



Steffanie and Paul



Dear Birthparent(s),

Thank you so much for taking a few moments to read through our letter and getting to know us. We cannot begin to imagine all of the emotions you must be feeling right now and appreciate the importance of the decision you are making. As you read through our story, we hope to show you what a loving home and family we have, and the nurturing environment we will surround your child with. We hope that you would consider trusting us with the incredible responsibility of raising and loving your child.

We have been married nine wonderful years, and from the start pictured our life together as a family, with children at the heart of it. Shortly after being married, we began to try to have children, hoping to begin our family. However, after trying for a few years, and later even with the help of fertility procedures, found we were not able to. We share a strong desire to be parents - it is one of the things that drew us to each other from the start - and have always thought of adoption as part of our family plan.

We both have the capacity to greatly love, are honest, affectionate, and fun. We look for reasons to celebrate one another, and hold our family and friends close to our heart. We would feel so blessed to have a child to share our love and our life with.

We admire your strength and courage, and promise to be the best parents we know how. We look forward to the adventure of parenthood, and sincerely hope that in fulfilling our dream of having a child, we can also fulfill the dreams you have for your child. We would love to meet you, and answer any questions you might have about us, and want to make you feel as comfortable as possible with your decision.

*"The love of a family
is the greatest blessing"*

Our Story



We both call Northeast Ohio home, having been born and raised here, and are fortunate enough to have all our family within an hour or two drive. We met while working at the same company, both getting hired soon after college graduation. We liked each other right away, getting to know each other over lunches and at after-work get-togethers. We always had fun together and even figured out we had a few mutual friends in common. When Paul finally asked Steff out on a date, our first date was to go see the re-release of Empire Strikes Back, a movie we both loved growing up. About a year later, Paul made sure to ask Steffanie's Dad for his permission before he proposed to her on her birthday. Her Dad still gets a twinkle in his eye when he tells the story of how nervous Paul was when he stopped in to see him at work to ask.

Paul

I can't express how lucky I am to have Paul as a husband. He is someone I know I can trust, and who loves unconditionally. He is



Buster waiting for the Easter bunny

strong and confident and is always there for me and our family and friends, regardless of what's asked of him. Over the years, I've watched him help my parents rebuild their deck, clean the gutters on his parent's house, and help care for his own grandfather when he was unable

to care for himself. He loves sports, football especially, and is a dedicated Browns and Ohio State fan. He looks forward to coaching some-



Paul playing soccer with his nephew

day, like his father did, T-ball or whatever sport or activity our child might be interested in. He loves history, movies, rough-housing with our family and friend's kids, and hiking

with our dog Buster. He is sentimental and a goof at times, but also responsible, and likes things in their place. He is athletic, enthusiastic and

kind-hearted. He works in the information technology field and is fortunate enough to be able to work from home a few days a week. I can't wait for him to be a dad.



Halloween with friends

Steff

When I first met my wife Steff, I knew she was the love of my life. She is both affectionate and kind and also practical and smart. She enjoys the challenge of figuring something out, like solving a Sudoku puzzle or programming the DVR. She also has a great sense of humor, and always seems to find a way to make me laugh.



Paul and Steff posing under the tree

We recently made the decision for her to stay home, and to focus on growing our family. As a home-maker she has dedicated herself to our household, family, and friends. Steff is always willing to help whether it's with Thanksgiving dinner,



Steff and our niece

teaching her mom Excel for her new job, or babysitting for our friends children. She has a soft spot for animals, and loves to plant a garden each year and watch the herbs and vegetables come in.



Baking Christmas cookies with Paul's Mom

One of the best parts of her personality is that she's fun and creative, and enjoys decorating the house at the holidays, or planning a summer afternoon road trip to some place we've never been. She loves music, reading, and watching her favorite shows, like NCIS and Glee.

Our Home

Our home is on a small, quiet suburban street, with many children and their families living there. Our neighborhood is perfect for trick-or-treating, or walking our dog, and ice cream is even within easy walking distance. There's a community park at the end of our street, with a new playground, a pool and ball fields that are often lit into the summer evening during tournaments. The elementary school is just a few blocks over, and has excellent teachers. We know our neighbors well, and look out for one another, getting each others' mail when one of us travels, or grabbing a garbage can that has blown into the street. Our house is a colonial style, with 3 upstairs bedrooms, one of which will be our child's own to decorate someday. Our dog Buster is also an important part of our family and helps to make our house a home. He is smart, loves to swim and is our constant companion. His all-time favorite thing to do is to go for car rides, cruising with the windows down, head sticking



Our house



Buster enjoying his pool on a hot day

out of the window, with his ears flapping in the breeze. He also loves to play in the snow, bark at chipmunks in the backyard, and is always the first one to welcome someone at our door. He has a sweet disposition and is a favorite with children, who are always disappointed if we can't bring him along with us on a particular visit. He sleeps in our bedroom at night, and when it's time for us to go to bed, he likes to carry his favorite stuffed animal upstairs with him to sleep.

Our Family



Steff's family at her brother's engagement party

We are fortunate that both of our parents, and our brothers and sisters live in northern Ohio, allowing us to see each other frequently. Paul's parents live five minutes away, and we see each other often. We attend the same church together, where we were married and are active members. A fun Sunday afternoon for us is often eating a huge Italian dinner

at Paul's parent's home, with his brother and his wife and children, or going to one of our niece and nephew's soccer games together. Steffanie's parents are not too far either, just a town over and live on an acre and half of land, complete with woods to explore and a pond in the front yard. We enjoy visiting there on weekends



Enjoying a spring day at Steff's parents

too, grilling out on their deck, watching Buster chase the geese in the pond and just appreciating the open air. Steffanie's sister is married and shares our love of animals, with two rescued dogs of their own, who often play with Buster. Her brother is engaged and soon to be married - we can't wait for the wedding! We're all looking forward to the day where each of our families has grown, and our children can play together in the yard.



Paul's brother and our niece and nephew

Hobbies & Interests

We enjoy doing many things together as a couple, but also have our own individual interests. Exploring new places and traveling is probably our favorite thing to do together, but also appreciate a quiet night at home, or with friends. On a typical night home, we might watch an old episode or two of Seinfeld or

Steff reads while Paul watches a game. One of our favorite places to vacation is Disney World in Florida, where we both visited as



Trick or treating with friends

children. We have some of our best childhood memories from those trips, like spinning in the Magic Teacups or going under water in the Nautilus submarine ride. We can't wait for the day when we can go back as parents ourselves, and create some of those same happy memories with our own children.



Buster sleeping under the tree after a long day of visiting

Visiting the Browns training camp with our niece and nephew



Our Values

One of the things that attracted us to one another from the start was that we both share many of the same values and life goals. We are both Christians, and believe that family and friends are at the core of a happy life. We believe in the value of achieving things through your own hard work, and take pride in each other's accomplishments. We will teach our children to be good sportsmen, to appreciate art and music, a good laugh, and encourage them to think for themselves and to form their own opinions. We will surround our children with love and security, and plan for their future. We will strive to provide them with a good home and foundation that will allow them to be the best they can be, experience all life has to offer and to grow into an adult that is admired by others and that you'd be proud of.



In Closing

We want to thank you for taking the time to learn a little more about us, and for the selfless decision you have made to find adoptive parents for your baby. We want and hope to make you feel as comfortable as possible with your decision, and would love to meet with you to discuss openness, and to work out a relationship that we can all be comfortable sharing in. Thank you again for considering us.

Very Truly Yours,