

Mike, Kari and Nora

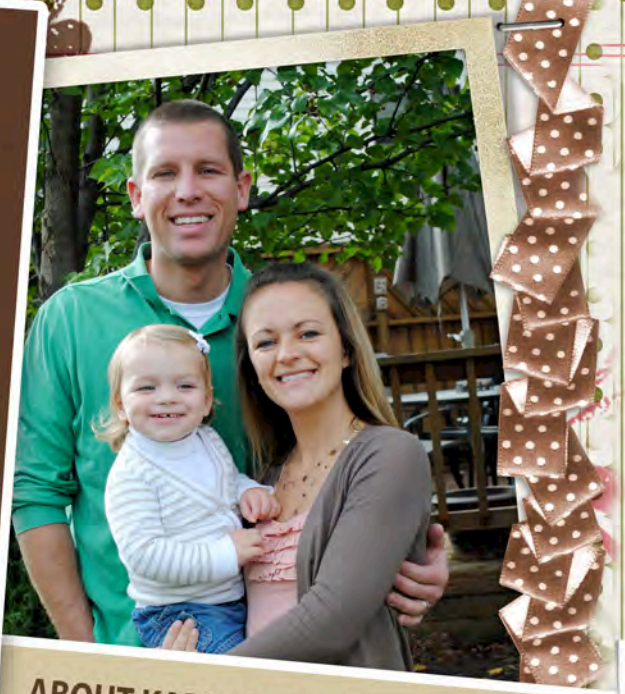


DEAR BIRTHPARENTS,

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and consider us as adoptive parents. We respect and admire your willingness to engage in this difficult process and we hope that the information in this profile will help you make a decision regarding your child's future that brings you peace and confidence. We are excited to expand our family and we hope for the opportunity to share with you more of our lives.

ABOUT US

Mike and I grew up in the same small town. When my older sister got engaged to Mike's best friend we were both in their wedding. We started spending time together and it didn't take long before Mike asked me on a date. We went to dinner at a nice, downtown restaurant and then attended a high school musical where Mike's dad (a high school principal) was making his acting debut. We had a great time. We talked all night. Truthfully I didn't want it to end. We went to church together the following morning and the rest is history. I knew he was the man I was going to marry a few months later. Mike proposed the day I graduated from college by writing and singing me a song at our favorite park. We got married a year later in 2005 in a beautiful July ceremony and spent ten days honeymooning in Maui. It was amazing! Four years later we were blessed by the birth of our daughter, Nora. She has been a wonderful addition to our family. Due to complications during delivery our doctors advised us not to pursue conceiving more children. After coming to terms with the doctors' suggestion, we soon realized that God was preparing us to offer the love we have for one another to a child through adoption. We couldn't be more excited for this opportunity.



ABOUT KARI (BY MIKE)

Kari barely touched her entrée on our first date. Months later she confessed she was just being modest; she really wanted to scarf down the whole thing. I wish she had. That's a good picture of the difference between how people perceive Kari and what she's actually like. Kari has a great sense of humor and love for life. She is also deeply spiritual with a compassionate, tender heart. She volunteered with a kids' charity during college and earned a degree in education. She worked as a junior high teacher for five years until Nora was born. Now she stays at home as a full-time mom, nurturing and training our daughter. Nora couldn't ask for a better mom. Kari considers it her calling to raise our children and she does a remarkable job. I love that I can talk with Kari. She is highly intelligent and listens well. We make it a priority to sit and talk with one another everyday. It's still effortless. Kari is my best friend and the most important in my life. We laugh together, cry together, and share with one another the most significant parts of our lives. I can't imagine life without her.

ABOUT MIKE (BY KARI)

The first thing I noticed about Mike was his great sense of humor. He had me laughing from the beginning and, to this day, that hasn't changed. Even after five years of marriage I am still the person laughing the loudest when Mike tells a story. He is an intelligent, hard-working, and dedicated person. He earned scholarships to pay for college and volunteered for a non-profit organization that works with kids. He now runs that organization in our area and has an incredible impact on young people. Kids often return as adults to thank him for the impact he has had in their lives. Mike loves his job and comes home energized by it every day. Most importantly I love that Mike is dedicated to his faith and the people who mean the most to him. He is a loving and fun father. Nora loves to be with him. "Daddy" is the first thing she says each morning and she runs to the door every evening when he gets home from work. I love that his eyes light up when he sees her. I love that his eyes still light up when he sees me too. He is selfless, helpful at home, and fun to be with. I find myself wanting to be with him even if we aren't doing anything significant. He's my best friend.

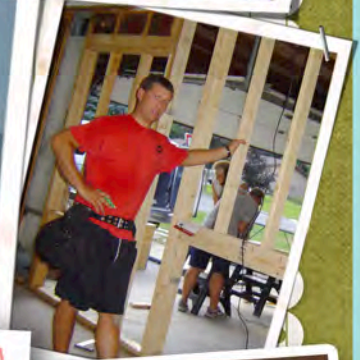
ABOUT NORA

Nora has Mike's sense of humor and Kari's gentle heart. She runs, jumps, and makes funny faces like her dad, but like her mother, she cares for her baby dolls and insists we pray for Grandma and Grandpa before dinner every night. She learns new words all the time and is proud of herself for using the potty. She is obsessed with Elmo and several stuffed animals. She does something everyday that brings us to tears with laughter. Nora will make a great sister. Like us, she has a lot of love to give and we're hopeful she'll have that opportunity.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Mike's hobbies include spending time with friends and family, reading books, watching movies, drinking Mountain Dew, snow-skiing, and building/remodeling. He has turned our house into a home. He built us a back deck, renovated our family room, added a fireplace and home office, updated two of our bathrooms, replaced our bay window, installed wood floors, and much more! He would love to own a woodshop some day.

Kari's hobbies/interests include spending quality time with friends and family, cooking, shopping, enjoying a warm cup of coffee, vacationing at the beach, and starting new family traditions. She loves to try new recipes, including one for cinnamon rolls, which has become a Christmas morning family tradition. She is good at just about everything she tries.



VACATION IN FLORIDA



EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Family is very important to us. Both sets of our parents live within minutes and we make it a point to visit with them regularly. They enjoy spending time with their granddaughter and we feel fortunate to have them involved in our lives. They have each been married over thirty years and are a great model to us. We are also close with our siblings, nieces, and nephews. We have six siblings and five nieces/nephews between us, and spending consistent time with them is a big part of our family life.

In addition to our actual family members, we have a close network of friends we consider like extended family. Our children will grow up with lots of "aunts" and "uncles," "cousins," etc. It is important to us that our children grow up in a loving community and we've made spending consistent, weekly time with friends an intentional quality of our life.



OUR CLOSE FRIENDS



KARI'S FAMILY

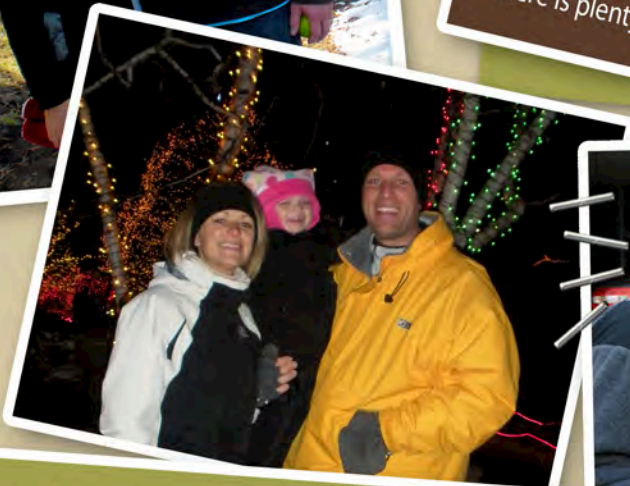


MIKE'S FAMILY



DESCRIPTION OF HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in a modest home in a safe and quiet suburban neighborhood. In the spring, summer, and fall we take regular walks to our community park just one mile from our house. Nora enjoys playing on the swing set, feeding the ducks, and smelling the flowers. In the summer you can rent canoes, sailboats, or just hang out at the beach. It's the perfect place for kids. We have enough bedrooms for multiple kids, a basketball hoop in the driveway, and terrific schools. In addition, as part of Mike's work we spend several weeks each summer at a camping property. Staff kids and spouses treat it like an extended vacation and with boats, jet skis, zip lines, mountain bikes, etc... there is plenty of opportunity to create lifelong memories.



HOW OUR CHILDREN WILL BE RAISED

Our marriage is the most important relationship in our home. We believe the best foundation for a child's development is a healthy, loving, dependable relationship between mom and dad. In addition, we believe God designs each of us with specific gifts, talents, and abilities and it is our privilege as parents to help our children discover their gifts and to instill in them the values and morals that will enable them to express those gifts productively. Our kids will have the opportunity to explore all sorts of activities/interests in a loving and supportive environment with the involvement of parents, grandparents, and extended family and friends.

In addition, we plan to be open and honest with your child regarding his/her adoption story. It is important to us that your child understand where he/she comes from and has access to information that will help to answer questions as they surface. We look forward to determining with you the level of openness that best honors your hopes/wishes and best fits our unique adoption context.



IN CONCLUSION

Thank you again for reading this profile and considering us as your adoptive parents. We trust that God will lead you to the decision that best serves you and your child. Should you choose us, we hope to meet with you to give you a fuller picture of our marriage/life and to hear firsthand the hopes and dreams you have for your child. God bless you during this process.