



We are so grateful that you have taken the time to learn more about our family. Though words and pictures alone can never express all the love that is in our hearts, we hope that the things we have written will give you an idea of the love and care that wait for your child in our home.

Shawn

Lisa

Job Description:

Mail Carrier

Writer & Editor

Education:

B.A. in Business Administration

B.A. in English & M.A. in Religion

Favorites:

Actor

Tom Hanks

Actor

Johnny Depp

Family Activity

Playing Board Games Together

Family Activity

Visiting the Zoo

Hobby

Bowling

Hobby

Reading

Musical

Fiddler on the Roof

Musical

Gyps and Dolls

Vacation Spot

Denver

Vacation Spot

Florida

Children:

Elizabeth (2 years old)

Elizabeth's Adoption

Our beautiful daughter, Elizabeth, was born in March 2008 and became part of our family through open adoption. Becoming her parents is the best thing that has ever happened to us! At the beginning of our adoption journey, we decided that we wanted to pursue an open adoption. We were lucky that Elizabeth's birthmother, Jessica, wanted the same thing. We were able to meet Jessica and her family before Lizzie was born and also to be there in the hospital for her birth. Today, we still keep contact with Elizabeth's birthfamily through visits, emails, phone calls, and letters. Though we have never met Elizabeth's birthfather, Logan, we think of him often and look forward to the day when he would be open to exchanging letters or even meeting us.

It is very important to us that Elizabeth always knows how much she is cherished and loved by her birthfamily. We truly believe it is best to maintain these ties of love through open adoption. Though Elizabeth is still young, we talk openly about adoption with her and plan to encourage her to ask questions and to talk with us about her adoption when she is older. We have also started to work on a scrapbook that includes all kinds of pictures and information about Elizabeth's birthfamily. We hope that this is something she will treasure throughout her life.

What We Love About Each Other

Lisa on Shawn: Shawn is one of the most genuinely warm, friendly, and funny people I have ever met. He is such a happy and outgoing person - everyone who meets him instantly likes him. I love that he is strong and hard-working but that he also has a sweet, romantic side and is an incredible communicator and listener. Shawn is also a wonderful father. He is so devoted to Elizabeth and loves spending time with her. The two of them love to laugh and play and be silly together and, when Lizzie is feeling down, nothing helps more than a cuddle from her Daddy! Elizabeth and I are so blessed to have him in our lives.

Shawn on Lisa: Lisa is a beautiful, compassionate, and thoughtful wife and mother. She enjoys spending time with our daughter, teaching her new things and helping her to grow and learn. She is also very organized and intelligent, which helps our family life to run smoothly. I am really proud of everything Lisa has accomplished - she has won several creative writing awards and was able to finish her master's degree all while working full-time and being a mom! She is also very spiritual and always challenges me to be a better person. Because of all this, Lisa is truly my best friend and the love of my life.

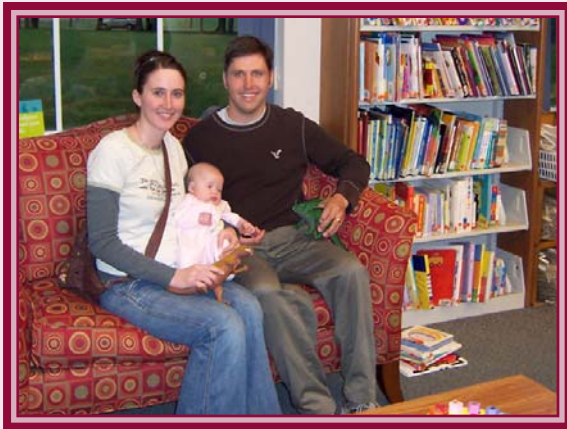
Our House and Neighborhood



When it came time to purchase our first home together, we knew that we wanted to buy an older home that we could renovate. Now, four years later, we live in a beautiful, completely remodeled 1960's split-level style home with four bedrooms. The house reflects our unique personalities and interests and is perfect for our family. Inside, there is tons of space to live and move and play. Each of our children would have their own bedroom. There's also a space for toys in the living room and a playroom. Outside, we have a lovely backyard with lots of trees and a large deck (and lots of room for a swing set or play house in the future). When the weather is nice, we like to cook outside, play in the yard, or just sit on the deck and relax.



Our Home



Visiting the Local Library

Shawn comes from a very large, close-knit family. His parents, Don and Mary, have been together for over fifty years and his nine brothers and sisters (Laura, Paul, Dave, Jeanette, Linda, Karen, Cheryl, Don, and Jenny) are all married with children of their own. Elizabeth loves spending time with her cousins - all 42 of them! Though she's very close to the little ones, her older cousins love her lots, too. We are lucky that Shawn's family lives close by and that we get to spend a lot of time with them. We go out to eat, visit the zoo, and take vacations with his siblings and their kids. Having such a large family also makes the holidays fun (and very loud!). At the family's Christmas Eve celebration, one of Shawn's brothers dresses up as Santa Claus and passes out presents to all our very excited nieces and nephews.

Lisa's side of the family is much smaller (and quieter!). Her mom, Sharon, and dad, Jim, have been married for almost thirty years and live in a wonderful community only five minutes away from our home. Lisa and her younger sister, Jennifer, were very close growing up and still like to spend time together. Lisa's family absolutely adores Elizabeth. Since she is the only grandchild on this side of the family, she is most definitely spoiled! She has her own room at Grandma's house (decorated in Winnie-the-Pooh) along with loads of toys, games, and stuffed animals. Lisa's family is also excited for another child to join the family (her mom has even started thinking about how to decorate a new bedroom!).

Our families really have the best of both worlds - lots of cousins to laugh and play with on Shawn's side, and lots of personal attention and spoiling on Lisa's side. We are excited to welcome a new child into our loving, wonderful family!

Our House and Neighborhood, continued

Our community is small and cozy, but also not far from the major city in our area. We have a small park and playground, a community recreation center with a kid-friendly pool area, and lots of shops and restaurants just up the street from us. We love that it is so convenient to go out and find fun things to do together as a family in our area. Our neighbors are very friendly and kind and our neighborhood has several young families with children. We are also very involved in our local Catholic church, which has lots of activities for its younger members.

Our Extended Families



Shawn's Parents and All of Our Nieces and Nephews



Lisa's Parents with Elizabeth



Bruce and Emily Relaxing on the Couch

family - exploring the zoo, browsing for children's books at the library, swimming together at the community pool, or just hanging out at home. Though we both work full-time, we are lucky that our families are able to care for our daughter during the day. Half of the week, Lizzie is with Shawn's sister, Jeanette, where she has lots of cousins to play with, and the other half she is with Lisa's mom where she has more toys and games and books than a child could ever want! Our cats, Bruce and Emily, are another fun aspect of our lives. When they're not enjoying yet another nap, they love to play with toys on a string and hang out around us (especially when we have treats on hand!).

Our Life Together

Because we both have positive attitudes and love to try new things, our life together is very eventful and fun! We both enjoy being creative - Lisa loves to write and take photographs, and Shawn is an incredible artist. Both of us like watching old movies (and cheesy romantic comedies) and going to the theater together to see plays and musicals. We also love to laugh and enjoy watching our favorite comedians, sharing jokes, or just telling funny stories about our day. We also talk a lot! Our dinner conversations are usually spent discussing world events, religion, politics, our families, work, or just anything that's on our minds. Because we are truly each other's best friend we know that anything we say will be respected and valued. We really enjoy traveling, too. We've been all over the country and look forward to traveling as a family and maybe even buying a vacation home one day. Since becoming parents, our life together has also included a lot more kid-friendly activities. We enjoy spending time together as a



On Vacation in Chicago



Enjoying a Day at the Park



Celebrating Shawn's Parents' 50th
Wedding Anniversary

Shawn
&
Lisa



Dressed as Mario Brothers
Characters for Halloween



Elizabeth's Adoption Day



A Sunny Day at a Baseball Game

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

We are so grateful that you have taken the time to learn more about our family. Though words and pictures alone can never express all the love that is in our hearts, we hope that the things we have written will give you an idea of the love and care that wait for your child in our home.

Since we first fell in love, we knew that we wanted to have children together. However, we soon found out that we would have difficulty conceiving a child. We were initially sad, but, after prayerfully considering all our options, we decided that the best way to grow our family would be through adoption. When God graced us with our beautiful daughter, Elizabeth, we knew that we had chosen the right path and that He had helped us find something more amazing than we ever could have imagined.

Elizabeth is such a wonderful little girl and we know that she will make a great big sister. She loves to be around other children and is very friendly and sweet. She would have a great time playing, laughing, and sharing her toys with a baby brother or sister. And we both know from experience how wonderful it is to grow up with a sibling who is so close to you.

You can probably tell that our daughter is an incredible blessing to us! In loving her we have come to realize how much more love we have to give to another child. Elizabeth is the center of our world, and another child would be just as loved and cherished and valued by us as she is. We both love being parents so much. Every day, we come home after work looking forward to a night of smiles and giggles and fun. As our children get older, we can promise you that we will always be as loving and devoted as we are now. We plan to always be there for our kids and are committed to raising happy, healthy, thoughtful, faithful, and intelligent people. Being parents is such a wonderful joy and privilege and we are really excited to open our hearts to another child.

This is also true of our families who are eagerly waiting to welcome a new child. You may think that, for Shawn's large family, bringing home a new baby would not be a major event - but nothing could be further from the truth! Though they already have many grandchildren, Shawn's parents greet each new child with the same love and excitement as they did for their very first grandchild. Lisa's mom, dad, and sister are also eager to welcome a new member to our small family. A new baby can definitely expect to be spoiled and doted upon by all of them!

From what we have written, we hope you can also see how committed we are to the idea of open adoption. We always do our best to love and honor our daughter's birthfamily and we would do the same for you. If you are open to meeting us or receiving letters and pictures from us, we would really like that. Because we are currently living in an open adoption, we know how much commitment and effort it takes. Since we believe that maintaining an open relationship is in a child's best interest, we will always do our part to make sure our children understand how much they are loved by their birthfamilies.

Please know that our journey of parenthood is also a spiritual one. We ask for God's help in every aspect of our lives, including the decisions we make as parents. We are honored to be raising our child in the Roman Catholic faith and always do our best to pray together, attend church, and talk about our beliefs as a family.

We can only begin to imagine how difficult this decision must be for you, but we want you to know how much we admire and respect your choice to make an adoption plan for your child. St. Paul writes, "Do everything in love." Your careful consideration for the future of your child is an act of pure love, and our promise to welcome a child whom we have not yet met into our family is also undertaken with the most sincere kind of love. We wish you all the best as you thoughtfully move forward with the Spirit of Love guiding you.

Blessings & Peace,

Shawn and Lisa

If you'd like to find out more about us or see even more pictures of our family, please visit our website:
<http://www.shawnandlisa.blogspot.com>

