

Ryan & Kelly

We love to laugh, and will provide a warm, fun and happy home for your child.
We will always do our best to guide our children as they learn to navigate
the world, developing into kind, thoughtful and well-rounded people.



ADOPTION BY
GENTLE CARE

Serving as a partner in creating and sustaining nurturing families

370 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, SUITE 2, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-5433
TOLL-FREE: (800) 824-9633

About Ryan

BIRTH YEAR: 1981

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Medical Physicist at a large hospital system, overseeing imaging equipment quality control and radiation policy

EDUCATION:
Ph.D. & Master's in Medical Physics, Bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering

FAVORITE SPORT/HOBBY:
Cycling

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"You gotta look good out there."

FAVORITE QUALITY ABOUT KELLY:
Her supreme awesomeness

CHILDREN: WREN - BORN AND ADOPTED IN MAY 2014

About Kelly

BIRTH YEAR: 1981

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Previously worked in urban design, economic development and city planning. Currently on full-time kiddo duty.

EDUCATION:
Bachelor's in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Master's in City & Regional Planning

FAVORITE SPORT/HOBBY:
Yoga

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Don't waste your energy trying to change opinions... Do your thing, and don't care if they like it." - Tina Fey

FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK:
Charlotte's Web

Our Strengths as Parents

ABOUT RYAN (BY KELLY): Ryan is a great dad. He's incredibly smart — I can already imagine him helping out with future homework and science projects. He has a fabulous sense of humor and a natural ability to roll with whatever life throws at him. Even in tense situations, he's usually able to crack a joke and make people laugh. I know his future involves lots of playing, riding bikes, building tree houses and passing on his sense of adventure to our children.

ABOUT KELLY (BY RYAN): Kelly is an absolutely fantastic mom. While I can't credit her entirely with how awesome Wren is, she's certainly played a pretty major part. Kel has an incredible sense of humor and is kind, patient and understanding; all of which are qualities that I know come in handy both for being a parent and for being married to me. Anyone seeing Kelly interact and play with our daughter can instantly see that she is a great mom and someone that Wren and I are lucky to have in our lives.

Our Home and Community

We live in an in-town neighborhood in a large city. We feel it's the best of both worlds: city living and a small community. Downtown is a few minutes away and we have access to museums, sports, concerts and everything else the city offers. Though we're so close to the city, our neighborhood feels very much like a small community. We love that you don't need a car to get around. As a result, we take a lot of family walks — to the corner grocery, restaurants, the library, the park/playground or the ice cream shop. Our neighborhood is a great place to raise children. It's a diverse community that is family-friendly and full of activity. There are multiple schools, churches and parks within walking distance, which means plenty of playgrounds to explore; plus there are ball fields and a public pool as well as a weekly farmers market. Just like our neighborhood, our home has its own quirky personality. We live in a cozy, cottage-style house that is more than 100 years old. We've got a great little yard and plenty of driveway/patio real estate that our daughter, Wren, loves to cover with sidewalk chalk masterpieces. Our personal style is happy and modern, and we look forward to providing a cheerful and bright home for your child.

Our Dog, Montydog

We have one dog, a 10-year-old Boston Terrier named Montydog. Monty is extremely lively and funny; for the most part, his major life goals appear to be playing and snuggling. Monty is a kid-magnet; luckily he loves children just as much as they love him and he is quick to dish out kisses and snuggles whenever little friends approach him. He is extremely patient with Wren and always super sweet to everyone he meets.





Our Families

We feel incredibly lucky to each come from wonderfully loving and supportive families. On both sides, we've got some pretty large extended families — way too many people to fully describe here — but we do want to say that in addition to the family information below, please be aware that there is many an aunt, uncle and cousin with tons of love to share, and they are all very eager to help welcome a new child into the family. Like every family, ours is a special mixture of love and craziness, and we feel very fortunate to have them in our lives.

Kelly's family includes her mother and stepfather, her younger brother and stepsister, as well as her father and stepmother. Both Kelly's sets of parents live on the coast (one in Florida, and the other in North Carolina), and the whole family loves the water, swimming and taking long beach walks. Additionally, many of the extended members of this side of the family live in Ohio, so we get to see relatives on a pretty regular basis.

Ryan's family includes his parents (who have been married almost 40 years), his younger brother and his wife, and his older sister along with her husband and three children. Ryan's family is very close, and although we do not live as near to each other as we would like, the family talks, emails, and video chats multiple times each week. Everyone on this side of the family is unbelievably laid back, with a great sense of humor — family gatherings are always eagerly anticipated and extremely fun. Typically, Ryan's dad will make more food than any normal group of people could eat, and we'll all chow down, relax and crack each other up.

With this side of the family, the biggest tradition is spending the Fourth of July at the beach in South Carolina, where Ryan's parent both grew up. We rent a house with his parents, brother and sister, and throughout the week, various family and friends continuously drift in and out. The whole family goes over the top with red, white, and blue decorations for July 4th.

Education for Your Child

Education is very important to us; we both attended college and graduate school. While we enjoyed school, we also understand that every child is different and we do not expect this child will automatically enjoy school or certain subjects just because we did. Instead, we will do our best to expose this child to an array of creative learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. We will go camping, play music, visit the zoo, build models, explore museums and read books with this child. We will do our best to nurture the inquisitive nature in children and to expose your child to interesting and diverse experiences that will help develop his or her sense of discovery. We will do our best to help this child develop into a thoughtful and imaginative person and an independent thinker.

What It Means to be Parents

Obviously being a parent means loving and caring for a child. You are taking on the responsibility to meet this little person's needs for the rest of your life! In addition, we believe that being a parent means creating a home where your child will feel loved, safe and happy. It means allowing that child the freedom to explore creatively and to dream as big as they can, but also equipping them with the skills to navigate the world and teaching them how to deal with both the good and the bad they will encounter in life. It means helping another person to see and appreciate all of the amazing people, places and experiences that the world has to offer. Becoming parents is such an enormous responsibility; it requires a huge amount of love and patience, constantly putting the needs of your child ahead of your own desires. We know that we're ready to do this with another child. We often describe our life together as a series of adventures, and we're ready for this new adventure, too.

How Adoption has Affected Us

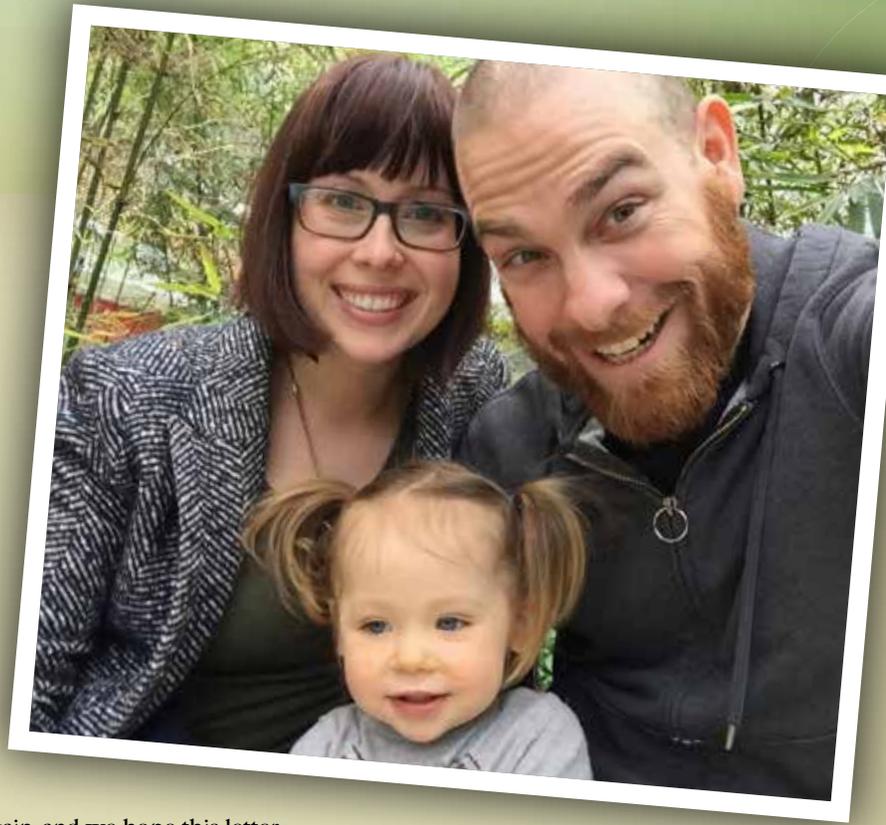
We adopted our daughter, Wren, in 2014 and it has been one of the best experiences of our lives. We have an open relationship with both of Wren's birth parents, as well with as their families. While openness has been a learning curve for us all, we are now profoundly proud of and grateful for these relationships. It means a lot to us that Wren will know where she came from and the relatives who look like her, and that she will know so many people who love her. We visit some of Wren's birth family fairly regularly, and some we see a few times per year; however, everyone has access to a private Instagram that we set up just for Wren. We post a picture every day, and it has been a great way for everyone to keep up with Wren's adventures. We are particularly lucky to have a close relationship with Wren's birth mom. We visit frequently and are so glad to have her in our lives. Wren's birth mom is also an adoptee, so we know that as Wren grows up, their bond will deepen, as they will be able to share that experience.

Even before we decided to become parents, adoption was important in our family: Ryan's mom and aunt were both adopted as infants, and the family has always been open about adoption. We believe that having other adoptees in the extended family will help our children feel even more connected and supported throughout life.

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

This is a hard letter to write, and we are struggling to find the words to introduce ourselves during what must be a very complicated time in your life. We realize that you are in the midst of an extremely difficult decision; no matter what you ultimately choose, we hope you know that we admire and respect you for considering adoption. You clearly have an incredible capacity for love, courage and selflessness, and we admire your strength and your dedication to your child.

Our names are Ryan and Kelly. We've been together for more than 17 years, and married for the last eight. We met in high school, and in some ways have grown up together. Although our relationship has certainly matured over the years, we are lucky to feel just as crazy about each other today as when we first met! We are the proud adoptive parents of an amazing daughter, and are hoping to bring another child into our family. We are excited about adopting again, and we hope this letter will help explain who we are and what your child's life would be like if we are selected as their adoptive family. Additionally, we recognize that it's probably strange and difficult to try to get a full sense of who we are through this letter alone. ... Please know we are open to meeting and potentially building a relationship with you if you're interested.



Sooo, who are we? We're both a little goofy, and have a lighthearted relationship full of laughter and humor. We live in an in-town neighborhood that feels like a little oasis within the city. It has the feeling of a smaller, tightly-knit yet awesomely diverse community ... but it's also a little bit funky, just like us. We both grew up in the south and moved to Ohio about three and a half years ago. Since then, we've enjoyed exploring new places, sampling delicious new foods (OMG: pierogies!) and generally getting to know our new home. We view life as an adventure, like to travel and be outdoors whenever possible, and are seemingly always on the move. In case you couldn't guess by the pierogi comment, we also LOVE to eat! Whether it's homemade (Kelly loves to cook) or out on the town, we'll try just about any dish or style of cuisine. Possibly as a direct correlation to our fondness for food, we also try to stay pretty active. Ryan is a devoted cyclist, and rides and races in just about any kind of cycling activity you can imagine. Kelly practices yoga, and has really loved getting more and more involved in that community.

We have a wonderful, goofy, sweet, funny daughter, who was born/adopted in 2014. She is an incredible little person, and we know she'll be a crazy fabulous big sister. We're excited about bringing another child into our family and sharing the things we love with him or her. We look forward to helping your child develop his or her own unique interests and passions, whatever they might be. We love to laugh, and will provide a warm, fun and happy home for your child. We will always do our best to guide our children as they learn to navigate the world, developing into kind, thoughtful and well-rounded people. We value education and will foster your child's creativity and exploration of the world around them. We view parenthood as a lifelong commitment, and will be there to love and support your child through all the ups and downs they will experience — both in childhood and as an adult. Additionally, our extended families are just as eager to offer this child their love as grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles.

We will always honor your love for this child and respect your decision regarding adoption. We will be forever grateful to you, and from the youngest age your child will always know about their adoption, how special you are, and how much you love them. We promise to stay in touch with you through letters and pictures. However, if you're interested, we're also open to exploring a deeper relationship and more communication with you. We can't promise what exactly this relationship would look like, but we can tell you that we feel extremely lucky to have built (and continue to build) a warm, open and loving relationship with our daughter's birth families.

Thank you for reading our letter and for taking the time to learn about us. We wish you the best in your pregnancy, and as you face the decision regarding adoption. Whatever you ultimately choose, we hope you are able to find peace and certainty in your heart.

Sincerely,

Ryan & Kelly