

# *Michael and Deidre*

## *Our Story*



*Dear Birthparent(s),*

Hello! Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! As you read through this, we hope to give you some insight on our lives, our love, and the love we have for our future child. We know God intends for us to be parents, and we will wait patiently for the day He brings us all together. We would like to share with you our interests, activities, hopes, dreams, families and...well...our lives. You will probably be reading a lot of these profiles, so please...sit back, relax and enjoy!

We came to the decision to adopt after several years of infertility treatments. Infertility is no picnic, and it can often break up marriages. Thankfully, it only made ours stronger. Finally, we realized that adoption was our true calling. It doesn't matter to us to have a biological child - what matters to us is to have a family.

Our hope is to have an open relationship with you during and after the adoption process, and we will be respectful of your wishes. We would love to be able to share letters, emails, phone calls, and pictures (LOTS of pictures!) with you so you can rest assured that you made the right decision and that your child is in great hands! As your child grows up, we will share with him or her how courageous and gracious you are, and we will support and encourage a relationship between you at the level you and our child are comfortable.

This isn't an easy decision for you to make, and we respect you for considering it. We hope that after reading this, you will have a better understanding of who we are and the incredible life we have planned and can provide for our family.

## All Things Michael (by Deidre)

Michael is an amazing man. He is a kind, funny, caring, and sensitive person with strong values and an unwavering faith. He is my inspiration. I count myself blessed that I was the one he fell in love with. He's usually pretty quiet and somewhat reserved when he first meets people, but once he gets to know someone, he usually can't stop talking! He'll sometimes go off on tangents...we call them his "chickens". (There's a saying "They say I have A.D.D. but they don't understand...Oh look! A chicken!"...haha!) Probably one of the most admirable traits Michael has is his gift with children. He's a great teacher (Teacher of the Year his second year teaching), and an unbelievable coach. Its not only his coaching style, but the way he can relate to his swimmers. These kids look to him to mentor and guide them through life. His ability to relate and inspire his students and swimmers, makes me excited to see how wonderful he will be with our own child. He will be an amazing father.



Michael with the Harper Dog

## All Things Deidre (by Michael)

Deidre is one of the most compassionate women that I've ever known. From the first time that we met in college, I knew that she was the answer to my prayers.

Throughout college, our lives crossed paths often, until one day, I had one of those "A HA" moments! Right then, I told my friend that I was going to marry Deidre some day. She is the love of my life. Deidre has a strong devotion to her family, which is something I love to witness. She is the happiest when we are spending time with them. Deidre loves to play with our nieces and nephews, and she enjoys having long talks with her family and friends, especially with her sister who moved out of state a few years ago. We are a team that works well together. I have realized how genuine and strong she is over the years. She has

a great sense of humor, is outgoing, and is very passionate...and I love that about her. I know deep in my heart that Deidre is ready to embrace motherhood; I'm so excited to watch our family grow and be able to learn together.



Deidre with our niece Sarah

## Our Home and Our Pets

We bought our first house last summer, and have truly made it our home. It is a 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house with tons of room throughout the three floors, and a huge backyard! We have plans to fence in the backyard and redo the landscaping (good thing Deidre works for a landscaper!). Our home is located in the heart of a MetroPark, giving us beautiful scenery, as well as a wealth of outdoor activities, such as hiking, biking, skiing and running. But, we love being indoors too. Our favorite spot in the house is our family room, where we enjoy playing board games, cards, dominos, watching movies, reading, and relaxing. Our home is very inviting and we hope to one day have a child that can grow up in such a family friendly neighborhood.



Anastasia



Bartok

**Anastasia** is the older of our two cats. She was named after the children's movie *Anastasia*. She has an amazing (and sometimes prissy) personality. She thinks she is a dog because she loves to play fetch, plus she comes when you call her name! Ani certainly feels she is befitting of such a princess name!

**Bartok** (also named from the same movie) is our other cat. He loves anyone and everyone, and does everything possible to get attention. He always gives himself away just before getting into something by making a cute little cooing sound!

**Harper** is our one and only dog. We adopted him from the pound. He is a typical Beagle (bugle-bark and all) who loves the outdoors, hiking, and playing in the snow! He's an older dog with a young heart, and our nieces and nephew just adore him!



Harper

## Life for Our Child

We have so many hopes and dreams for our child! We want to provide him or her with a private education, sports and music lessons (to match their talents and interests of course!), and, hopefully some day, a little brother or sister! We can't wait to sit in the bleachers or the audience to cheer our child on for swim meets, piano recitals, tennis matches, school debates...whatever they want to be involved in! We want to provide a lot of experiences for our child through vacations, campouts, traveling, etc. We will strive to help our child reach his or her full potential, while always maintaining an optimistic and positive outlook on life. We will help finance his or her college education, support his or her career and relationship decisions, and provide on-going love and support throughout his or her life. All in all, we just want our child to be happy, healthy and know how very much he or she is loved!



Mike, his Dad, and Dad's girlfriend at one of our many family picnics



Deidre's Mom & Stepdad



Mike & his Mom



Deidre's Dad and Stepmom with their dog, Tucker

## Our Families and Friends

Most of our family is in the same area as us, or within just a couple of hours. We are always getting together for holidays, birthdays, and family dinners. Deidre's dad and stepmom own a farm, so we often pack up the dog and head that way to visit and to help around the farm (when they let us). We can pretty much see all of our family anytime we want! Plus, Deidre's sister's family is only a plane ride away! As you can see, we have a ton of family support, probably even some to share (any takers???)! They are all very supportive of everything we do, and we are always able to rely on them. They are all so excited for us to adopt a child to add to our fun and sometimes crazy (in a good way) family!

We spend Thanksgiving with Deidre's mom and stepdad, playing cards and watching football...typical, yes, but still a tradition! We spend Easter with Michael's Grandma, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Since we've been married, Christmas has always been referred to as the "Christmas Tour"...we start on Christmas Eve at Deidre's mom and stepdad's followed by Christmas Service, then wake up early to enjoy Christmas morning with our cats and dog. We then go to Michael's mom's for brunch, then to his dad's, then to his Grandma's. And we usually go to Deidre's dad and stepmom's the day after Christmas. See what we mean by the Christmas Tour??? But, by the end, its all worth it!

We have some great friends too! They have always been there for us, through thick and thin. We have some friends who have adopted and they are guiding us through this process. Most of our friends have children of their own and they can't wait to share all that they have learned!



Deidre's Sister's family



Some of Mike's family at Grandma's for Christmas



Michael & his brother



Deidre's Brother's family



Deidre's Brother & Stepdad...GO BUCKEYES! (Have we mentioned yet that Deidre is a Michigan fan??? In a family full of Ohio State fans?)

## *Our Background and Values*

Deidre was born and raised in Ohio and attended the public schools, which she excelled in and enjoyed very much. She was often referred to as the "teacher's pet". She was very involved in extracurriculars in high school, like Student Council, sports stats, and tennis, and her favorite subjects were History, Math, and French. Michael moved around a lot as a kid, until his family settled for good in Northeast Ohio. He primarily attended parochial schools, and he was very active in soccer, cross-country running, and track in high school. His favorite subjects were English, Science and History. Michael and Deidre then attended the same private college, where we met. While there, Michael started a service fraternity and he was the captain of the swim team. Deidre was very active in her sorority. Michael is now an elementary school teacher at a Catholic school, which gives him the flexibility to have summers off, and he is a high school and USA swim coach, which is a great excuse to spend time in the pool with the kids! Deidre used her Psychology degree and her love of outdoors by becoming an Operations Assistant for a landscaping company. Deidre's flexible schedule will also be conducive to raising a child. We are both liberal, Catholic Christians, and our child will be raised with the same beliefs. We will enroll him/her in parochial schools (where Michael teaches) in order to help enhance the Christian beliefs he/she will be raised with.



Michael stopping for a pick-me-up during the local half marathon



Kelly's Island, OH

be the one teaching our child all about camping and wildlife! He is big into trail running and swimming (our kid will be a swim-baby!), plus he runs 10Ks and half marathons. Deidre loves to read, shop, and she is getting more into cooking. Michael says she's a great cook, but sometimes she has her doubts ☺. She also likes to cross-stitch on occasion. And we love movies! We aren't really big on going out to the movie theater (unless something really big is coming out like a new Harry Potter movie), but we love to rent movies and just barricade ourselves inside and make a weekend of movies and relaxing!

## *Our Vacations and Interests*

One of our most favorite things to do is to travel! We have been out to Colorado several times, Cape Cod, New Orleans, Washington DC, Mexico, Kelley's Island, Phoenix, Boston, etc. We plan on incorporating as many adventures as possible in our child's life. We also love to hike, bike, and explore new areas. Michael earned his

Eagle Scout in high school, so he will



## *One More Thing...*

We can only begin to imagine how difficult of a decision this must be for you. We know that you will do what is ultimately best for you and your child. We admire you for your strength and for considering such a selfless act. We hope you have enjoyed looking into our lives a little and we look forward to meeting you, if that is what you choose. We are confident in the fact that we will create the best possible life for a child, and we thank you for considering us in your search. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers during this time, and always. God bless you!

