

Dear Birthparents,

We are Desiree and Joel, and we want to thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We also want to say thank you for considering adoption. We admire the bravery and courage you have in considering adoption for your baby. We would like to tell you a little about ourselves and our family and what has driven us to pursue adoption.

ABOUT US



We each grew up in a loving and Christian home, with both of our parents still married. Joel has two older brothers and Desiree has five siblings, three biological sisters and two adopted brothers. We met because Desiree's sister and Joel's brother dated and are now married. We dated for three years before we were married in 2009. We can both honestly say that not only are we husband and wife, but we are also best friends. We love spending time with each other. We enjoy going to the gym, attending small group events at church, going to see the Cardinals and Blues play, and spending time with other couples or friends our age. We are very close with our parents, siblings, and nieces and nephews, and we keep in touch with other family members often. We are Christians who attend our home church regularly. We are both leaders within our church and Joel plays the bass on our worship team. God and our faith play a very important part in our lives. Desiree is an elementary teacher at a public school who enjoys reading girly books, cooking for her family, shopping with her friends, and watching TV or movies. She is hardworking, passionate, kind, persistent, and loving. Joel works as an

unemployment hearings consultant. He enjoys golfing and playing basketball with his brothers or friends, watching sports or movies, playing x-box, and listening to audiobooks. He is kind-hearted, loving, witty, sincere, generous, and considerate.



OUR FAMILY



We have two sons. Our oldest is Liam. He is four. He is full of so much energy and has a great imagination. He loves to play baseball, basketball, and soccer. He attends half-day preschool and Desiree's mother watches him in the afternoons. He has learned to be loving like his mother and witty like his father. He has a wonderful sense of humor and a natural athletic ability that we try to help flourish. Our second son, Jonah, would be two years old right now. Due to complications in our pregnancy in 2014, Jonah was born early and only lived for one week. Jonah's life, while short, was extremely impactful on our family; therefore, we strive to keep family time at the top of our list. We love doing different activities together as a family, such as going to the park, the zoo, children's museums, bowling, and even just relaxing at home watching a movie. During the summer, Desiree gets to do many of these activities while she is on summer break with Liam. We both value equal parenting, but

we realize that our difference in strengths can be beneficial when raising a child.

Desiree can definitely be the more nurturing parent, tending to Liam when he has a boo-boo or is restless before a nap, whereas Joel is more energetic and loves to goof around, so Liam turns to him when it's time to pretend to be Ninja Turtles.



WHY ADOPTION?



Soon after losing Jonah, we were told that the same complications we faced with him while pregnant would occur again to any other baby and pregnancy. Doctors gave us other alternatives, but after much prayer we decided adoption was the route our family was meant to take. Biology isn't important to us. An adoptive child will be just as loved and cared for as our biological child. Losing Jonah left a gaping hole in our hearts. But we aren't just looking for something, or more specifically, someone, to fill it. We are just looking to complete our family. Adoption has always been near and dear to our hearts. We feel the loss of Jonah and pregnancy complications we face just pushed us to adoption sooner.



We know that adoption would be an unbelievable blessing for our family. We plan to be open about adoption with our children. Our children will know about the brave and selfless decision their birthparents made. We admire the bravery and courage it takes in considering adoption for a baby. We are open to sending letters and pictures, as well as the possibility for more.

Desiree + Joel