



Rich

Cheryl

Job Description:

Engineer/Manager for a Large Internationally known Company

Occupational Therapist Working with Elementary School Children with Special Needs

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering

Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy & Master's Degree in Business Administration

Favorites:

Family Activity
Bike Riding

Family Activity
Walking in the Park

Hobby
Golf

Hobby
Running

Sports Team
Ohio State Buckeye's

Sports Team
CAVS

TV Show
Dirty Jobs

TV Show
The Biggest Loser

Vacation Spot
Mexico

Children:

Allie (age 2)

FAMILY IS A PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES.

Having Allison as a part of our family has been the most joyful journey of our lives. Being first time parents has been challenging and scary at times, but we love being parents. Our wish is to add another child to our family. We want to give your child a loving home and expose him or her to many different experiences and opportunities. Thank you for considering us during this very important and difficult chapter in your life.

**How Adoption Has Affected Our Lives
(The Blessing of Allie)**

WOW!!!! That is the only way to describe how our adopted daughter, Allie, has affected our lives. We always knew we wanted to have children, but we had no idea how wonderful parenthood would be. Allie has not only changed OUR lives in every possible way, but the lives of our family and friends.

We were blessed with our daughter, Allison Marie, through adoption in September 2007. A surprise call came on Labor Day and the very next day Allison's birth mom gave us a cherished and loving gift of a child and the opportunity to be parents. Although her birth mom requested a closed adoption, we send pictures and letters monthly. When Allie turns 1, we will continue sending pictures and letters several times a year. We love Allie's birth mom for the amazing sacrifice she made and will honor her request, just as we will honor your wishes. However, we hope that someday she reads the letters and learns that Allie is happy, healthy, thriving and loved.

We've also started a life book that tells Allie about her adoption journey and includes copies of the pictures and letters we have sent to her birth mom. We will continue to add to her life book as special events occur. Our hope is that this story will help Allie understand how much her birth mom loved her and open up the lines of communication so she is willing and able to ask questions and talk with us about her adoption. We would definitely do the same things for you and your child and also would be happy to talk and meet with you prior to the birth of your baby if that is your desire.

We have a wide variety of activities that we enjoy. Together we watch movies, take Pepper and Allie for walks, golf, bowl, play cards or board games, and visit with friends and family. Separately, Cheryl enjoys running. She runs throughout the entire year in sun, rain, and snow. Cheryl frequently runs races from 5k's to 1/2 marathons with friends and occasionally drags Rich along for some exercise and company. Running has taught Cheryl determination and focus in all areas of her life and provides physical and mental benefits by acting as a stress reliever. Rich enjoys bowling during the cold months, golf during the warmer months, watching movies, and yard work. Rich also enjoys athletic activities such as bicycling, racquetball and an occasional run. We also do fun things with our niece and nephews like apple picking and hayrides in the fall, sled riding and tobogganing in the winter, and bike riding or amusement parks in the summer. Allie is the primary focus of everything we do! We try to find the right balance between alone time, couple time and family time.

Interests/Activities

Our House and Neighborhood



We bought our 3-bedroom home in Ohio 5 years ago in the same community that we grew up in. We chose this location because our families live within 5 minutes, the school district has an excellent reputation and the neighborhood is beautiful and safe. Our home was built on almost 3/4 acre in 2000. We have a finished basement that we use as Allie's playroom. We also have a large yard for swing sets, baseball games, a basketball hoop and Little Tykes toys.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Allie at Easter

There are many young married couples in our development with children. Our community and recreation center has many activities to offer children of all ages such as sports (i.e. soccer, t-ball, baseball/softball, basketball), outdoor and indoor pools, playground, library, holiday events, swim lessons, youth programs, and more. This year, we took Allie to "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny." Even though she was too young to understand, it'll be a tradition we continue for years to come. Our school district is rated excellent and opportunities are abundant. Students can choose from vocational training to college preparation. We have a wonderful Metropark and National Park system just down the road that we visit regularly to hike, bike and run.



Rich's Extended Family

Our Extended Families

Since both of our extended families live in our community, we have frequent opportunities to attend family get-togethers. Several times a month, we take Allie over to Great Grandma's house to catch up, show off Allie's new skills, laugh and share stories. We also visit with our parents and siblings several times a week, sometimes at our home, other times at their house. Because Allie's grandparents (**Rich's** parents) are with her during the day when we work, her other grandparents (**Cheryl's** parents) try to visit in the evenings and on weekends. Recently, when we both had the flu, both sets of grandparents took turns caring for Allie at their house so she wouldn't get the flu too. Rich's family also has frequent parties/picnics where the extended family of aunts, uncles, and cousins get together to play, talk and hang out. The kids love it! Your child will have a sister and plenty of cousins and friends to play with and will grow up with a loving and involved extended family.

We also have a 13 year old Dalmatian named Pepper. Although she still tries to be the center of attention and will bark or nuzzle us with her nose if she feels we aren't paying enough attention to her, she has adjusted extremely well to "the new baby". She loves to lay on the floor next to Allie or sit next to her highchair in hopes that Allie will drop some food. We try to take Pepper for daily walks, depending on the weather, either in the neighborhood or at the park. If it's nice outside, we take Allie in the stroller and make it a family event.



Cheryl's Family at a Party



On Vacation

Our Vacation

Our favorite vacation spot is Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. We love listening to the crashing of the waves, walking on the beach, swimming, watching the sunset, eating seafood, and relaxing in the sunshine. Puerto Vallarta is extremely safe and offers a nice variety of activities for families such as shopping, entertainment, site seeing tours, and authentic Mexican Fiesta's. Every time we go, we learn more about Mexican traditions, foods and the Spanish language. We can't wait to expose our children to a different culture and way of life. Although Puerto Vallarta is our favorite town in Mexico, we've also visited several other cities and loved them all. Best of all, we love the fact that a Mexican vacation can also be a relaxing, do-nothing, lay by the beach or pool, type of vacation. It will be awesome to return as a family and make the trip geared to a child. Watching children laugh and giggle in the waves and build sand castles has always been a treat.



Rich, Cheryl and Allie



On a Weekend Trip

Rich & Cheryl



Happy Together



Our Family



Horseback Riding with Friends



Meeting Allison on Placement Day

Dear Birthparent(s),

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity and are very grateful that you are taking the time to get to know us. We have been married for 13 years and are extremely excited about bringing another child into our home through adoption. We long to share our lives with another child and have tons of love and laughter to share. Our wish is to welcome another child to our family. We want another child and would love for Allison to have a brother or sister to grow up with, just like we did.

We are Rich and Cheryl. We are best friends and love spending time together. We met in high school, dated on and off for 8 years, got married in 1994 and have been married for 13 years. We have experienced the ups and downs of life and marriage: happiness, sorrow, tension, sickness, anxiety and joy and have grown and changed together over the years. We couldn't have imagined the joy a child would bring to our life until we were blessed with our adopted daughter, Allison, in September 2007. We also have another important part of our family, our Dalmatian, named Pepper. We have a large caring extended family and several close friends that are like family that will add tremendous joy to a child's life.

Cheryl is an occupational therapist and works with children with special needs in a large urban school district. Rich works as an engineering manager at a large stable company. During the school year, Allie stays at Grandma and Grandpa's house during the day and absolutely loves it. She's always smiling and giggling at grandpa - she's definitely grandpa's little girl. Since Cheryl works for a school, she is home for all school holidays, breaks and during the summer. Her employer is flexible and offers a 5-year leave of absence as well as part time employment, which she is considering.

We try to lead a balanced, flexible lifestyle that includes family time, work, play and religion. A typical evening consists of eating dinner together, playtime with Allie (and usually Pepper too), bedtime routine and then completing household errands as time permits. We both try to squeeze in exercise throughout the week in order to remain active and healthy. Cheryl enjoys running and biking in the park, while Rich enjoys golf and family walks. Weekends consist of activities with family or friends, church and/or short trips to area attractions such as the zoo, playground, library, etc. We also try to squeeze in a little rest and relaxation too!

FAMILY IS A PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES. Having Allison as a part of our family has been the most joyful journey of our lives. Being first time parents has been challenging and scary at times, but we love being parents. Our wish is to add another child to our family. We want to give your child a loving home and the best opportunities with many, many happy memories to carry with him/her throughout a lifetime. We will raise your child in a loving, safe, stable and joyful home. We value and will teach respect, honesty, and politeness. We will expose your child to many different experiences and opportunities allowing him/her to learn and discover personal strengths and direction.

We are comfortable with a semi-open adoption, if that is your choice, and will share information in the form of pictures and letters for as long as you wish. Hopefully the pictures and letters will provide comfort for you by letting you know that your child is happy, healthy, thriving, and loved. We would also be happy to speak with you on the telephone or in person prior to the birth if that is your wish. We will develop a "Life Book" and openly talk about the baby's adoption story. We will make this experience a positive one for your child. Should you choose not to exchange pictures and letters, we will respect your wishes and privacy. We will work with you and honor your choices.

Our top priority is becoming a family of 4 (plus Pepper). We are looking forward to expanding our family and sharing our lives with another child. We know that raising a child, biological or not, carries with it responsibilities and challenges. Your child will have unconditional love and all the opportunities that you could hope for! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your child. Thank you for considering us during this very important and difficult chapter in your life.

Most Sincerely,

Rich and Cheryl

