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Tom

Sheri

Job Description:

Retirement Planning Specialist

Regional Casualty Claims Supervisor

Education:

Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and a Minor in Marketing.

Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, Minor Degree in Geography Associate in Claim Certified Aerobic Instructor and Personal Trainer

Favorites:

Hobby
Landscaping

Hobby
Exercising and Scrapbooking

Quality About My Spouse
Her compassion

Quality About My Spouse
His infectious laugh and sense of humor

Childhood Memory
Playing baseball

Childhood Memory
Playing school with my sister

Magazine
Sports Illustrated

Magazine
Self Magazine

Thing to Cook
Steak

Thing to Cook
Lasagna

Children:
None

Our Strengths as Parents

We believe being a parent is a person's most important obligation. We know you understand, since you are considering the painful decision of placing your child for adoption because you only want what's best. Please know that we stand ready for the commitment of raising a child from infancy to adulthood. Over 16 years of marriage, we have been active in the lives of our 14 nieces and nephews, who range in age from 29 years to 10 months. Several family members have asked us to take responsibility for their children should anything happen to the parents. We are proud and humbled to have been asked to do this, just as we are honored for you to even consider allowing us to adopt your baby.

We have much to offer your child. Tom brings the acceptance and flexibility of having grown up in a big family and being an uncle since age 11. He is open-minded about what can happen over a child's life. He has a great sense of humor and loves to joke and laugh, while at the same time holding fast to his values and beliefs.

Sheri offers years of experience in paying attention to the ups and downs of her nieces' and nephews' lives. She is a compassionate listener and always remembers special dates with cards or gifts.

Together, we look forward to the joys and challenges of daily life with a child, from reading stories, singing songs and playing games, to sitting down to healthy family dinners, drying tears and gently but firmly providing rules and limits.

Education We Will Provide Your Child

We will help this child achieve the highest level of education he or she can. We are college graduates who earned our degrees through different journeys. Sheri went to college right out of high school, while Tom worked for several years first. Going to college at night while working full time helped him appreciate his degree that much more.

We think it's important to be involved in the child's education. Tom works from home and plans to volunteer at school so he can better help the child with homework and learning. We're both excited about being a part of a child's education and schooling.

Sheri looks forward to being active in the parent-teacher organization. Tom wants to help coach a sports team. We think that if parents are involved in a child's school life, it helps the relationship between child and teacher and makes sure that problems don't go unnoticed.

Our House and Neighborhood



Our Ohio community has great schools and good parks with swimming pools. We like living in a smaller city that encourages community spirit with family events like the Fourth of July parade and fireworks. Our neighborhood organizes an annual block party and Easter egg hunt. It has 150 homes on five streets, with sidewalks, lots of mature trees and a walking path through a natural area. We think it's important that children spend time outdoors and have friends living nearby. Our neighborhood is full of children of all ages.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Back of Our House

Our house has four bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. It sits on an acre of land, so there's lots of room for kids to play, in addition to plants and flowers and the vegetable garden we planted last year. We chose our home because of the many trees and serene beauty. From the nursery, you can see the wooded area and imagine the adventures a child will have wandering among the trees. If your child comes to live with us, he or she will grow up learning to love nature, especially the deer that come to visit our yard almost daily.

Inside, our home is warm, cozy and family-friendly. Knowing we would someday welcome a child, we chose furniture that was comfortable and easy to clean. The basement is carpeted and furnished but purposely not fancy so it can be a great place for a child to play and make their own.

Our Extended Families

Family is a very important to us. We're both close to our siblings. Tom had a great time growing up with his four brothers and four sisters. One of his favorite memories is playing wiffle ball with his brothers in the summer. One of Sheri's favorite memories is when she and her sister created a holiday called Sister's Day and celebrated by making each other a gift.

Holidays with Sheri's family are cozy gatherings over dinner and board games or cards. She fondly recalls the Easter egg hunts of her childhood, a tradition that continues with her niece and nephew. Although Tom's mother died several years ago, his older sister has continued the traditional Christmas Eve party, a highlight of Tom's year. As many as 30 people gather for a sit-down dinner, gift exchange and lots of games, talk and laughter. The little kids love taking turns trying to break open the Christmas piñata, and everyone enjoys the Wii bowling tournaments.

We want to bring a child into the embrace of our extended families and their traditions. On Father's Day, we invited our parents to be the first to hear the news of our decision to adopt. It was a joy when Tom's dad said, "I can't think of two better people to do this." When the rest of our families heard the news, they were equally excited and supportive. Our 8-year-old niece on Sheri's side of the family has even started carrying dolls around to practice her baby-holding skills.



Tom's Family



Sheri's Family

Our Leisure Time



Trip to Napa Valley

We love to travel. We've especially enjoyed taking Sheri's sister's children on several trips around the Midwest, Florida and South Carolina.

Not long ago, we went on a cruise to Costa Rica, Belize and Panama, with Sheri's family and her best friend and her family. We relaxed together and did a lot of sightseeing. One of the best times was on a rainy day, just sitting by the ship's pool, watching the kids swim in the rain.

Spending time with friends is also important to us. We met on a night when each of us was out with our best friend. We didn't exchange phone numbers, but the next day, Tom left a note for Sheri at the place where she worked, asking her to call him. She did and the rest is history. But not just for us: The friends who introduced us started dating, too, and eventually got married. We're all best friends 20 years later.



Summer in Put-N-Bay, Ohio



Trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Tom & Sheri



Enjoying an OSU Buckeye Football Game



Vacation at Pebble Beach



Summer at the Shore



Our Nephew, Ian

Dear Birthparent(s),

We cannot fully imagine what you are going through as you consider the possibility of an adoption plan for your child. We want to thank you for being willing to do whatever it takes to give your baby the best opportunity at a wonderful life.

Let us tell you a bit about us. We met through friends - Sheri's best friend from elementary school and Tom's friend from high school. They didn't plan on playing matchmaker, but their introduction changed our lives and we will soon celebrate our 17th wedding anniversary.

Not long after we were married, we began to try to have a family. But things didn't work as we planned. As it became clear we would not be able to conceive a child of our own, we believed our role might be to be the best aunt and uncle we could to our beloved nieces and nephews. Still, we felt something was missing, and found we yearned for a family of our own.

Arriving at the decision to adopt has been a journey, one that has made us stronger, emotionally and spiritually. We've always believed things happen for a reason. Maybe we weren't able to have a biological child because there is another soul out there that we are meant to love, nurture and protect.

We've been lucky to be part of the lives of our eight nephews and six nieces, who range in age from young adults to 10 months old. We're especially close to the son and daughter of Sheri's sister, whom we've loved as if they were our own since they were born. We are grateful Sheri's sister and husband have allowed us to be such a big part of their children's lives. We've taken them on vacation with us and one year took them to celebrate Thanksgiving with Tom's big, extended family, where they were welcomed as if they'd always been there.

We believe your child should know about his or her adoption because it will be a story of great love. We plan to let you child know as much as they can understand about how they came to be a wonderful part of our family. Honesty is central to our marriage and will be important in raising your child. He or she will grow up knowing that your love was so great that you made a most difficult decision to place your child with a family that could offer what you are not yet able to.

Our experiences growing up in close families and being part of the lives of so many children make us want more than ever to share our love and wisdom with a child on a daily basis, in a family of our own. We look forward to the joys and challenges of helping a baby grow through childhood to being a caring, responsible adult.

We are in a good position to raise a family, having established ourselves emotionally and financially over 16 years of marriage. We are strongly bonded as a couple and have close connections with friends and family. We have a lot of love to give, and would be honored for you to consider letting us share it with your child.

Please know that we are willing to send you letters and photographs. We believe in having a close and open relationship with the child. And while we believe in being clear about values and morals, we think it's important to respect a child's unique qualities and won't act like "it's our way or the highway."

Thank you for reading our profile, but most of all for considering adoption for your child. We cannot imagine a more loving act than being willing to do whatever you can to give your child the best possible life. And if that leads you to allow us the privilege and responsibility of raising your baby, know that we would consider ourselves blessed beyond our ability to express.

We wish you all the peace in the world as you struggle with this decision. May God be with you.

Tom and Sheri

