



You are an amazing, courageous woman for giving life to your child and for exploring which path your child's life should take. We hope you find peace and love in the journey, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for considering our family to raise your child. We look forward to parenting with loving, joyful kindness all the days of our lives.

Mark

Janet

Job Description:

Senior Staff Accountant for a company that owns nursing homes in many states, full time

Pediatric Occupational Therapist, part time.
Future stay at home Mom

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Accounting

Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy

Favorites:

Actor
Al Pacino

Actor
Denzel Washington

Animal
Cats

Animal
Panda Bears (I Collect!)

Musical Group
U2

Musical Group
Jars of Clay

Shopping Store
Macy's

Shopping Store
Gap

Sport to Play
Basketball

Sport to Play
Swimming

Holiday
Christmas

Foster Parenting Has Prepared Us For Adoption

Our love for children and our desire to fulfill God's will led us to foster parenting. Our wedding Gospel was the Beatitudes, which we picked because we felt called to always love those in need, no matter the life circumstances of that person. We have learned so much about parenting through the process-including how best to baby proof our house after having two different 16 month olds join our house with high levels of curiosity! We love knowing the families of the children in our care and always strive to form wonderful, lasting relationships with them. During this time, we found that we are not likely to become pregnant which is ok because we love our role as foster/adoptive parents. We also found as time passed that it became harder to let go of the children we love day in and day out, both for us and for our current foster son whom we hope to adopt with his birth mother's blessing. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to hone our skills as parents and to develop good routines together. To watch each other love a child brings greater love, joy, and peace to our marriage. We know we are capable of providing incredible, lasting love to children we adopt.

Children with Extraordinary Needs Touch Our Lives

We love to help children meet their full potential in life, no matter what that potential is. Janet's work as a pediatric occupational therapist has opened our eyes to children with varying needs through the years. It has been a true joy to watch some of her clients grow and learn through their childhood years. Mark listens to the stories and meets some of the families at community events. He is wonderful at making each child feel like they are important and listened to. Janet's work to help each child perform his or her activities of daily living best sometimes spills into our home family life in natural ways like how best to teach a child who wants to learn to dress himself or what to do when a child does not like certain food textures. Most importantly, it has taught both of us the value of loving a person for where they are in life, and not giving up on teaching them a new skills as we all grow and change each day of our lives.

Our House and Neighborhood

OHIO

Our home is filled with love, peace, togetherness, and joy. The structure has 4 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, full basement, and an open floor plan perfect for playing, cooking, and being together. Our backyard is complemented by our subdivision's running path that takes you through country meadows owned by our subdivision. There are many families of every nationality, several with young children plus some older couples, singles, and mixed families with multiple generations. Our favorite afternoon activities are riding bikes, coloring with sidewalk chalk, and blowing bubbles with the children in our area of the subdivision. Our neighbors have been wonderfully supportive of us as foster parents and hope we have a match soon so we have children the same ages as their children.



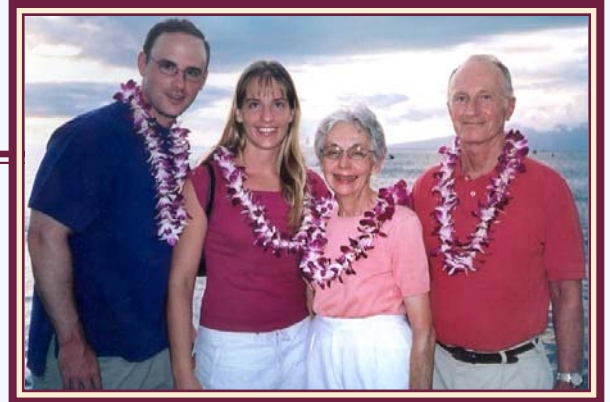
Our Home



Entry to Our Neighborhood

Our House and Neighborhood, continued

The suburban city we live in has multiple playgrounds within walking distance, bike paths connecting every part, a large mall, and a wide range of activities for recreation. Our public and Catholic school districts are always well ranked with many magnet school options, all of which are nearby and most are within walking distance. We love utilizing our community resources such as a nationally ranked library, state of the art recreation center, Metro parks, and more. Our nearby city hosts a wonderful zoo and children's museum, both of which we belong to and frequent multiple times a month.



Mark's Parents with Us in Maui

Our Extended Families

Our families can't wait to meet the sweet, precious soul of a child we know God has picked for us! Both sides of our family have greatly enjoyed loving and knowing our foster children, welcoming and embracing them into their midst for whatever time frame they have stayed in our home.

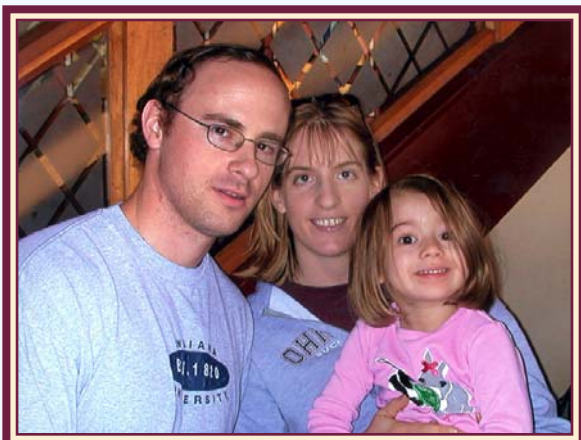
Mark's parents adore being our primary babysitter and live in a neighboring suburb. They love to travel, go to sporting events, and provide summertime pool passes to their neighborhood pool. Their retirement time finds them itching to have more time with the children we have been privileged to parent so far. His older brother joins us in our travels whenever possible and comes to visit regularly.

Janet's large immediate family (16 members of all ages and counting) also loves to travel together, which is perfect because we are currently scattered throughout the Midwest. In addition, we gather and stay at Grandma and Papa's house frequently for weekends of fun exploring their woods and getting together with Janet's aunts, uncles, and cousins when possible. Our favorite "family reunion" is held over Labor Day weekend at a historical family farm for "Family-Friends-Fun Farm Day." We always have a family wiffle ball game, a hayride, horses to pet, football, huge picnic lunch, and lots of fun. The whole of our families have been so excited to love our foster children and cannot wait to welcome the next child to our family.



Janet's Extended Family

Fun Games, Events and Hobbies We Enjoy with Children



With Niece Annalee in Kentucky

Mark is the most fun parent and uncle a child can have! He loves to wrestle, joke around, carry, tickle, and play with children of all ages. His imagination is extraordinary-you never know what an object is going to become or do! He has a very gentle way of redirecting children back to good choices when they disobey family rules. Sporting events, the State Fair, and the circus are events Mark seeks out to expose our children to. Janet loves to take the kids to the library, zoo, play dates, and various museums. She tries to provide a daily balance of play and learning so that children learn daily life lessons in fun ways. As a couple, we love to travel together and have found that so many cities welcome small children. We have been fortunate to expose our children to different parts of the United States and hope to travel abroad in the coming years. Whenever possible, one of our siblings will join us like when we went to the Grand Canyon or to the beach. Those memories together are priceless! We cannot wait to create these new memories with the next child, so we can see the world through their eyes as well as our own.



Waikiki Beach, Hawaii



Biking Down a Volcano in Maui

Mark & Janet



Our Wedding Day



Bowl Game in Arizona with Janet's Sister



Vacation at Epcot Center



Foster Parent Gift Shower

Dear Birthparent(s),

We are thrilled to think of and pray for you as you read this letter. If you are considering adoption for your child, we know the decision you are making is one filled with anxiety, hope, and faith. We thank you so much for the gift you are willing to consider providing both for your child as well as for an adoptive family. We'd like to introduce ourselves in the hopes we are meant to be matched together.

We met and began dating in college, never breaking up although we had to spend several years of dating long-distance. This made us better communicators. We married 6 years later on the happiest day of our lives. Our marriage has been blissful—we share so many common interests, dreams, and desires that we find new joy in each day and each experience. We try to live our lives serving Christ, serving each other as family, and serving others in our daily lives.

Foster parenting has been great training for adoptive parenting particularly in preparing us for open adoption. Our experiences have taught us that we love knowing birth families in whatever format the birth family is comfortable. We will welcome phone calls, visits, and a genuine friendship if this develops. There is always room in our family for new members! If you do not want more contact, we fully respect that decision and will support you and your needs. You may change your mind about contact many times on this journey and we understand this from our own experiences. We will always speak of you with the utmost respect and reverence to your child.

We currently have one four year old foster son who loves being a big brother and can't wait until a new brother or sister arrives. He has been with us for 3 years now and we hope to be able to adopt him soon. We have his mother's full blessing for his adoption and she is very joyful that we are seeking to adopt another child. Adoption is a welcome and frequent topic in our home because of foster care but also because so many of our friends have adopted as well. We currently celebrate placement days we call "Gotcha days" just as festively as birthdays so we can retell the story of how our foster son came into our home. We use a special photo album called a Life Book that is filled with pictures, memories, and important facts to tell the story of why he is in our home, particularly to emphasize to him just how much his birth mom loves him even though they are separated.

Since becoming foster parents, much of our fun has involved watching our children grow and discover the world around them. We cherish exposing the children to new events, places, and ideas. Traveling, sporting events, swimming, museums, zoos, bowling, and playgrounds are just a few of the activities we enjoy as a family. We also enjoy hiking in the area Metro Parks where there so many different trails to choose from. Individually, Mark likes to work out at the gym, jog, and play sports. He also enjoys watching sporting events in person—football, basketball, hockey, baseball, soccer—it doesn't matter which. High school football is his favorite. Other interests include reading, music, watching movies, and competing against Janet in board games. Janet likes to meet friends for play dates, attend daily Mass/Bible studies, and read Christian fiction. She is working on cross stitching a special baby blanket for the next baby just like her Grandmother did for each of her Grandchildren.

Our dream in parenting is to raise children to know, love, and serve the Lord. In doing so, we hope that our family will feel the same wonderful blessings we cherish about each day. We practice genuine love and generosity of heart in our family both towards each other and towards our children. We believe children need safe ways to explore and grow based on their developmental level, filling them with every opportunity to expand their minds and bodies as we can provide. We hope to find their strengths and build on those so that when they become adults, they can attend college or train for the career of their choice. Our mutual love and respect for each other as individuals allows us to use our strengths as a couple to develop loving strategies to teach children to be respectful, loving, and obedient. We strive to model the values we believe in so that others acquire them, such as living modestly within ones means, making time for prayer and play each day, and finding ways to serve those we meet each day. We also welcome family and friends to help us in our parenting journey because it takes a village to raise a child.

It is a true privilege to know you have chosen to read our letter, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are an amazing, courageous woman for loving your child so much that you will read these profiles. Thank you for the gift of life you are giving to your child. Thank you for considering which path this child's life needs to take. We wish you joy, peace, and love on this journey. We congratulate you for your effort, no matter which direction your decision takes you. We trust that the sweet little soul you carry will help guide you on your journey. We pray you are surrounded by loving family and friends who also guide you wisely. Many blessings to you and to your child!

Mark and Janet

