



Thank you for reading our letter and for considering us as parents. We know that it takes a lot of courage to consider adoption and that you will make the best decision for you and your child.

Patrick

Julie

Job Description:

Home Care
Physical Therapist

Early Childhood
Mental Health Therapist
Future stay at home Mom

Education:

B.S. in
Physical Therapy

B.S. in Psychology
M.S. in Rehabilitation/
Community Counseling

Favorites:

Hobby
Playing Chess

Hobby
Shopping

Childhood Memory
Family Sports

Childhood Memory
Going Camping

Classic Movie
The Graduate

Classic Movie
The Wizard of Oz

Ice Cream
Chunky Monkey

Ice Cream
Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

Musical Group
The Beatles

Musical Group
Dave Matthews Band

Children:

None

Qualities We Love, Admire and Respect in Each Other

Patrick on Julie: My wife Julie has had a nurturing, mothering quality about her for as long as I can remember. She takes great interest in others and her work in the mental health field is an extension of that interest. She regularly demonstrates compassion in her work and private life. Julie cherished her role as a mother to our son. She adjusted nicely to staying at home with him. It is easy to communicate with Julie and we even anticipate what the other is going to say before it is said. Julie is also easy going and we find it easy to agree on how we spend our free time.

Julie on Patrick: Patrick is passionate, energetic and enthusiastic about life. Patrick loved being a father to our son and he took great pride in his role as a father. He marvels at the preciousness of all children and their zest for life. Patrick is a dedicated husband who consistently provides for our family by working hard and is eager to share in his rewards. When he finds something to be passionate about he jumps in with both feet. For example, Patrick loves to play chess, whether it be online challenging someone from overseas, reading and learning about new strategies, or volunteering and teaching at a chess club for elementary after school students. He is witty and intelligent; loving and kind-hearted; playful and gentle.

What Does It Mean To Be Parents?

Having had our son Benjamin for just over two years before he passed away, we know and appreciate the infinite value of life. Our experience with parenting was more rich and rewarding than we thought that it could be. As parents, we were prepared to meet our child's physical and emotional needs. We were not prepared for the amount of pride and joy that we shared in his development, our identity as a family and the profound way that our son was able to enhance our lives. Parenting was the most important thing in our lives and we know that it will be when we are blessed with another child.

Our House and Neighborhood



We live in a 4 bedroom 2 story colonial home on 2/3 of an acre. Our house was built in 1993 and our neighborhood was established around the same time. We have a 2 car garage and a fireplace. One of our bedrooms is completely set up for a child. We live near a street that features many stores, restaurants and other places that make life more convenient. We live around the corner from Wal-Mart and down the street from a major mall. Our development features a one mile loop and many families take advantage of that by running, walking and bicycling around it. Indeed we too have enjoyed this loop in that way.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Christmas with Jake

We chose our community because we know that it is pro-family. We saw it as a great place to raise children. The schools of our city, both private and public, have a reputation for a high standard. Our city center features a hike, bike path, modern swimming pool, and surrounding water activities, an ice rink and all of that is near the high school athletic complex. Our church and the parish grade school are big parts of our community. They are filled with young families and there is a vibrant parish and school life there.

We have had our cat Jake since we were married. He is a fat cat (about 18 pounds) with two different colored eyes. He has one blue eye and one brown eye. He is very soft, friendly and kids love him.

Our Extended Families



Patrick's Family

Patrick comes from a large family that provides much love and excellent opportunities for any child. Patrick's Mom and Dad have been married for 52 years. They have 6 daughters and 5 sons. Patrick is proud to be the 9th of their eleven children. 20 grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 25 years old provide many many cousins for a child who becomes part of our family. Patrick's younger brother John just announced that a 21st grandchild is on the way in early 2010. Over the years we developed a family newsletter and later a web site dedicated to sharing our lives together. About 5 years ago we all realized that we wanted to spend more time together. It was then that we began vacationing together every two years for one week at a State Park. Our next family vacation will be in the summer of 2010, an event attended by about 50 people. We have rich traditions centered around our faith, games, holidays and conversation.

Julie is the oldest of 3 children. She has one brother and one sister who live out of state. Not long ago Julie's sister announced that she will be having her first child. Julie lost her mother to breast cancer about 15 years ago. Her father and stepmother live one hour away and we visit with them frequently. Julie's maternal aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandmother also live one hour away. We celebrate faith-based traditions and holidays. These are times of togetherness and great food. All of us enjoy spending time outdoors, landscaping, and vacationing together. This past June, we took a trip to Italy to meet our relatives and to learn more about the Italian culture.



Julie's Family

Our Leisure Time



Biking with Patrick's Sister, Rachel

We spend our leisure time together. We enjoy walks around our neighborhood, shopping in the many stores near where we live (especially Kohls), going out to eat (Panera), and doing whatever the current home improvement project might be. As much as we like eating out, we also like to cook to eat more healthy. We like to try new things to eat at home and the challenge to prepare something that we had at a restaurant.

We enjoy exercising. Patrick plays racquetball and swims while Julie works out on a treadmill, elliptical machine and bike. We love traveling. We have taken driving trips out of state to see friends and family and to see the sights. We also recently took a trip to Europe and were eager to learn about other cultures. Time spent with family and friends is also important to us.

On a given weekend, we might attend a barbeque, celebrate someone's birthday, or meet for shopping and dinner. At the end of our long days we enjoy watching television. The Office, Grey's Anatomy and The Biggest Loser are some of our favorites.



Maui Luau 2004



Black Sand Beach, Hawaii



Our Wedding Day

Patrick & Julie



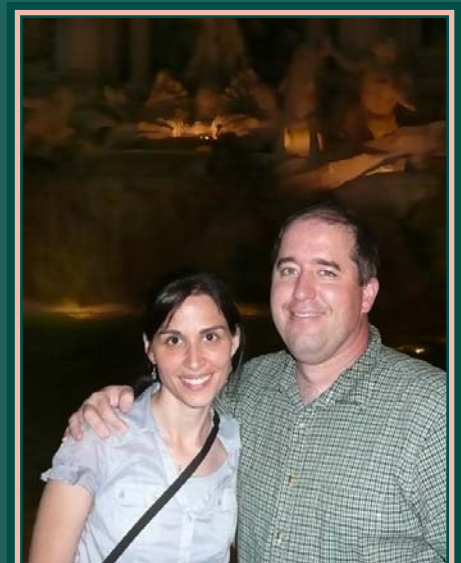
Wedding Rehearsal
Dinner



2007 With Our Son,
Benjamin



Outer Banks



Touring Rome

Dear Birthparent(s),

Hello, we are Patrick and Julie. We thank you so much for reading our letter. We are in awe of the courage that you are demonstrating by considering adoption. The loving generosity displayed by anyone considering adoption is a rare act of selflessness. We hope that you will learn that our home is one in which any child can thrive.

We met while in grade school when Julie was in 3rd grade and Patrick was in 6th grade. Patrick got Julie's attention when he was repeatedly getting in trouble on the playground. Julie developed a strong friendship with Patrick's younger sister Rachel that continued through her college years and allowed Patrick and Julie to stay in occasional contact. We re-connected at Rachel's wedding in the year 2000 and shared e mails and phone calls for about a year before officially becoming "an item." We dated for 18 months before getting engaged and were married in 2004.

We have been together for 8 years and have been married for 5 ½ years. Our relationship is deep rooted in a long standing friendship that is based on understanding and love. It is important to us to make each other laugh. We have fun in our home and we enjoy life more with our sense of humor. Most people would describe us as engaging and talkative with a positive outlook on life. We get the most out of life by working hard and making the most of our free time. Our passions include our faith, family, staying connected with friends, health & wellness, spending time outdoors, motivation for learning, music and traveling. One of our biggest passions together is children and the possibility of building a family. Children were always a part of our plans together. We want to bring the joy that we experienced as children to our own family.

We experienced the miracle of life and being parents to our son Benjamin for 27 months before we lost him to a genetic disorder. Benjamin taught us how wonderful a family can be and the joy of being parents. We have chosen to pursue adoption because we decided not to have future biological children due to the significant risk of passing on that fatal genetic disorder. We are excited at the opportunity to grow our family through adoption.

We are fortunate that Julie will be able to stay at home with the child. Our highest priority is time spent together as a family. That will include going for walks, shopping, reading lots of books, eating together as a family, going to church, visiting with extended family, listening to music, dancing and celebrating life. We value faith based traditions and plan to promote those within our family. Our plan is to encourage schooling from grade school through college.

We enthusiastically celebrate traditional holidays. Patrick's large family has "The Turkey Bowl" which is a touch football game prior to Thanksgiving dinner. Since there are so many family members everyone brings a covered dish and there are always leftovers. Julie's family comes together for a family breakfast for Christmas. The spread is prepared with pride by her Dad and includes eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, hashbrowns, toast, danish, juice and coffee. Another tradition in Patrick's family is when 50+ family members gather for a week long reunion/vacation at a state park. We have "Family Olympics" and each evening a different cabin host dinner. We have enjoyed hosting Christmas and are looking forward to doing so again this year

Our extended family is considerably large and they are also considerably supportive. Any child will be welcomed into this group with open arms from 20+ cousins, 7 aunts, 5 uncles and 4 loving grandparents.

We are open to an adoption in which information is shared on a regular basis. We plan on sharing pictures and letters with you. In addition, we plan on creating a web site which includes images and updates that can be visited by anyone who is invited by you.

It is important to us to let the child know that he/she was adopted. We plan to create a "Life Book" which could include birthparent(s) images, information and any other materials that you would like to provide. We plan on reading books about adoption as early as the child's infancy. The child is going to know the special role that his/her birthparent(s) have in his/her life. We will continue to share age appropriate information with the child throughout his/her life because we believe that this can promote healthy emotional development.

Thank you for reading our letter and for considering us as parents. We know that it takes a lot of courage to consider adoption and that you will make the best decision for you and your child.

With respect,

Patrick and Julie

