



We want you to know that if we become the parents you choose for your child, you can rest assured that child will know how much you love and care for them. We greatly respect your selflessness and generous heart.

Joe

Jen

Job Description:

Sales Engineer for a company that manufactures bakery equipment

Stay-at-home mom & Piano Teacher (I formerly taught Kindergarten and first grade for 9 years before we adopted our first child.)

Education:

Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education

Favorites:

Hobby
Swimming

Hobby
Playing Piano

Childhood Memory
Camping out at the Lake

Childhood Memory
Dinners at Grandma's

Quality About Spouse
Her Caring Ways

Quality About Spouse
His Honesty

Thing to Cook
Spaghetti

Thing to Cook
Cookies

Children:

Lindi (age 5) Joshua (age 3)

Qualities We Admire in Each Other

By Jen: There are so many things I love about Joe. For starters, he is sensitive and kind, a real handyman around the house, and very stable. I can always count on him to give me support when I need it. I love what a good provider he is and how well he has planned for our future. He's a good listener and spoils me rotten. He is always doing little things for me like opening my car door, finding me first thing when he gets home to give me a kiss, or doing the dishes. He's the kind of man I always wanted but didn't think I would ever find.

By Joe: It's really hard not to love Jen. Jen is the most beautiful young lady, inside and out that I have ever met in my life. She has to be one of the most giving and caring people around. Jen spends most of her free time helping people. I love how concerned she is for others and how she puts their needs before her own. I loved how good she was with her kids at school, and how well she cares for Lindi and Joshua now. The two of us get along so well; I enjoy how goofy she can be and how goofy I can be with her. I love how affectionate she is with me---how we can hang out and do things together. I have married friends at work that go out with buddies to basketball games or skiing where I would rather do those things with Jen.

Hobbies, Interests & Life Experiences (by Joe)

Besides a lot of volunteer work, Jen and I also share many other hobbies and interests. Both of us like to spend time just hanging out with our families. When it's warm, we enjoy walks together or rollerblading. There are several parks nearby that we frequent regularly. She loves to cook, draw and play piano for fun. I like to read books, play and watch basketball games (the Dayton Flyers are my favorite), and fix things around the house. Traveling is something we definitely enjoy. One of my favorite experiences with Jen was a trip we took to Italy on our one-year anniversary. We visited Venice, Florence and Rome. Jen used a few of the pictures we bought or took on the trip to decorate our home so we are always reminded of the fun times we had there.

Our Children

One of the biggest blessings of our marriage has been the building of our family through adoption. In 2005, we were blessed to adopt our daughter Lindi, and later in 2006, we adopted our son Joshua. We are very fortunate to have been able to meet and start relationships with both of their birthparents before the adoptions, as well as be at the hospital when both children came into the world. Lindi is five now and gearing up for Kindergarten. She will be attending a private Catholic school close to home. She is very bright, active, and TALKATIVE! Joshua is three and doesn't get a word in edgewise with his sister around. We can tell he is going to be the class clown. He is the most outgoing between the two of them and naturally likes to meet new people and make friends. His favorite friend in the world though is his big sister-his first words everyday when he wakes up are, "Where's Lindi?" We have been talking about the new baby with them often and they are getting excited for a new brother or sister.



Trick or Treat

Our Extended Family

One of Jen's fondest memories of Joe's extended family was the summer he brought her home to meet everyone at an outdoor family get together. Everyone was sitting in lawn chairs, but instead of the chairs arranged in a circle so that everyone could talk, they were arranged in a line with everyone facing the yard. Apparently the younger nieces and nephews were putting on a show, selling pretend tickets and inviting everyone to participate. Even grandpa got up and danced in front of everyone when prodded. Jen remembers thinking how relieved she was that Joe's family was so fun and silly. His family fit her like a glove.

Joe's family isn't the only side that likes to put on shows. On a more serious note, probably the biggest family tradition we have is the Christmas Eve program that Jen's side of the family participates in every year (which has been passed down for over fifty years now!) All of the extended family gathers together at Grandma's house. We have a big turkey dinner with all the trimmings, and then it's time for the Christmas Eve service at home. We pass out homemade programs, sing Christmas carols around the piano, retell the Christmas story reading the Bible, and the kids recite poems, sing songs, or play a musical instrument. (Our daughter Lindi got to play piano for the first time this year and was very excited about it.) Then after the program, everyone opens up their presents from grandma and grandpa. It's total chaos once the gift exchange begins as wrapping paper goes flying about and kids start playing with their toys and running around showing them off.

We love getting to spend time with our families as much as possible. Many siblings live close by and we get together for dinner, basketball games, or just to hang out throughout the year. We vacation every other year at Outer Banks with Joe's mother and siblings, and spend every Christmas with both sides of the family. We like to play sports together such as sledding, swimming, basketball, but we also can be found just sitting around talking all hours of the night or playing cards. Jen's mom and dad live just minutes away during the warm weather months, and they visit grandma and grandpa in Florida during the winter.

Both of our families are very supportive of adoption. Our family is unique in that adoption has become quite common on both sides of our family. Two of Joe's sisters have adopted children, Jen's brother and his wife are in the adoption process, and we have also been blessed with the adoptions of our beautiful daughter Lindi and our adorable son Joshua. We also have a great support group of friends who have adopted children, and we are very close with them. Believe it or not, while we were dating, we talked about how much we would like to adopt a child someday. Little did we know then how big a role adoption would play in the building of our future family as we faced infertility as a married couple. It's funny looking back and remembering that conversation. We believe God put it on our hearts early in our lives because He was preparing a special family for us. Adoption is something we were excited about then, and we are still excited about it now.



Joe's Extended Family at Their Summer Picnic/Reunion



Jen's Extended Family at Christmas 2009



Our Home

OHIO

Our House & Neighborhood

Our house is a two-story, four bedroom home with 2 ½ baths. We have a fireplace in the downstairs family room, a finished basement, and a patio and screened-in porch. Our neighborhood is racially diverse, and our children have many opportunities to meet other children. We attend the local Catholic Church, pool, library, gym classes, and play groups with friends. We also live just thirty minutes away from the city-scene, so we are members of the downtown children's science museum, and we frequently take part in activities downtown such as jazz in the parks, or visiting the zoo.

We picked the home we live in because we loved the neighborhood and thought it would be a great place to raise a family. We frequently attend the family-oriented festivals and parades in the quaint old town that is only five minutes away from our house. The Fourth of July Festival is a

favorite. We live right next to an elementary school, so our children love to play on the playground with other neighborhood children. They also have access to a huge field that is adjacent to our backyard. We are often entertained by watching the school children play baseball or soccer in that field as we enjoy our dinner on warm summer nights. Our children also enjoy playing in the wooden fort on our ½ acre lot, or riding their bikes on the sidewalk in front.



Just Married!



Summer Vacation on Lake Michigan

Joe & Jen



1st Year Anniversary
Trip to Sienna, Italy



Christmas at Joe's Sister's House



Louie and the Kids



Joe & Jen at King's Island

Dear Birthparent(s),

Our names are Joe and Jen. We have been talking about adoption ever since we were engaged. We've always known that embracing a child who needed a home was something we wanted to do. Adoption has opened up a world to us that we are forever grateful for-parenthood.

When we were first married, we thought we would become parents right away. After the first year went by with no pregnancies, we decided to go the medical route and find out if anything was wrong. After surgery, tests, and all kinds of "treatments", another year went by with no results. The doctors could find nothing wrong. Going through infertility treatment was difficult for both of us, but it stopped being an issue once we decided to adopt. This cross became our biggest blessing once we had a baby in our arms. We wouldn't want it any other way now.

Our children mean the world to us. We love them so much and realize what a true gift they are to us, every time we look into their eyes. We have heard people say, "You're children are so lucky to have you." We know they are well-meaning when they say this, but they have it backwards. We are so lucky to have our children.

We enjoy so many fun times together as a family. We love going to the zoo, the apple farm, vacationing on the beach, or just hanging out at the park together. Recently, we decided to add another addition to our family, our dog Louie Bear. Now the kids have another partner in crime at home, because between the three of them, there is always some kind of mischief taking place. The three of them love to tease each other. In fact, Louie Bear's favorite pastime this winter was stealing the kids' mittens when we played in the snow outside making snow angels. Probably mom and dad thought that was funnier than the kids did.

We want you to know that if we become the parents you choose for your child, you can rest assured that child will know how much you love and care for them. Our children love looking through the photo albums we have made for each one of them concerning their adoption stories and we talk about their birthparents often. We send pictures and letters throughout the year to their birthparents, and we would do the same for you. We have a special tradition each time we go to church to ask God's blessing for each of their birthfamilies. It is very near and dear to our hearts that our children love their birthfamilies as much as we do.

We both appreciate how difficult it must be to consider giving your child to someone else in order to provide for his or her future. We greatly respect your selflessness and generous heart. Our prayers and thoughts have been constantly for you and all women facing similar situations. May God bless you as you make this most important decision.

Sincerely,

Joe and Jen

