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## Keith

## Kristen

### Job Description:

Attorney

Attorney

### Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; Juris Doctorate

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism; Juris Doctorate

### Favorites:

#### Childhood Memory

Playing Football with Neighborhood Kids

#### Childhood Memory

Spending Summers at the Municipal Pool

#### Dream Job

Pro-Golfer

#### Dream Job

Dancer

#### Tradition

July 4th Cookout

#### Tradition

Christmas Morning Breakfast

#### Memory with a Child

Lunches with Daughters at Pizza Hut

#### Memory with a Child

Deep Sea Fishing with My Stepdaughters

#### Hobby

Golf

#### Hobby

Cooking

### Children:

Olivia & Phoebe

## What It Means to Be Parents and Our Strengths

To us, parenting is the most significant contribution that an adult can make to society. It is an opportunity for each of us to help teach and mold a child into a warm, intelligent, compassionate, and productive member of our community.

In addition to parenting being something that benefits society as a whole, we look at it as a means of strengthening our relationship, forming a strong emotional bond with our adopted child, and expanding our love for each other with a child. We believe that we have many assets, in terms of intelligence, compassion, and beliefs, that are worthy of being passed on to others, including our children and any additions to our family through adoption. We both feel that we have a unique understanding of what is truly important in life, and that we are good at listening to others, and communicating. Since Keith already has experience raising young children, and we have both dealt with issues surrounding older, teenage children, we think we possess the skills necessary to properly teach and raise infants. We are on the same page in terms of discipline (setting limits, having clear consequences for misbehavior), the importance of education, the importance of spiritual beliefs, and living a healthy lifestyle. We are confident that we would, as a team, be able to not only raise a child to be happy and healthy, but to give him/her the skills necessary to flourish.

## Our Favorite Vacation Spot

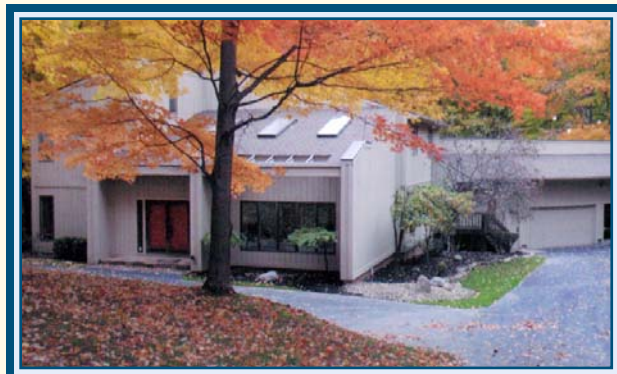
This past summer, we took the trip of a lifetime to Europe with our daughters, Olivia and Phoebe. Of the four of us, only Keith had been to Europe, and that was when he was a small child. So, in many ways, we were all experiencing it together for the first time. We spent a few days in Paris, France where we visited the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. We then took an overnight train to Venice, Italy. The four of us packed into one tiny, cramped, hot sleeper car, where we shared a community bathroom with the rest of the passengers. It sounds miserable, but we had a blast! After Venice, we traveled to Athens, Greece and then to Santorini, Greece where we rode on donkeys up 600 stairs! We ate pizza in Sorrento, Italy, where pizza was invented. We visited Vatican City in Rome and the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Pisa, Italy.

We learned a lot about history, ate wonderful foods and saw beautiful sites. But the best part of the trip was the way we spent time together away from work, friends, cell phones and computers.

## Our House and Neighborhood



We think that where we live is the perfect balance between a quiet suburban neighborhood and the excitement a larger city offers. Our community has single family homes which all have large semi-wooded lots. The houses in our neighborhood are occupied by all types of families, many of which have younger children who are regularly outside playing. There is a fantastic collection of parks near our home which have walking paths, a duck pond, a nature center and horse trails. Our home is just minutes from everything you could want or need: good schools, shopping, excellent medical facilities, sporting events, entertainment, and a downtown metropolis.



Our Home



**Our Backyard**

## Our House and Neighborhood, continued

Our house is located at the end of our quiet cul-de-sac. It is a large, contemporary style home that is located on a 2 ½ acre wooded lot. Among the great features of our home is a wood burning fireplace, an in-ground swimming pool, a large grassy area perfect for a swing set, and a finished lower level. The house has 4 bedrooms and we have already selected one to be the baby's room. Our house is great for entertaining and we love to have family and friends over often for dinners, cookouts, and pool parties. We have also hosted larger events here including our wedding reception.

Although our house is large it is warm and comfortable and we think is a wonderful and safe place to raise a child.

## Our Extended Families

**Kristen:** I am the youngest of two children. I grew up in a very loving home where my parents always made sacrifices to make sure that my sister and I had everything we needed. Our Catholic faith was very important to my parents, and it remains a central part of my life. My parents, who never had the opportunity to go to college, made sure that my sister and I understood the importance of a college education. My sister, who recently obtained her MBA, works as a manager of a team of architects and developers for a firm that specializes in digital advertising.

My parents, grandmother and aunt live just a short drive from our home. We love getting together for family dinners and cook outs at the parks near our home. Although my sister lives in Columbus, we all get together to celebrate birthdays, holidays and other family celebrations. I have a wonderful, warm loving family who is thrilled about our plans to adopt a baby. I promise you that my family would shower a child with love and affection.

**Keith:** I am the youngest of four children. I have lived in Ohio my whole life and was raised in a very loving Jewish home. Unfortunately, my mother died when I was 15; however, I had a wonderful relationship with my father whom I vacationed with and worked with for many years. Sadly, my father passed away a few years ago.

My two sisters, whom I am very close with, live in the same suburb in Arizona. They travel to see us on a regular basis and we try to visit them once a year. My two nieces and my brother and sister-in-law live in our community. We frequently have them over for dinners, pool parties and cook-outs. Because of the importance of my Jewish faith all of my family come together to celebrate the Jewish holidays, which is an important family tradition. We have shared with everyone our plans to grow our family through adoption and they are so excited to welcome a child into our family.

We have many friends that we consider to be an extension of our family and many of them have small children that we spend time with. In addition to our families, our friends anxiously await the arrival of a child into our home.



**Kristen's Extended Family**



**Keith's Extended Family**



**Our Family**

## Our Wonderful Pet

We have a five year old golden retriever, named Murphy, who is currently the baby of the family. We love dogs and we both grew up with them. But Murphy is so special because he is the sweetest, most gentle dog either of us have ever had. Although he is always a little timid when he meets a new adult, he loves to be around children. Our daughters love to put silly things on him, like reindeer ears and he happily poses for pictures.

When our daughters were younger, they frequently had sleepovers with all of their friends. Murphy always had to be with the kids. There were many mornings where we looked around for him only to find him quietly curled up in a ball, sleeping next to one of the girls' friends. Even now when our daughters are home, Murphy can still be found in the mornings curled up in bed with them.



Our Vacation in Athens, Greece

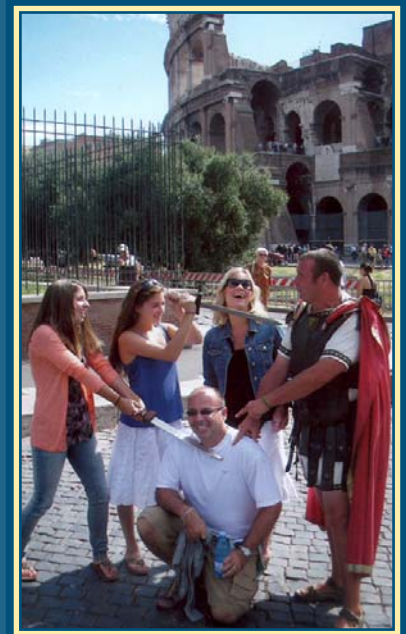


A Picture with Murphy

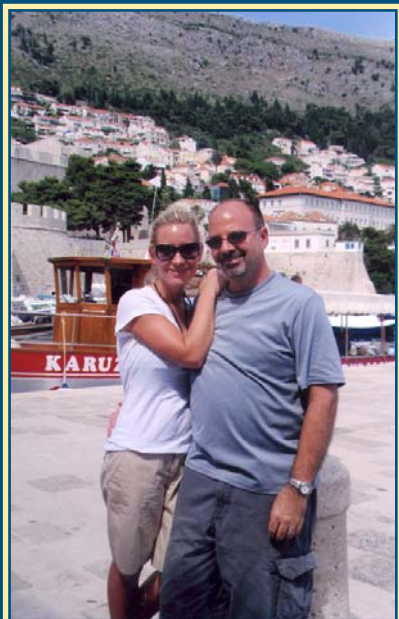
Keith  
&  
Kristen



Celebrating Our Anniversary



Making Friends with a Gladiator at the Coliseum in Rome



Sightseeing in Croatia



Posing with The Guard in Front of The Palace in Athens

## Dear Birthparent(s),

You are so brave and selfless for considering adoption for your baby and we are honored that you would take the time to consider us as adoptive parents for your child. We pray that you make the best decision for you and your child. We are strong believers in fate and know that if you choose adoption and select us as adoptive parents, this will be the start of a wonderful new life for you, us, and your baby.

A bit about ourselves ... we both work as lawyers. We met at work and still work together. Our law firm is really just another extension of our family. In fact, most of our co-workers attended our wedding which was in our backyard. We have shared our desire to have children with our co-workers, and they are truly excited of our plans to adopt a child.

Keith has two beautiful teenage daughters, Olivia and Phoebe, from his prior marriage. They are also very excited about growing our family through adoption. Since our children are older and only at our home on a part-time basis, we will be able to focus our love and attention on your baby as if he/she were our only child.

We are not perfect people but honest, loving, hard-working people with wonderful families and great friends, many of whom have small children. Our families and friends are also excited about our plans to adopt, especially Kristen's best friend, who was adopted when she was an infant. We have talked to her about our decision to adopt because we always want to see things through the eyes of an adopted child. We have learned much about the adoption process, and intend to educate ourselves even more.

Although we have been unable to conceive a child of our own, we very much want to share the experience of raising a child together, from infancy. We have a wonderful marriage and we love each other so much. We want to shower our love and affection on an infant.

We are blessed to have income and financial resources. We promise that your baby will grow up in a home where his/her needs will always be taken care of, including any special needs that might arise. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to see that your baby grows up in a happy, loving, and nurturing environment.

We are lucky to have the assistance of Kristen's parents who will play a role in helping care for your baby. Kristen's father is retired and Kristen's mother will be retiring soon. Between Kristen's parents and rearranging our work schedules, we will not need any outside daycare.

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We look forward to little league, soccer, softball, dance classes, music lessons or whatever activities your child would take interest in. We will always encourage your child to be whatever he/she wants to be and to let him/her know that the sky is the limit. Although we grew up with very different backgrounds, (Kristen's parents never had the opportunity to go to college and Keith's father was a prominent lawyer), we were raised with the same set of values. Our parents encouraged us to work hard, use the talents that God gave us, be kind to others and help those that are less fortunate. It is these very same values that we will teach your child.

We will write letters and send pictures frequently. You will always know that your baby is happy, healthy, and well cared for. We intend to let your baby know that his/her parents were very brave and chose us to provide a loving, caring and stable home for their child. We intend to make sure that you are a permanent and honored fixture in your child's life, and we are open to alternatives to make sure that there is regular, healthy communication available.

Thank you for considering adoption and for reading about us. We hope we are given the opportunity to welcome your baby into our family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time in your life.

Most Sincerely,

**Keith and Kristen**

