Raising a child in a loving home has always been the most important thing to us. We both feel very lucky to have supportive families and want to provide the kind of happy life, love, and opportunities that we’ve had to a child.
Dear Birth Parent(s),

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our profile. We are humbled by this process and are sending you strength as you figure out your journey.

We have talked about adopting a child together since we first began dating. Raising a child in a loving home has always been the most important thing to us, whether a child has our genes or not. We both feel very lucky to have supportive families and want to provide the kind of happy life, love, and opportunities that we’ve had to a child.

Our love for children and awe for how they approach each new day is what led us to choose careers in child and family psychology. We spent most of our early adulthood pursuing our degrees to be psychologists, with a focus on teaching strategies to promote children’s development. At work, Rob has a focus on positive parenting techniques – such as using praise and encouragement to help young children reach their full potential. Nicole specializes in encouraging emotional expression and addressing symptoms of depression and anxiety. We can’t wait to help a child explore their world and teach them to be independent, curious, and kind.

Education is very important to us and we look forward to helping a child explore their world to learn, grow, and discover their passions. Our dreams for parenting are to give a child hands-on experiences like watching plants grow in the backyard, volunteering around the community, and exploring parks and museums. We hope to raise a child to grow up to be compassionate and thoughtful as well as independent and well equipped to problem-solve. Our goal is to offer many opportunities to share what life has to offer so we can help them grow into their best self.

We can’t imagine the weight of the choice you have, but hope you know a child in our home will have lots of love, laughter, and learning. Your importance does not end at the time of adoption, but stretches on throughout the rest of their life. If you are open to being a part of the child’s life, we welcome you as part of our family. However you choose to be involved, you will always be a significant part of their story as they grow up. Thank you for considering our family, we are thinking of you.

Nicole & Rob

Beginning the rest of our lives! Our Wedding Day, August 11, 2012.
We met in 2008, when Nicole was interviewing for graduate school at Kent State University. Rob was 3 years into the program at the time and she eventually forgave him for giving wrong directions for parking that first day. After a year of working together, we both started finding excuses to stay in the lab longer to spend time together. Nicole liked Rob’s frequent use of puns and Rob loved Nicole’s wit and passion. After a few weeks, Rob got up the nerve ask Nicole to a concert and we’ve been inseparable ever since.

Nine months into our relationship Rob had to move to Kansas City for a one year residency, but skype dinner dates, synchronized movies, and online card games were nightly rituals that solidified how important our relationship was to both of us. Rob proposed to Nicole as soon as he moved back to Ohio. Because of the nature of our training, we had 6 years that we did not know if we would live in the same place together the next year. Throughout even the most stressful moments, we have never doubted our commitment to each other and our relationship. We were thrilled in 2015 when we both got jobs at the same children’s hospital and bought our first home together in an area we love to call “home.”
Nicole on Rob

Rob is a man who makes everyone’s day better. In any situation he is the one to make a pun to break the ice, to ask how other’s days are, and to start activities so everyone can have fun. He is patient and gives others the benefit of the doubt – believing in the good and not passing judgement. He is intelligent, thoughtful, and a good team player. His strength is in seeing big-picture ideas and seeing things through.

I knew I wanted to marry Rob within a few weeks of meeting. There was such a sense of acceptance in our conversations. We were on the same page about everything we discussed – entertainment, parenting, friendships, and career goals. He is the person I want to be around all of the time. He inspires me to take time to really enjoy moments and embrace the small victories. We spend most evenings on the back porch playing cards and catching up on our days. He is a great listener and offers good perspectives when I feel stuck in a situation. I respect his commitment to our partnership, and believe we really face all tasks together from working on a budget, to cleaning the house, to planning a vacation together. While I may not believe in perfect people – he is my perfect person.

Rob on Nicole

The first things that attracted me to Nicole were how she is smart, funny, and fast on her feet. She is one of the most hard working and dedicated people I’ve ever met. She brings this passion to everything in her life, whether it’s with family, work, friends, or advocating for women’s rights. She’s the person who makes sure that everyone is taken care of and comfortable. I love that she doesn’t ask what she can do to help others, she just finds ways to help and takes action. Most of all, I love how she makes every day activities feel like we’re having the time of our lives with excitement and creativity.

Two months into dating Nicole, I watched her playing with our friend’s young children. Seeing how she got down to their level and played with them with such genuine joy and enthusiasm, I knew I wanted raise children with her. She is able to step into a child’s world in such an effortless and natural way – she makes learning activities seem like they are just playing. Raising a child is such a huge responsibility, but having her as a partner in life, I feel confident to face everything parenthood has in store for us.

Nicole on Rob

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Rob at a Glance

**Birth year:** 1983  
**Occupation:** Pediatric Psychologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital  
**Education:** Ph.D. in Child and Family Psychology  
**Favorite Vacation:** Our Honeymoon in Jamaica  
**Favorite TV Show:** Scrubs  
**Relaxes by:** Running  
**Favorite Quote:** “The person who says they can and the person who says they cannot are both right.”

Nicole at a Glance

**Birth year:** 1985  
**Occupation:** Pediatric Psychologist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital  
**Education:** Ph.D. in Child and Family Psychology  
**Favorite Vacation:** Charleston, South Carolina  
**Favorite TV Show:** Friends and Grey’s Anatomy  
**Relaxes by:** Cooking  
**Favorite Quote:** “Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it turned into a butterfly.”

Love to hit the trails  

Lawn games in the backyard
Our Home & Community

We live in a suburb of Columbus, OH, a short drive to downtown. We love how living near the city gives the opportunity for a child to visit museums, festivals, and events, while still living in a safe and comfortable area with more of a small town feel. Our suburb has great schools within a diverse community so a child would be involved with others from a variety of backgrounds. The elementary and middle schools are both less than a mile away and there are lots of parks in our neighborhood for sports and activities.

Our house is on 1/3 of an acre with a fenced in backyard. Long summer days in the backyard playing lawn games and in the sprinkler is our idea of a fun afternoon, which we look forward to sharing with a child. Our home has 4 bedrooms and a finished basement that we hope to use to host sleepovers and parties.

We love to be outdoors, so we typically go to a metro-park most weekends and look for new restaurants. We spend a lot of time with our friends, many who have children, grilling dinner, playing lawn games, and watching college football.

We have only had Bingo since December 2016 but he has changed our lives forever. He is a 7 year old beagle-corgi mix, though the only thing corgi about him is his tail! We don’t know much about his history because we adopted him through a rescue shelter that had him for a long time. When he first came to our home he was timid and quiet, but with time, love, and lots of treats we were able to build trust and bring out his playful side. He is very well behaved around children and dogs. We look forward to coming home to such a sweet, welcoming face every day!
Nicole’s Family. Childhood with my parents and two younger sisters was filled with fun, including exploration of local parks, having neighborhood children over, and long nights playing board/card games. My parents and youngest sister live in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, a few hours from our home. My middle sister lives near us, and we get together weekly. There is a constant text chain among my immediate family so we can see pictures and hear updates about everyone’s day. I am grateful that my parents emphasized education, caring for all people, and responsibility which has shaped who I am. Given the great role models I had as parents, I knew I wanted to make children’s lives better – which inspired me to pursue my doctorate in child/family psychology. Before graduate school, I attended Michigan State University where my parents and many of my aunts and uncles went so we can all cheer on Sparty together. I have a large extended family on both of my parents’ sides with many cousins. One of my favorite times of year is when everyone is in town and we laugh and tell stories throughout the holidays.

Rob’s Family. I grew up in a suburb of Washington, DC. My Mom was stationed there playing the flute for the US Marine band at the White House. It’s hard to make a career out of being a classical musician, but she showed me that passion and hard work can really make dreams come true. She instilled my love of activity, with lots of hiking, camping, and biking with friends. When she retired, she moved to Portland, Oregon, a funky town we love to visit and hike around the west coast. My Dad and stepmother now live in Boston and have been together for over 25 years. I credit my stepmom with almost all of my sense of humor. Seeing how they balance each other, hold each other accountable, and always keep the mood light has been an inspiration for me in my marriage. We also love to spend time with my older twin sisters and their sons – learning the newest Wii U games, playing sports, and just catching up.

For more information about our family, please contact Adoption by Gentle Care at 1-800-824-9633.