



Anthony & Erica

Our dream is that the child will grow up to know how valuable and loved they are and become an individual who will give that love back to the world.



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 Anthony

BIRTH YEAR: 1977

JOB DESCRIPTION:

I teach high school mathematics, Algebra II, Pre-calculus and AP Calculus for grades 10-12.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in education, master's degree in math specialization

FAVORITE QUALITY ABOUT ERICA:

She is the most giving and caring person I have ever met.

FAVORITE EXERCISE ACTIVITY:

Cardio on my elliptical while watching ESPN.

FAVORITE DESSERT:

Cheesecake with cherry topping

About Erica

BIRTH YEAR: 1976

JOB DESCRIPTION:

I am a second grade teacher in a public school system.

I will take a year off and stay at home when we have a baby.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in elementary education, master's degree in special education

FAVORITE QUALITY ABOUT ANTHONY:

Anthony is responsible, trustworthy, and gentle.

FAVORITE EXERCISE ACTIVITY:

Yoga. It helps me de-stress and relax after a day's work!

FAVORITE DESSERT:

Cheesecake with raspberry topping

Our Home and Community

We both owned houses before we met, and after we got married we moved into (Erica's) house. Our house is very cozy and comfortable. We live in a small neighborhood close to parks, bike trails, shopping and restaurants. There are many children of all ages in the area. There is a preserve in the backyard, so no one can build there. We love sitting on our deck or looking out the window into the woods during each season. This house is a great starter home and we could raise a few children here, however, it has always been our intention to buy a "forever" home together. When the time is right, we will look into an area that is close to family, has great schools, promotes positive diversity, and will be a wonderful place to give our child/children an amazing life.

Why We Chose Adoption

Having children and raising a family has always been important to the both of us. Before we were married, we discussed adopting children if there was some reason we could not get pregnant with biological children. We were very excited and eager to start our family, and we began trying to get pregnant about one month after we were married. Since we were in our thirties, we knew that it may take some time and we started meeting with doctors after about four months of trying. We were tested, tried medications, changed our diets, took vitamins, had fertility massages, got acupuncture, and had 3 IUI's done. Doctors diagnosed us with "unexplained infertility." Our pregnancy journey has been a very emotional and confusing ride, but our faith has given us hope that our dreams of having a family will one day become a reality. After trying to conceive for two and a half years and spending much time in prayer, we felt lead to start the adoption process. We met with friends who went through adoption, and they shared their experience with us and led us to an adoption agency. After meeting with the agency, we felt even more excited and at peace with the decision to adopt. Both of us could not see our lives being truly fulfilled without a child or children to raise.



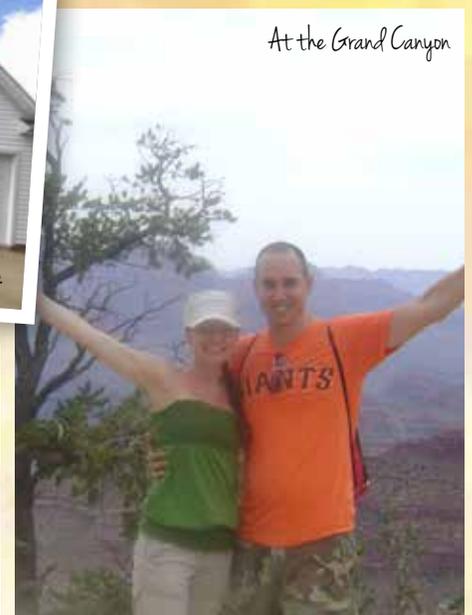
Playing with our nephew



Our Home!



Cheering on the Giants!



At the Grand Canyon



Our Families

ERICA: I have been blessed with a truly wonderful family. I am the oldest of four. I have a brother and two sisters. We all have awesome relationships with one another. Sadly, my mother passed away 12 years ago. She was the greatest woman on Earth and she is missed very much. However, she left behind an amazing legacy and I know I am very fortunate to hold so many wonderful memories in my heart. My dad is dating a woman and I am thankful he has found a great person to continue life's journey with. My brother is married and has two boys (ages 4 and 2) and a stepdaughter who is 14. We all enjoy getting together for family time throughout the year. We make it a point to spend time together at least once a month, and we usually take turns hosting the different get togethers. Besides celebrating birthdays and holidays, we enjoy the following activities: summer and spring park days and cookouts, bonfires in the fall and pizza-making fun in the winter. My extended family is also a blessing; grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. I look forward to anytime when we get to see each other, which is usually during the holidays and on special occasions. Everyone is so excited about welcoming a new addition to our family! It's wonderful to have so much love, support and encouragement!

ANTHONY: I grew up in a small town about two hours away from where we currently live. My parents divorced when I was about 3 years old. My Dad left and moved away, but I am very close to his side of the family. Growing up, my brother (who is 14 months younger) and I would spend the weekends with my grandparents. They would take us to church and we would have dinner together. They always made sure we were taken care of and showed us love. My grandfather is my hero and I am who I am today because of him. I am close with my aunts, uncles, and cousins who all still live in or close to my hometown. I also have a half-sister and she has three young children. One of my cousins has four children under the age of 7. These are the people we spend our holidays with when my wife and I go to my hometown. We usually see them on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, the Fourth of July, and a few other random celebrations throughout the year. When we are around my family we watch sports, play euchre, have picnics, go swimming and play miniature golf.

My mom and my brother live in Wilmington, North Carolina. We visit them every year and my brother visits here once or twice a year as well. My brother has a 2-year-old son and he and his wife are expecting another boy this summer. We make it a point to Face Time my brother as our nephew is getting older. Technology definitely helps us keep in touch and be a part of each other's lives. When we visit, we go to the beach, swim at the pool, have cook outs and hang out at my mom's and brother's houses.

What We Will Share with a Child

We have this conversation all the time. It seems like there is always something that we think of and say "I can't wait to do this when we have kids." We look forward to so much: helping them in school; teaching them about God, morals and values; sharing our life experiences with them and helping them make good choices; giving advice and supporting and encouraging them in life. If there is an extra-curricular activity that they are interested in, we can't wait to be their biggest fan and share in the hard work and excitement that will come with being involved in sports, music or any of the arts.

We look forward to celebrating holidays and traditions with them: sharing what we are thankful for at Thanksgiving; going to see Santa at Christmas and watching the joy in their eyes as they open gifts; dyeing Easter eggs, going on an egg hunt and watching them look for their hidden Easter basket; watching fireworks and playing with sparklers; family cookouts and birthday celebrations. We can't wait to have family game and movie nights, go to the zoo, go for hikes and bike rides, watch our favorite sport teams, and have family dinners.

Every year, we visit family in North Carolina. Since we are both teachers, we have our summers off work. This gives us time to travel to new places. Having a child share in these experiences will make them even more worthwhile. We both grew up with lots of cousins and some of our favorite childhood and adulthood memories involve time spent with them. We have young nephews who can't wait to have a cousin to play, explore and have sleepovers with.

Dear Birth Parent(s),

It's hard to find the right words to express what's in our hearts that can in some way reach out to yours. We have spent time in prayer with the hope that you will feel loved as you read what we have to say. We first want to thank you for considering adoption as the life you want to give your child. We are sure this time in your life is filled with confusion, fear and uncertainty. We want you to know that we are praying for you to feel at peace with whatever decision you may end up making.

It has always been our heart's desire to have a family. We discussed this early on in our relationship and it was one of the ties that brought us together. We met in the beginning of June 2012, got engaged in February 2013 and were married at the end of May in the same year. We were both established in life and knew what we wanted so we didn't waste any time.

Our journey to become parents has been very emotional and confusing, but also has strengthened our relationship as a couple. It has led us deeper into our faith and made us give up control and trust God with our future. These last few years have built up patience inside of us and have given us time to enjoy life as a couple; some of God's blessings in disguise.

Raising a child in this day and age will be challenging at times. We will rely on our faith and family to help guide us along the journey. We hope to provide many experiences and opportunities that will allow the child to find their way in life and be truly happy. We will go to church together, teach the child about God's love and pray with them. Our dream is that the child will grow up to know how valuable and loved they are and become an individual who will give that love back to the world.

We live a simple life, are hard workers and try to enjoy life to the fullest. Since we are both teachers, we look forward to our summer breaks where we can relax and spend time traveling, since the school year is very busy. We live a healthy and active lifestyle that we are ready to share with a child. Family is very important to us and we enjoy all the little moments spent with them. Everyone is so excited to welcome a new addition to the family! We have so much love to give to a child and can't wait to become parents.

We want you to know that our adopted child will know their birth story. We will always be open and honest with them and share what you would have us share. We will seek guidance in explaining their special life to them and in answering any questions that may arise. We want them to know that your love for them led you to us. We will forever be connected and consider it a great blessing! We desire the child to confidently say, "I was Chosen, I was Wanted, I was Cherished, I grew in their Hearts, I was the Missing Piece, I was Loved, I was Adopted." - *Unknown*

Thank you so much for spending time getting to know us. We hope you have gotten a good picture of who we are as individuals and a couple after reading our profile and this letter. May you know love, joy and peace.

With much love and respect,

Anthony & Erica

