

# Ryan & Heather

## Our Story

*"It is sometimes said that adoption is like a union rather than a birth: There are many individuals involved each with their own unique mix of needs, patterns, and genetic history all coming together with common components of love, hope, and the commitment for a shared future. We believe that you become a family not because you share the same genes, but because you share love for each other."*

*Joan McNamara-Adoptive parent*



## Dear Birthparent(s)

We marvel at your strength and courage for considering an adoption plan. We cannot even begin to envision the emotions and physical anguish that you are going through during the course of this process. What we do know however; is that we are blessed to have this opportunity to share with you a little bit about ourselves. Here is our story...

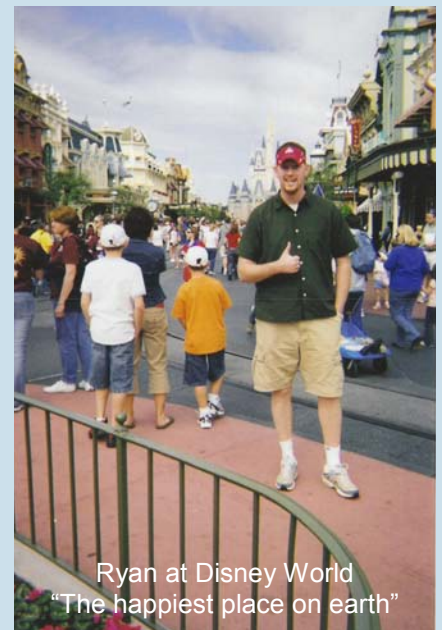
We met our junior year of high school. We had the same first period class so our lockers were close to each other. Ryan was always flirting with Heather and then one day he asked if she wanted his phone number. He quickly then asked if he could have Heather's phone number and called her that evening. We have been together ever since. We have been together for fourteen years, married for eight. We have always dreamed about having a family since the beginning of "us." We have tried to have a child for several years now and when we found out that we could not naturally have children we were both devastated. Amongst the hurt and pain of not being able to have children we have become even closer. After much discussion and prayer we realized adopting a child is the choice for us. We are both very excited and are ready to share our life with a child.

We have experienced firsthand on how a family is created out of love and not just by blood. Ryan was adopted by his father at a very young age after his birthfather had passed away and his mother and father married. Ryan had a very close relationship with his father until he passed away in 2002 from a five year battle with cancer. He is still very much with us in spirit and our child will know how wonderful their grandfather was.

From the beginning our child will know they are truly a beautiful blessing and will know the story of how they came into our lives. We will always share your story and the love it took for you to make this decision for their future.

## Heather About Ryan

Ryan has a very outgoing personality. He loves to joke around and make people laugh. Ryan can also be a little stubborn, he likes to say it is because he has red hair, but his stubbornness makes me laugh. One day Ryan insisted he could still climb a tree like he used to do as a boy. He grabbed the tree branch and tried to pull himself up but ended up just dangling there. We both ended up just laughing until we cried. Ryan is also "Mr. Fix It" around the house. He always seems to know just how things go together. We like to say he has the "street smarts" and I have the "book smarts." He is also a compassionate and very caring person and my best friend. I admire Ryan as he has pursued many goals in his life. He has been an EMT while in college and has traveled out west as a wildland firefighter. Ryan is currently a crisis management supervisor for a large company in central Ohio. His desire to help others has led him to his other job as a Realtor which he does part-time. I value his hard work and attitude for being honest and listening to others needs. Ryan grew up active in sports, especially basketball thanks to his height. Ryan was also active in boy scouts and still enjoys the outdoors to this day. He cannot wait to go camping and hiking with our child. Spending time with family is important to Ryan. He is great with our nieces and nephews playing Wii or listening to them and I know he will make a great father.



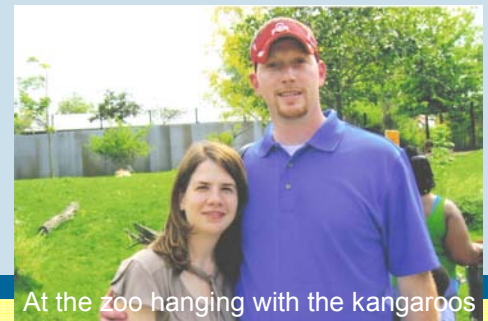
Ryan at Disney World  
"The happiest place on earth"

## Ryan About Heather

Heather is my best friend, and my foundation of internal strength and motivation. She is always there when I need somebody to lean on when the world seems to be throwing only curve balls. Heather has a very strong drive and work ethic. She has always known what she wanted to be in life since she was a child; which is an Architect. Heather has received her Masters Degree in Architecture and has completed her long journey to achieve her career goal of becoming a licensed Architect. Along her way she has achieved many honors and awards for her hard work. Heather has a passionate interest in architectural history and preservation of old buildings. Growing up Heather was active in sports and took almost a decade of tap and jazz. To this day she has been very patient in teaching me a couple of her 'famous' dance moves i.e. the running man and knowing when it is the right moment to deploy the flashy jazz hands... Heather loves to cook healthy natural foods and is always trying out new recipes with occasionally improvising on some of the ingredients... Heather reads anything she can get her hands on. Heather's favorite book to read is her collection of Jane Austen novels. I sincerely feel in my heart that Heather is a mother without the ability to have her own children. Heather is a soft hearted, caring person who has a lot of love to give a child.

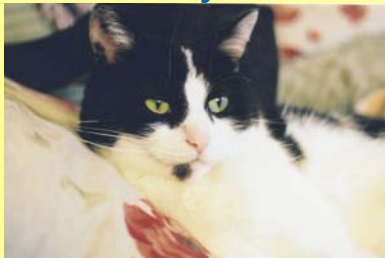


Heather riding the historical carousel



At the zoo hanging with the kangaroos

## Our Pet Family



**Sydney** is our first pet together. We got her when we left for college and she lived with Ryan in his apartment. As a kitten she was more a dog than a cat. She loved playing fetch and running around. Now in her senior adult years she mainly loves to spend her day asleep on the bed.



**Isabelle** 'The Gentle Giant' She is our first dog after getting married. She is an all black German Shepherd with a touch of brown between her toes. Isabelle is a proven babysitter when she is around our nieces and nephews, she ensures that they do not get into trouble.



**Dinki** is the smallest of the pet family. Ryan got her when he saw a sign for free kittens on a farm and she was the runt of the litter. Dinki is pretty independent but she loves to play with her laser toy and loves to beg for food.



**Teia** was a rescue pup and is the biggest little lover. She is ready to give a hug and a kiss anytime. Teia prefers to greet every person at the dog park and say hi versus running and playing with other dogs. She is constantly wagging her tail and giving us what we call her little "puppy face."

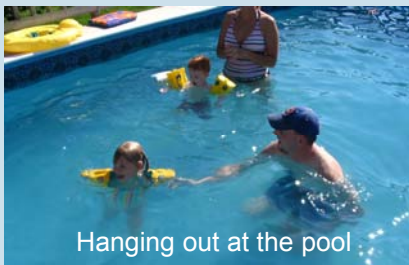
## Our families

While the size of our families are different there is much love and support. Both of our families live close to our hometown which is just a couple hours away. We spend time with our families for birthdays, holidays, or just to hang out. Ryan's mother, now remarried, still resides a couple hours away from central Ohio. His mother has worked in the medical field for a few decades doing what she loves to do; which is helping people. Ryan's older sister is a high school teacher for students with learning disabilities. His sister is involved in coaching girls basketball with the school.

Heather's parents and her younger sister with her family both live out in the country. Heather's parents have a large yard and pool which we all enjoy in the summer. Ryan's extended family lives out of state while Heather has a large extended family who we see at holidays and important family events. We also visit with Heather's paternal grandparents on many national holidays or just to visit. We always enjoy a game of croquet or Sequence and Grandma's good cooking. Heather's paternal grandfather also enjoys dressing up as Santa Claus every Christmas which he has been doing since Heather and her sister were babies. It is a family honored tradition. Our families are excited about our plans for adoption; they cannot wait to welcome our child into the family.



Heather's family  
Colorado river rafting trip



Hanging out at the pool



Last family photo with Ryan's dad



Our niece  
with Heather's Grandpa



Our niece  
Heather's sister's daughter



Our niece & nephews  
Ryan's sister's children

## Our home

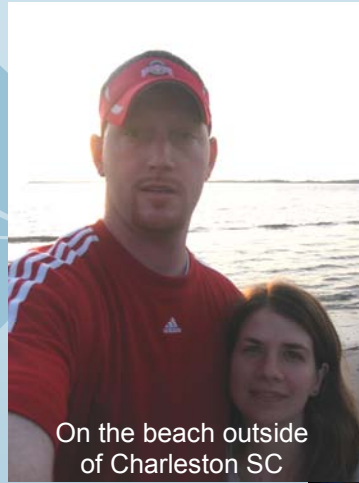


We live in central Ohio in a modest but well cared for split-level home with three bedrooms and two full baths. We have a fenced in backyard that has plenty of room for a swing-set or tire swing. We have a neighborhood park nearby which also has a playground and two baseball diamonds. We have lived in this house since 2002 and have remodeled every square inch of it. We enjoy sitting on the back deck or playing with the dogs in the backyard.



## Our Values

We value honesty, loyalty, trust and open communication. We value being there for each other and will be there for our child as they grow and learn. We also believe in giving back to our community and to always lend a helping hand to a person in need. In the grand scheme of things we both truly believe that the best way to get ahead in life is to work hard and to pursue one's goals. We will teach our child the value of working hard and will be supportive of his or hers goals and dreams. Our child will know the difference between right and wrong and to be responsible for their actions. Our child will grow up seeing Ryan help clean the house and Heather helping cut down tree limbs in the back yard... well maybe not cutting them down but more like helping Ryan pick them up in the back yard. We believe in working together and having respect for one another and this is something we plan to show and teach our child.



On the beach outside of Charleston SC



Humane Society Halloween Pet Parade



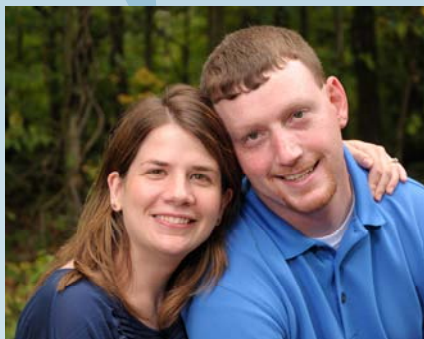
Rocky Mountain National Park



On the Colorado river

## Our Interests

We enjoy spending time outdoors either walking the dogs around the neighborhood or taking bike rides around the several different bike trails in the area. We also enjoy traveling to the many different parks and historical sites that Ohio has to offer. Heather's parents have a boat so we have fun in the summer riding around the lake and then having a picnic on the beach. We enjoy traveling and take a vacation every year. Some of the places we have been are Florida, Colorado, Hawaii, and our favorite place to visit is Charleston, South Carolina because there are great historical sites to visit and also the beach to just hang out and relax or wade in the ocean. We are excited to take our child to see the places we love and to visit even more places throughout the country. We also enjoy just relaxing around the house and watching a movie with a bowl of popcorn. During the holiday season we have a tradition of seeing the holiday lights at the zoo and taking a trip to Wheeling, West Virginia and visiting Oglebay for their Festival of Lights. We are excited to share in these traditions with our child and to create even more traditions with him or her.



## Thank You!

We want to thank you for taking the time to learn more about our story and for allowing us to share a little of our lives. No matter what your decision is during this emotionally and physically draining process we want you to make the best decision and whatever that may be we wish you the best.

Warm Regards,  
Ryan and Heather