

G U S & T R A C I



DEAR BIRTPARENT(S),

Hello! We feel so happy and blessed that you are taking the time to get to know us a little better! First of all we would like to let you know how courageous and caring we think you are to search for a family for your precious baby. If we are chosen to parent your baby, you will always be very special to our family. Being parents is something we have dreamed about for a long time, and we can honestly say that being unable to have biological children has not made us disheartened, but has let us know that God has a unique and amazing plan for us. We believe with all our hearts that God already knows the child who is meant to be with our family. We have witnessed the beautiful process of adoption as our nieces and nephew were adopted, and look forward to experiencing the creation of our family in this same way. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you before your selection and would be glad to discuss the level of openness that you feel comfortable with. We would like you to know that your baby will always know his or her adoption story and how we came together as a family.

HOW WE MET

We met at work 6 years ago. We work at a nursing home and we started working there within 5 days of each other! Gus does commercial building maintenance with a specialty in heating and air conditioning repair and Traci is a Speech-Language Pathologist and works part-time, mostly with patients who suffer from strokes or dementia. We both have a great love and respect for the elderly and feel that we gain so much love and wisdom from the residents we work with. We were friends and co-workers for several years before we ever went out on a date. Our first date was watching fireworks at a park where Traci had many childhood memories. We enjoyed dating for a year and a half before we got engaged. Gus proposed to Traci on the very bench where we sat on our first date at the park. We had a "Big Fat Greek Wedding" at the church where Gus was baptized as a baby. Our wedding day was a beautiful day filled with all of the people who mean the most to us.

OUR PATH TO ADOPTION

Several months after we were married, we felt ready to start a family. After nearly two years of trying, doctor's visits, and trials of multiple suggestions to increase our chances of conceiving a baby, we felt drawn to adopt. We both feel happy and at peace with our decision and are very excited to meet the child that is meant to be with us!

ABOUT GUS ~ BY TRACI

I believe with all my heart that God brought Gus into my life and knew he was the perfect match for me. He is the most caring, funny, and sweet man I have ever known. I knew I was in love with Gus when I saw him in the hallway at work one day. He was very busy with his work and was stopped by a confused little elderly lady who grabbed his hand and said she was afraid. Gus stayed and talked with her and had such a sweet, gentle way of calming her down. He didn't know that I saw this or that anyone else was watching. Seeing this aspect of who he was gave me a glimpse into all the other many things I would love about him over time. Gus has a way of always making me laugh and feel happy. Gus comes from a traditional Greek family and I love it that he stays connected to his Greek culture and heritage. He is hard-working and ambitious and makes our home feel safe, secure, and stable. Gus loves to play video games, especially John Madden football. He also enjoys participating in fantasy football. He likes to build things and has built several remote control cars that he enjoys racing. He is always there for his friends and family to help in any way he can. All of the children in our lives love Gus. He is a natural with children and always takes the time to play and be silly. I know he will make a wonderful dad.



ABOUT TRACI ~ BY GUS

Traci is smart, loving, caring, patient, compassionate, and unselfish. These qualities are reflected in not only our relationship, but in the interactions she has with everyone she meets. One of the things I love the most about Traci is how she loves to laugh and that she is such a positive, upbeat person. She always sees the best in every situation and doesn't let anything get her down. She supports me and motivates me during tough times. I can't help but smile when I see her. Traci has played the piano since she was a child and loves all different kinds of music. I love how Traci decorates our house and makes it feel like home. She also makes the best chocolate chip cookies I have ever had! Traci loves animals and is always rescuing any animal she finds who needs help. I know it may sound strange, but seeing Traci work with elderly patients, I see many qualities she has for being a wonderful mother. She has so much patience and always stays calm even in difficult situations. I have people come up to me at work all the time and tell me how much their elderly parent loves my wife. I remember the first time Traci took me to meet her best friend, seeing all three of her kids run up to Traci and jump into her arms, hugging her. Watching her interact with our nieces and nephew, I can also see that she will be a great, loving mother who will protect, love, and have patience with our children.



WITH GUS'S FAMILY



WITH TRACI'S PARENTS



HOME SWEET HOME



SOPHIE

SAMSON

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

We truly enjoy the simple things in life. During the summer, after we eat dinner, we frequently take a walk to a local ice cream stand. We love the outdoors and nature, hiking, and taking bike rides. During the winter, we spend many evenings playing board games and drinking hot chocolate. We love going to all different sporting events. We enjoy a close relationship with both of our families. We spend time with Traci's parents taking hikes, weekend trips, going out to dinner, and visiting with Traci's grandmother. We also enjoy frequent activities with Gus's family, such as birthday parties, cookouts, large holiday get-togethers, and occasional weekends at an indoor waterpark. We love to laugh and we are always doing things to make each other laugh. We like to watch funny movies. A few of our favorites that we have watched more than once are: "Happy Gilmore," "Evan Almighty," "The Proposal," and "Elf." We also enjoy going with our nieces and nephew to see new kids movies at the movie theater. Our favorites were "Up" and "Despicable Me."

OUR HOME

We live in a cozy 3 bedroom home in a safe, quiet neighborhood close to schools, parks, and playgrounds. We have a beautiful nursery decorated and all ready for a baby boy or girl. We even have a first stuffed animal for the baby, which we got when we purchased our wedding bands. The jeweler told us that if we made a donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital, we would be given a stuffed bear. Knowing how badly we wanted to have children, we thought this would be a wonderful story to tell our first child, that we were even thinking of him/her when we purchased our wedding bands, and that our thoughts of him/her may have helped another child through our donation. We have started creating a photo album/baby book that describes our adoption journey, starting with pictures of us taking our baby care class and everything we are doing during this waiting period.

OUR PETS

We have two adorable cats named Sophie and Samson. Sophie is our social butterfly who greets everyone at the door with lots of purrs. Samson is our shy guy who runs and hides when we have visitors. Sophie was rescued from the pound and was an "only cat" for several years, until one frigid winter night, Traci found a little black and white kitten outside who was cold and hungry. Samson was quickly accepted and "mothered" by Sophie and we knew he was meant to be with us too! We enjoy making up silly songs for Sophie and Samson.

OUR TRADITIONS

- Getting our artificial Christmas tree and homemade ornaments out of the attic and putting it all together just like we both remember doing as kids
- Choosing a new place to visit every year where neither of us has ever been. Our two favorites have been Watkins Glen State Park and Letchworth State Park in New York.
- Going to a local Greek festival every spring
- Going to the Woollybear Festival in Vermilion, Ohio every fall (a festival that's all about caterpillars!)



WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US

Our faith in God is very important to us and we put God at the center of everything we do. We attend a Baptist church every Sunday. It is important to us that our children are raised with religious and moral values.

We are fortunate to have flexible schedules and when we have a baby, we will be able to arrange our schedules so that one or both of us will always be home with the baby. This is very important to us.

We value our family and friends and are fortunate to have a wonderful support network around us. Our families are both very happy about our decision to adopt. Our nieces and nephew are excited about the new addition to the family and ask all the time about when their new cousin will be here.

We look forward to becoming a family and plan to adopt more than once, as it is important to us that our child has a sibling to grow up with. We love the idea of family camping trips, outings to the zoo, family dinner times, and enjoying many events, special occasions, and holidays with our extended family.

We want you to know how much your baby will always be unconditionally loved by us and our families and that we will be supportive of whatever dreams he or she may have for his or her future. We would be happy to send letters and pictures to you beyond the first year. Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your baby and we have the greatest respect for you and the decision you are making.

With Love,
Gus and Traci