

We are longing for a new baby to love and cherish and complete our family. Our home would be blessed with this new addition to our family. We will love your child unconditionally. You would give us the greatest gift if you choose us to raise your child.

## Joe

## Michelle

### Job Description:

7th Grade Math Teacher & Works Part-Time at a Local Golf Course in the Summer

2nd Grade Teacher, Stay-at-Home Mom in the Summer

### Education:

Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education, Masters Degree in Educational Administration & an MBA

Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education & Special Education, Masters Degree in Early Intervention of the Handicapped Child

### Favorites:

**Hobby**  
Golf

**Hobby**  
Photography

**Childhood Memory**  
Christmas Morning

**Childhood Memory**  
Grandma's Farm

**Cartoon**  
Smurfs

**Cartoon**  
Flintstones

**TV Show**  
Sports Center

**TV Show**  
Brothers & Sisters

**Olympic Event**  
Basketball

**Olympic Event**  
Gymnastics

### Children:

Addie, Biological Marin, Adopted

## What It Means to Be Parents and Our Strengths

Our goal as parents is to raise happy children. We believe the way to do that is with unconditional love, structure and a firm but fair discipline style. When we got married, we joked that Michelle would raise the kids through elementary school and Joe would raise them through high school. While we both take the team approach we do value each other strengths. Michelle works with younger children daily and Joe the older children. We know what makes our age group tick. We use what we have learned from other children when we parent. Use a lot of humor and patience while parenting. We realize that every child will make mistakes. It is teaching the child through the mistakes that makes him or her grow. We feel that parenting is our most important job. We take it very seriously and enjoy watching our children grow. Our girls teach us as much as we teach them.

## Our Family Traditions

Our family has a lot of traditions. Michelle's extended family's Christmas party is one of the ones that stand out the most. There are over 100 of our relatives and their kids that enjoy a big meal together. After dinner, the kids patiently wait for Santa to arrive. Santa brings each child a gift and the kids open them. The kids take turns sharing and playing with their gifts. It is a wonderful time. A much smaller scale is our Christmas Eve tradition. We have Christmas Eve at our house. Joe and Michelle's family both come over. We all eat dinner together and then we all go to church together. It is a great time for both families to be together. On the Fourth of July, we get together with friends and family. After a picnic, one of our closest friends lights fireworks off and we all watch. In the fall, Michelle's uncle has a big pig roast at his farm. We all have a pork dinner. He takes the kids on a hayride. After the hayride we roast marshmallows on the big bonfire. Birthdays have also become a tradition in our home. Our girls and Michelle bake a birthday cake together. Our daughters enjoy frosting it and putting in the candles. We have our parents and friends over to sing happy birthday and open gifts. We look forward to the special times together.

## Our House and Neighborhood



We moved into our new home six years ago. We were one of the first couples in the development so we got to know people as they moved in. Our neighborhood is full of growing families. Our neighborhood always has children playing outside and people going for walks...even in the cold Ohio weather. When you are out for a walk, people are very friendly and always stop to chat. Joe is currently president of our homeowners association so he knows everyone!



## Home Sweet Home

Our home has a walk out basement (which is converted into a cozy family room with lots of toys). While digging the walk out they created a small hill. The hill is perfect for sledding in the winter. In the summer, we use the swing set and have a fire pit outside which we roast hotdogs and marshmallows on. Last year we even put a tent up for a back yard sleep over. The edge of our property line meets up to a large wooded area. We enjoy hikes in the woods. Our girls love to throw rocks into the river which is down in the woods.

## Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Cooking Hotdogs in Our Backyard

The inside of our home is kid friendly too! We have four bedrooms and three bathrooms. We have a computer room, kitchen and great room. Joe recently finished our basement with the help of his dad and father-in-law. It has a family room, pool table and large toy closet. Our daughters love to ride their tricycle and scooters in the basement.

We are very lucky to have close family friends in the same town as us. One of our friends has an in-ground pool. We spend a lot of summer weekends there with Michelle's family. We cook burgers and enjoy an afternoon at the pool!

Our neighborhood schools are excellent. We live "in the heart of it all."

## Our Extended Families

**Joe** is the middle child in his family. Joe's older sister is a lawyer in Pennsylvania. Joe's younger sister lives in Kentucky with her husband and three daughters. Joe is very close to his sister and they come to visit often. We recently took a trip to Kentucky for Libby's first birthday where we watched her take her first messy bite of cake!!

Joe's parents live in the development across the street from us. We see them often. In the summer, we take bike rides to their home. Joe's dad is a retired automobile worker from General Motors. Joe's mom is a retired nurse. Joe's mom was a stay at home mom when he was younger. His family also had a number of foster children when he was younger. Joe's parents are looking forward to the arrival of their fifth grandchild through adoption.

**Michelle** is also one of three children. She is the oldest. Her younger brother Matthew is in the Air Force. He is currently stationed in Korea. Between his assignments he stops home for a visit for a few weeks. Michelle's younger sister is married and lives about two hours from us. Kim comes home very often to spend the weekend with our family. Michelle's dad works for Alltel as a cable splicer.

After being a stay at home mom Michelle's mom went back to work after her kids were raised. She now works as a secretary in the special education department of the same school district that Michelle works at. Michelle is close to her extended family as well. Her grandmother lives close by along with several aunts, uncles and cousins. Michelle's family enjoys eating weekend meals together and vacationing to the beach together! They look forward to adding an extra high chair at the table for the next grandchild!

We are lucky to have such wonderful families!!



A Family Birthday with Joe's Parents



Michelle's Family on Vacation

## Our Daughters



Marin Turns 3

Our daughters are truly the most important things in our lives. The girls bring us such joy to see the world through their eyes! Addie, 7, is our biological daughter. We feel that she is a miracle to us because we were blessed to experience a pregnancy and all the things that went with it. Addie loves being a big sister. Marin, 3, is our second miracle! Marin came into our family through the adoption process. She could not have fit into our family more perfectly! Her adoption changed our lives making us realize that miracles really do happen! Marin is very comfortable with her adoption telling people "I was born in St. Louis." She also loves to read her adoption book that we made for her. Our girls fill our home with joy and laughter! We can't wait to add another baby to that joy!



Taking a Cruise

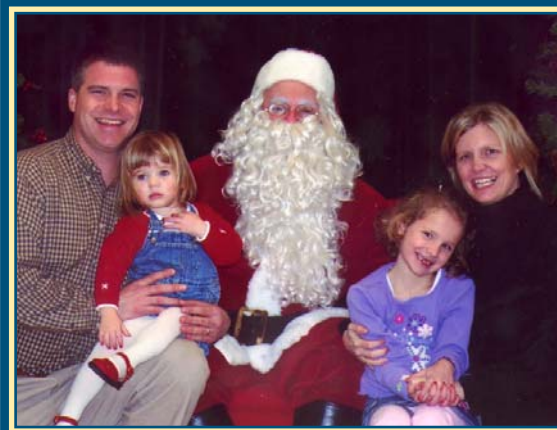


Happy Holidays at Our House

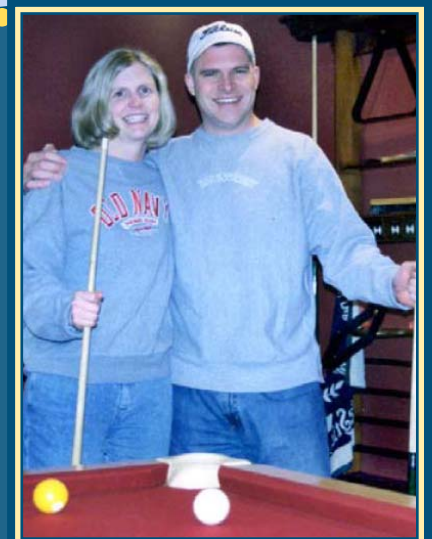
# Joe & Michelle



Memorial Day Parade



HO HO HO!



Pool Anyone?



A Cozy Fire at Home



Sledding in Our Back Yard

## Dear Birthparent(s),

We are thankful you are considering adoption for your child. We are honored that you have chosen to read our letter. We are longing for a new baby to complete our family to love and cherish. Our home would be blessed with this new addition to our family.

We were happily married eleven years ago. After three years of marriage we were thrilled to find out we were going to be parents. Our daughter was born and our life was changed forever! We spend our days going to the park, taking vacations to Disney World, reading books, going to Sunday school and playing with the other kids in our neighborhood. In 2006, we were blessed with our second daughter. She came to us through adoption. Both girls are looking forward to a new sibling. We are also looking forward to becoming parents again and watching the baby grow and develop.

Joe teaches seventh grade math and Michelle teaches second grade. We feel lucky to work with children everyday. We also love the time that teaching gives us to spend with our family. We are home for summers and holidays. We all watch the weather closely in hopes of a snow day so we can spend an extra day together sledding and sipping hot cocoa!

Michelle loves children's books. She has collected them for quite a few years now. We recently added a lot of adoption books to our collection. We have already read them to our daughters. We would read them to the baby at a very early age so adoption would always be a part of him/her. As the baby grew, we would answer his/her questions. We want adoption to be positive part of our family make up. We want the baby to realize that his birthparents and adoptive parents love him/her very much. We want him/her to realize that both parents had two very different things to offer him or her but the thing they share is love. We want the baby to feel unique and special.

As teachers, we see the value of education. We realize that children need a lot of structure and consistency. We would work on educational skills in fun ways a home. We also see the importance of being a well rounded person. We try and instill moral values, and manners. We will try and introduce new things for your child to experience so he/she can find his/her gifts and talents. But most of all we will love your child unconditionally.

Our extended family is also excited about possibility of a new baby in the family. Both our parents are looking forward to becoming grandparents again. Michelle has 29 cousins that still get together every Christmas for dinner and a visit from Santa. We also have a family pig roast in the fall complete with a hay ride on my Uncle's farm.

As adoptive parents, we would be happy to share these experiences with you by letters and pictures if you choose. You would give us the greatest gift if you choose us to raise your child.

Best Wishes,

**Joe and Michelle**

