara Loves About Jeff

Jeff is my best friend, the love of my life. Everyone who knows him just loves him. He easily makes friends wherever he goes. He may sound like a Boy Scout, but he truly is honest, kindhearted and trustworthy. But one of my favorite qualities of him is that he is very funny! He makes me laugh every day. He can be very silly!

Jeff enjoys music and traveling and experiencing new things with me. When many men would get wrapped up in their sports or guy friends, he would rather be with me and vice-versa. Although we do have our own separate interests, we love spending time together.

We are looking forward to sharing our life with a child, and seeing that child experience new things and new places. I know Jeff will be a wonderful father and will do anything for the child and me. I love watching him play with our nieces and nephew as well as children I babysit and children we teach in Sunday school. Children are just drawn to him.

Our House and Neighborhood



We are fortunate to live in a large suburban neighborhood near one of Ohio's largest cities. The neighborhood is family-oriented, with many young couples with children.

Our house includes an inviting nursery that is all ready to welcome a baby. The nursery has a comfortable rocking chair, numerous stuffed animals and close to 70 children's books. There's also a craft room that could be used for coloring, making greeting cards or wrapping gifts. The family room is great for playing with toys or sharing popcorn on movie night, and Jeff can entertain the family playing the piano in the living room. Outside, kids can enjoy a nice wooden deck overlooking the backyard where we can set up the swing set.



Our Home



Our Cat Josie at Christmas

Our House and Neighborhood, continued

The local elementary school is three blocks from our house, and we're close to several playgrounds and parks for picnicking or bike riding. Our town has a great library that we visit often, and the school district is highly rated and one of the largest in the state. It continues to grow as more families move in to experience all that our community has to offer.

We are blessed to have many great programs and activities available through our church. There are many exciting opportunities to learn to love God throughout childhood, both at the weekend services and in after school programs. Additionally, our church supports a local community center which offers homework assistance, free medical and legal services and a variety of sports and recreational activities.

There are also lots of exciting things within a 20 minute drive to the city. Kids can have fun exploring the science center, and we frequently go to see the animals at the zoo and aquarium, or attend events at the museums or theaters. It's also easy to have fun splashing around at the new water park, or heading out to a nearby farm to ride horses.

We love where we live because we can combine the fun of the city with the leisure of the suburbs and the quiet beauty of the countryside.



Lara's Family at Reunion

Our Extended Families

We met in 1997 and quickly became best friends. Soon after that we introduced each other to our families. Lara's parents were married for 51 years until her father passed away recently. Lara's mother lives nearby where the family was raised. Her older brother and his wife have a daughter and son; her younger brother is unmarried. The whole family lives within a half hour of each other and frequently gets together to celebrate birthdays and holidays.

Jeff's family lives a few short hours away in southern Michigan. His parents live right around the corner from his brother and sister-in-law and their two daughters. When we all get together, there's usually sports or music involved, as we enjoy attending concerts or watching the girls play soccer, hockey, gymnastics or Soap Box Derby.

Our whole family is excited about the opportunity to participate in adoption. The kids are looking forward to welcoming and playing with new cousins! The adults are proud that we're going to share our compassion and love with families in need.



Christmas with Jeff's Family

Vacations



Summer Vacation

One of the fun activities we'd like to share with a child is traveling to different towns and states to experience a variety of exciting things. We enjoy everything from touring the historical sites of Washington D.C. and the amazing nature of Yellowstone National Park, to riding roller coasters at Cedar Point or swimming in the ocean off the coast of Florida. In the past few years we've gotten to see the majesty of Niagara Falls, feed giraffes in Busch Gardens and swim with dolphins.

Sometimes we can turn a small vacation into a big adventure. One summer, Lara surprised Jeff with a week-long adventure around Ohio—each time we visited one destination like a park, restaurant or unique festival in a small town, there was another clue directing us to the next place! That was lots of fun and allowed us to simply enjoy each other's company away from home. And variety? On one vacation we enjoyed a Victorian Bed & Breakfast and an elegant dinner one night; the next day we were in a tent camping on the beach. It would be awesome to watch a child's eyes light up at these adventures!



Vacation in San Antonio



Being Serenaded by Mariachi Band

Jeff & Lara



Friend's Wedding



Christmas 2009



Jeff with Nieces



Lara with Foster Child

Dear Birthparent(s),

Thank you so much for choosing to learn about us! Even though we haven't met in person, you should know that we have been praying for you and your child for quite some time. As you think about the life you want your child to have, know that you both are already dearly loved. Should you choose to consider us in your child's family plans, understand that we would accept it as a true honor!

We have always had a heart for children. Lara has been babysitting since her teens and has always provided the guidance, compassion and love that kids need. She has enjoyed teaching in public and private schools; she's been an in-home tutor and a long-term nanny; she's led and assisted with Sunday school. And she's been a true friend to both children and adults, even taking care of the schedules of 7 kids while their mother was struggling with cancer.

Jeff also is very supportive, and children seem to have a natural attraction to him. When we visit our families, teach Sunday school, or help with foster kids, they immediately want to be around him, play ball with him, climb on him or read with him. Sometimes we'll try to have a sing-a-long with Jeff playing the piano, though the singing usually turns into laughter! Whatever the case, there's always lots of love.

Lara's Personal Adoption Experience:

I feel I have a very unique perspective on adoption as I and my two brothers were all adopted as infants. We were always raised knowing we were adopted-it was never a secret. My earliest memory is going with my parents to the adoption agency to bring home my little brother. One of my favorite stories my mother has shared was when the judge asked my mother why she wanted to adopt me. She responded, "because she's my daughter." I know that God will bless Jeff and me with a child to love and take care of as if they were our very own.

We think it's this great combination of kindheartedness, fun, education and strength that can help you have faith in us as parents for your child. As we already work to support and nurture each other, you can know that we'll do the same for a child. He or she will know how important you are as the birthparent, and what a precious treasure he or she is. The child will be encouraged to discover their unique talents, to know the difference between right and wrong and look for ways to help others.

We understand that setting up an adoption plan is a difficult decision. If you select us to be the family for your child, you'll be making a good decision.

Jeff and Lara

