TREVOR - HEIDI





Our Note to You

We are so thrilled to meet you!

THIS IS US



Hello sweet expecting mama,

As we sit here trying to put our hearts onto paper, we hear the pounding of them inside our chests. Excitement, nervousness, sadness, hope, fear, and heartache grip us; and hold us together in expectant waiting. We imagine that you could be feeling all these things too, but for entirely different reasons. The thoughtfulness of your consideration of adoption for your precious child is so inspiring. While we cannot begin to put ourselves in your shoes, we will stand alongside you, cheering you on, knowing that you are putting your child first, their needs above your wants, their dreams above your own. And for that, we admire you. You are a hero; a mama doing her best for her child. Not all superheroes wear capes or have powers and you are proof of that.

We hope you enjoy reading through our profile. We would love to answer any questions you might have and get to know you, too!

With Love, Trevor and Herch







Why Adoption

What a story it's been to get here. For tenyears, we endured unexplained infertility, countless tests, pokes, prods, non-answers and yearly surgeries for the removal of severe endometriosis. By the grace of God, we had our miracle daughter, Jaina, but also suffered two miscarriages and lost three embryos in an in vitro fertilization cycle. We endured one round of IVF that resulted in our angels: Faith, Hope, and Love. Shortly after our IVF treatment, Heidi had a total hysterectomy to heal the endometriosis and scar tissue issues. We maintained for a whole year after surgery that we were going to choose to live as a family of three. Healing from the unexpected surgery physically, mentally and emotionally has been quite the hurdle to overcome for all of us. It was an amazing year of healing that was much needed to finally lay our family-building journey to rest and move forward. Then God showed us He had other plans, which is why you are holding this book in your honds



We had just started going to a new church. After lunch with our pastor's wife one day, Heidi told her we were struggling with Jaina still wanting a sibling despite our best attempts at age-appropriate ways over the years of explaining that it was not going to happen. She gave us the name of a connection that led us to make adoption a reality. Unbeknownst to us, God has gently taken the time to prepare our hearts over the last eleven years to bring another child into our home through adoption. We know a few adults who were adopted as children who have shown us that love is so much more than blood. Growing up, Heidi's stepdad made it very clear that a biological connection wasn't what made a person a parent. Heidi grew up in a non-traditional family so adoption isn't something that seems strange or unusual. I grew up in my mother's in-home daycare and always felt the love of the daycare kids like I was their brother. Their parents treated me like one of their own. Loving and caring for other people's children and treating them as one of the family is an ideal that is close to our hearts because we've both lived it in our own way.



Our online dating profiles connected in 2008 and we started talking through online messages. We exchanged phone numbers and agreed to meet three weeks later for our first date. Trevor pushed that meeting back a week because he was not feeling well that day. Months later, he told me that it was a nervous stomach and grief of losing his mother a month earlier that caused him to reschedule. Our first date was four hours long at a local restaurant after a long day of Trevor coaching at a wrestling tournament. The evening ended with a handshake in the parking lot. Despite the awkwardness of how it ended, we agreed to see each other again. We discovered that we crossed paths in high school, as a wrestler and later as a coach and as a wrestling cheerleader. We fell for each other hard and fast, unlike any other relationship either one of us had ever been in. We felt comfortable with each other immediately, always talking and spending time together. We've been inseparable ever since. We moved in together that summer, six months after we started dating. We started discussing marriage before we were even engaged. We just knew we were meant to be together.

I knew I wanted to get married on August 6th. Why so specific? Because three of my siblings had gotten married in August, two of them on that same weekend. August is a special month for my family! We secured the date with our pastor without an official engagement! We got engaged in October of 2010. We were outside of Trevor's dad's house, and I was crying, emotional over something and he blurted out, "Will you marry me?" No ring. No knee. Only words. On Black Friday a few weeks later, Trevor finally gave me a ring!







We were married on the most gorgeous, warm, sunny day on August 6, 2011. We had a beautiful fairytale wedding fit for a king and queen, complete with a horse-drawn carriage ride amongst the apple trees. Trevor walked down the aisle with our pastor to a silly song called "Turtle" written and performed by our musician friend. My stepdad rode in the horse-drawn carriage with me from the reception area to the top of the aisle and then handed me to my dad who then walked me down the aisle.

Our food and tables had place cards with names of Disney couples and food depicted in the movies. We found out during the matron of honor speech that my sister and brother-in-law made a bet to see how long we would be together. They both lost because neither of them thought we'd ever get married! It's so fun to visit the orchard every year and tell Jaina that this is the place where our family began. The staff always greet us with love and hugs, no matter how busy they are when we visit for strawberry and apple picking. Trevor promised me a twenty-fifth-anniversary vow renewal at the orchard the day we were married, and I playfully remind him every year!







WE HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR THIRTEEN YEARS!

One of our greatest strengths is how we communicate. We can talk to each other about anything, no matter how hard the conversation is or how difficult the topic is. Honesty is something very easy for us. We go through life together, not separately or independently of one another. We have been through so much grief together from the very beginning of our relationship that there isn't anything we don't handle as a team. We don't make decisions without the other's input. We love so many things about our marriage. Since there is nothing that we've done traditionally, the excitement of tackling life as it comes and always finding a way together makes us feel like there isn't anything we can't tackle; so far, we're right! We take time to be silly with one another and find moments to be alone together despite the busyness of life. Every night when our heads hit the pillows, we know that we have each other's backs and there is nowhere else we'd rather be.

We laugh so hard at ourselves and each other regularly. We goof around a lot, have way too much fun, and respect each other deeply. We show affection using our love languages. Trevor feels most loved by acts of service. Heidi feels most loved by physical touch. We are the couple who will look out for each other no matter where we are. We like to mini golf, watch movies together and have date night game nights with wine and a cheese and meat plate. One of us will buy cheese and meat at the store to signal to the other that we need a stay-athome date night after Jaina goes to bed. We love watching Blue Bloods and snuggling together on the couch in the evenings. We like to play games and relax by our fireplace or fire pit. We also make sure we take time out for date nights away from home regularly to reconnect and recharge.





NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." THIS PASSAGE HAS GIVEN US HOPE IN OUR VALLEYS, MOUNTAINTOPS, AND PLATEAUS IN ALL THE JOY AND HARDSHIPS WE HAVE FACED. THERE ISN'T A MOMENT IN OUR LIVES THAT WE CAN'T ATTRIBUTE TO THIS "FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND OUR FAMILY LIFE VERSE - JEREMIAH 29:11

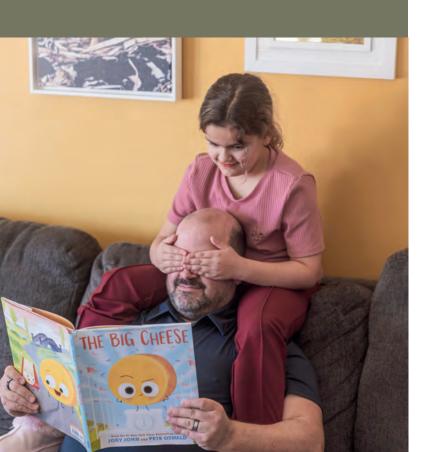


My sweet husband. I adore him so. I would not be who I am without his constant love, support and encouragement. Trevor is so goofy and always makes me laugh! He is silly and loves to be imaginative, especially when he's creating Dungeons & Dragons stories for us to embark on. He is so talented in his writing ability with these adventures. He is a person who doesn't need a lot of words to express his feelings and tends to get the point across quickly, but gently. He is loyal, not only to me and our family but to everyone he knows. There isn't anything he wouldn't do for us. He is thoughtful and loves to bring me little gifts. He is patient with me, even when I am not patient with myself. The last eleven years have been one challenge after another with family building and he has always encouraged me and loved me through it. It feels like Trevor was handcrafted by God just for me. He is my opposite in every way that helps make a marriage strong. When I'm down, he's up. When I'm tired, he finds energy. When I'm sad, he's happy. When I need a break, he steps in. It's this amazing dance we do, usually without ever speaking. There is no one else I'd rather share this wild ride of life with and no one else I can imagine raising our children with.

Trevor has been surrounded by kids his whole life. He was raised by his parents while his mom owned a daycare in their home. He loves every stage and age. He is so patient. He gets down on a child's level, both physically and mentally, to make sure he is speaking in a way that is not intimidating and that they can understand. He never passes up an opportunity to get down on the floor and roll around with littles. He helps Jaina with her homework, enjoys taking her to dance and spends time with her on daddy-daughter dates. He is looking forward to being a father again and loving another child. He loves watching Jaina grow and learn and can't wait to watch another child do the same. From the moment we brought Jaina home, we knew we wanted to add more of this love to our family. Trevor is a giant teddy bear with babies, always in tune with their needs.

Meet Trevor

I learned from my parents to have a gentle and kind heart but to be firm and forgiving. I learned that being patient with your child is not always easy, but it is necessary because sometimes it is hard for children to voice their feelings. I love being a father and my family is my greatest accomplishment. I am looking forward to adding to our family and seeing life through the eyes of another child. My greatest wish for my children is that they will be good people with loving hearts and gentle souls.





OCCUPATION

I am a warehouse supervisor. The company I work for is family-friendly and will allow me some time off when we adopt to bond with our new baby and spend time as a family. I'm passionate about my job because I get to help my staff find ways to be most successful. I like knowing I helped them be able to do their job better and more efficiently. I love the board game industry and being responsible for people getting these games into their hands is something I take pride in.

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

- Sports like football, wrestling and golf
- Board games & Dungeons & Dragons
- Reading a good book
- Spending time with friends and family
- Quality time with my wife and daughter
- Enjoying the view from our deck





Heidi is a passionate woman who wears her heart on her sleeve. She has a big heart and cares deeply for those around her. She is smart and a hard worker. She makes people smile, gives good hugs, and is a great shoulder to cry on should you need one. I love her because she is a good person who cares for those she loves. She is the yin to my yang. Heidi loves to talk. She's never met a stranger and connects easily with people. It's one of the most special pieces of her personality. People trust her because she's easy to open up to and seek advice from. She puts her big heart on display by asking, "How can I help?" Whatever the response, she steps in and makes it happen. Once she sets her mind on something, consider it done. She's a "go big or go home" type person, which is a good balance to me because I'm more cautious and look at many angles and possibilities. Sometimes I need the extra nudge to take a step and this trait of hers is just what I need to take it. Heidi laughs a lot. She's over the top in a good way. People are drawn to her outgoing personality and so was I.

Heidi is very kind, gentle and caring with children. Heidi is a good mother who works hard to help provide for our daughter. She will sit with kids, read books and play with dolls. She will paint their nails and help brush their hair. Heidi is looking forward to expanding the family to share the copious amounts of love she has with another child. Heidi is a great mother and will continue to be a great mother. She has such a nurturing, caring spirit and I know she is looking forward to showering another child with love.

Meet Heidi





OCCUPATION

I am an insurance agent. One of the reasons I love where I work, not just what I do, is because my office is family-friendly, and family-focused. I will have time off for the adoption and can work from home when needed. Trevor and I are very passionate about our careers and enjoy working outside the home. When we adopt, we will have our child enrolled in an athome daycare, hopefully with the same daycare that Jaina grew up in before school and attends now in the summer.

A FFW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

- James Patterson's books
- Diamond dot painting and cooking
- Packers and Badgers football teams
- Entertaining friends with a good meal
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Watching the Olympics
- Mommy and daughter dates



66 I love being a mother. I love watching kids grow and learn and seeing life through their eyes.





Meet Jaina

I am eight years old and in second grade. My favorite thing to do is play with my friends. I have dreamed of having a sibling to play with, too. I have been a dancer since I was six. I like tap, jazz, ballet, hip-hop and lyrical. - Jaina



Jaina is eight years old. She is a sassy, sweet, logical problem solver and a girl who loves with her whole heart. She is an empath, stubborn, and strong-willed. She always thinks of others and is very empathetic. She cannot wait to be a big sister and we know she will be the very best! Jaina has been around children all her life at daycare, with friends and at school. She is a little mama if there ever was one, even if a child is older than her. She loves to dance, play games, be with her friends, and help others.

PARENTING

We love being parents and experiencing the joy and love we can bring to Jaina and that she brings to us. There is something about seeing your heart beat outside of your body in such a way that there is nothing else like it. Having your child run up to you after hours away at daycare or school because they love you and miss you makes everything feel all right in the world. Coming home to something we've longed, prayed and wished for for so long every day is a blessing. We've watched God work mightily for us through Jaina. She is proof that He loves us, that He exists and that He cares for us. We are so excited to love another child in this way.

We encourage Jaina to make the right decisions by showing and explaining when needed how or what to do for the next right thing. We allow her to make her own age appropriate decisions and guide when needed. We connect with Jaina on her school work and ask pertinent questions about what she's learning. Heidi's parents taught love, hard work and forgiveness. Trevor's parents made sure to model patience, gentleness and firmness in a loving way. We use these skills and lessons to parent Jaina and also encourage each other to be our best selves.

Our angels, Tayten Day and Elisha Owen became part of our family in 2017 and 2019. We endured one round of in vitro fertilization in 2022 which resulted in three more angels, Faith, Hope and Love.







Family Time











We love to play board games together. Jaina is getting into Dungeons & Dragons and loves to paint mini-character figurines with us for the game. We enjoy building snowmen in the winter, taking long walks in the spring, going to the beach in the summer and jumping in big leaf piles in the fall. Every year the weekend before Halloween, we take an hour long trip to visit Minnesota's Largest Candy Store, pick pumpkins and walk through the amazing building they have with huge murals and larger-than-life statues of characters that change every year. There is candy and other treats from decades gone by that are so fun to see. We visit the apple orchard where we were married every year for strawberry and apple picking. In the evenings, we don't have much time between homework, dance four days a weeknight, and bedtime routine, but we sneak in as much snuggle time and chat about our day as possible to check in with each other. Dinner at the table each night is important no matter how busy our schedule is. You can find us taking it easy on a Saturday and enjoying the weather, watching movies, playing with our dog in the backyard and enjoying a nice family meal. Sundays are for church and football!











We celebrate big for birthdays! The birthday person picks a dinner out at a restaurant. We exchange gifts with them and do whatever they want for their birthday. The birthday fairy comes to our house the night before Jaina's birthday to decorate the whole house! The decorations stay up until the last night of the month and then the fairy comes back to take them down.

Valentine's Day wasn't something we celebrated until Jaina came along. We shower her with even more love that day and have always gotten some type of ice cream. My dad invited us over for dinner and ice cream cake for our first Valentine's Day in 2008. It's been a tradition for us to share some type of ice cream every year now. For Mother's and Father's Day, we get to pick a meal out and we do whatever the special person wants to for the day. I prefer family time. Trevor prefers time alone, so Jaina and I go do something fun together. We exchange fun gifts for these special days, too! Independence Day is spent parade-watching, enjoying the weather and watching the fireworks displays on TV. Trevor's birthday is the day after, so we always have something on the grill and enjoy being outside. Labor Day is spent camping with family. Halloween is a fun time to enjoy trick-or-treating with friends. Thanksgiving is spent surrounded by family. Christmas is spent a few different ways with Trevor's sisters, my family at my sister's house, and then alone on Christmas day, just the three of us opening gifts, playing with our new treasures, and eating leftovers. Regardless of the month of the year, we find ways to celebrate big things and little things.

Our Home

IF YOU ASKED EACH ONE OF US WHERE OUR FAVORITE PLACE TO BE IS, WE WOULD ALL ANSWER, HERE IN OUR HOME, SURROUNDED BY ONE ANOTHER SPENDING TIME TOGETHER.



Our home was built in 1962. We made this house our home in October 2022. We have two full bathrooms, three bedrooms, a large living room and a dining room area. Our basement has plenty of playing space and a beautiful, cozy area with a fireplace along with a separate space for a game table. Our backyard is huge! There is a playset with a swing, slide and plenty of room to run with Lyla and even a quiet night by the fire pit! Our big deck has dining space, lounging space and room for Heidi's hammock. Tree coverage on the outside of the fenced-in backyard provides a beautiful country-like atmosphere even though we are in the heart of the city with shops and restaurants within a five minute drive. We spend lots of time in each of these areas in our home as a family. Movies by the fireplace, game nights at the basement table, lounging upstairs on the big couch with a book, or quiet time in our bedrooms are some of our favorite ways to spend our time.

We have two American short-haired cats, littermates Blayne and Revan who are now sixteen. We brought them home when they were nine weeks old. Our two year old Black Labrador Retriever, Lyla, joined our family when she was seven weeks old. Blayne prefers to keep to herself and tolerates the family. When she does want attention, she enjoys being around us and asks for love easily. Jaina and Revan are buddies. Even in his old age, she constantly picks him up and cuddles with him like a baby. Revan loves his humans but isn't a fan of other adults in "his" home. He lets you know he's in charge by his meows. He won't bother you if you don't bother him though. Now that Jaina is older, he loves to be in her room and puts her to bed. If she's up too late, he meows at her and tells her it's bedtime. Lyla has a special relationship with each one of us. She plays hard with Trevor, cuddles with me and acts like a little sister to Jaina. Whenever Jaina is home, Lyla must be near her, especially if she is outside. She whines at the back door if Jaina is outside and she is not. We also have a tank fish that provides calming entertainment.

Our Community







We live in the northern Midwest in a fairly diverse area. There are people of all ages, shapes, sizes, skin colors and backgrounds. We live in a neighborhood that is welcoming and caring and looks out for one another. Our school district consistently ranks in the top ten for lower, middle and upper schools in our area. We have many accolades for academic and sport excellence. We have many parks and trails in the city and close by in our neighborhood. We are not far from the exciting life of downtown living and there is plenty of local countryside near us as well. We live in the best of both worlds!







Our Values



INTEGRITY

Doing the right thing even when no one is looking is important to us. It helps others in our family know who we will be when we are not together. Having integrity is a character strength that can be used in every interaction, every conversation, every moment, even when life is hard.



HONESTY

Telling the truth, even when it's hard to hear, allows people to trust you. It shows that you are going to do what you say you are going to do. We remind Jainco often that if she makes a mistake, as long as she is honest and tells the truth, we won't be nearly as upset, and we can work out a solution together.



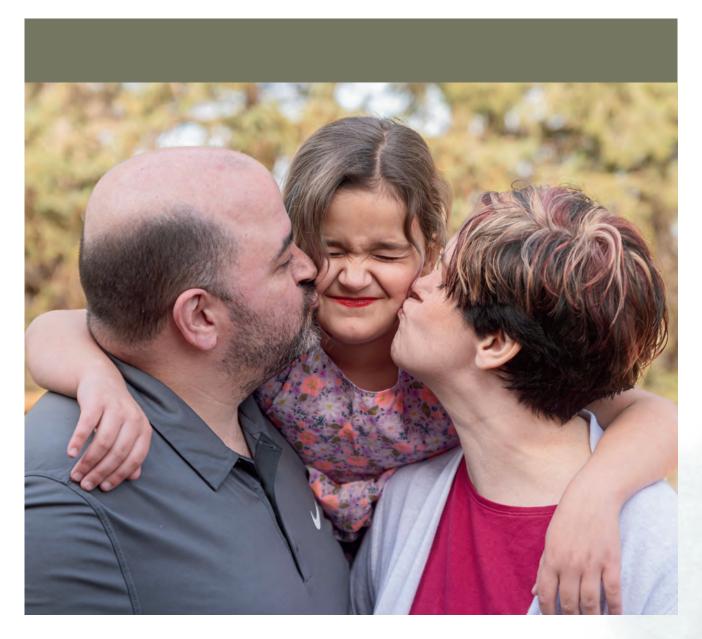
PERSEVERANCE

Once you start something, you see it on to completion. Even if you don't like the outcome or wish you could have done better. Even if you want to quit. We tell Jaina that she can move on to something else once it's over but cannot quit in the middle just because something is hard, especially if others are depending on her.



FUN

Have fun no matter what. Show integrity Be honest. Show perseverance. But above all, don't forget to have fun. If you have fun, those three things will come without thinking about it. Laugh. Be silly. Enjoy whatever it is you're doing.



Plans for the Future

Our career plans are to stay in our current professions and places of employment. We desire to remain in our current home for as long as our lives will allow us to. We want to grow old in this beautiful home of ours. We dream of our future grandkids being able to run and play in our yard for years to come. While we love to travel locally, big travel is not something in our current plans as a young family. While we hope to have a sibling for Jaina, our plans for growing our family will end with a successful adoption. Our hopes for our children are that they get to experience all life has to offer them and we as parents do whatever it takes to make that happen. We will support their dreams, goals and endeavors to help them live their lives, as well as ours, to the fullest.

TREVOR'S FAMILY

My parents, Marilyn and Dan, were married for over thirty-seven years. My mom passed away in 2007 and my dad passed away in 2022. My mother was the gentlest, most patient soul I have ever known. Her love of children was something I learned from and experienced every day. Heidi and Jaina never got a chance to meet my mom. My father was always fair with us as children and well into adulthood. He worked a lot but never missed an event for my sisters or me. As we got older, he loved to spend time with us watching Packers and Badgers football games. My dad loved Jaina well and had a special nickname for her. As his memory deteriorated from dementia, he still remembered to call her Punky. My sister, Angie, is married to her high school sweetheart, Jon. They live twenty minutes from us and have two amazing daughters who are twenty and eighteen. My sister, Trisha, is a mother of two dogs and lives twenty-five minutes from us. My sisters have been instrumental in my life and have always been there for us, as we see them quite regularly. They love spending time with Jaina and enjoy having her over for sleepovers.

HEIDI'S FAMILY

My parents, Ellen and Gary, were married for twelve years. While their marriage did not last, they brought three amazing kids into this world who have become successful adults. They still have a cordial relationship to this day. My dad, Gary, has been remarried to Julie for thirteen years. My dad, John has been around our family since we were little. While he and my mom never legally married, they were together for twenty years. During that time, I gained a younger brother. A few years later, my dad, John, found more than a friendship with a longtime family friend, Kathy, and they have been happily married for seventeen years. She has two kids who we grew up with as friends and now consider our family. As crazy as it sounds, all three parents got along well enough while all of us kids were growing up and did what they could to be united at our events. My dad is the best dad and grandpa. We see him a few times a month, often for a whole day full of adventures. He spends as much time with his six grandkids as possible and wouldn't change his role in our lives for anything. John and Kathy live six hours away from us.

My brother, David, lives in South Dakota with his bride, Dia. They have three incredible adult daughters. My sister, Nicole, lives six minutes from us. She is married to Ryan and has a sixteen year old daughter and fourteen year old son. We see them all the time and love spending time together. My brothers, Jesse and JR, are both single. My sister, Sarah, is married to her husband, Mike. My family is spread out but we keep in touch through phone calls and Facetime as much as possible!

















While it gets crazy sometimes, our lives are surrounded by love from near and far. No matter what family members we're with, it's always loud, fun, and memorable. Good food and great company are something we come by easily. All our family members are so excited that we are adding to our family. They know of our heartache and joy in growing our family and have supported us every step of the way with encouragement, a shoulder to cry on, a listening ear and have celebrated the joys of parenthood right along with us. We cannot wait to introduce them to our newest family member.

Our Faith

We did not grow up in church, but when my brother, David, married his wife she introduced us to Christ and the rest is history. I've been attending church since 2006, become a follower of Jesus, and led Trevor and Jaina to Him as well. We will raise our children to know that God loves them, no matter what. Even when they make mistakes. We model for our children to love themselves, love others as God does and show love in the ways they know how. We teach and show kindness, fairness and unconditional love to our children. These values are also shared and modeled by our church community. Jaina enjoys spending Sunday mornings at our children's program. She hears stories of Jesus in an age-appropriate way that she understands. I am one of her teachers at church, so it's fun for me as her mom to be able to discuss something we learned that day. We have so many people who love and care for us each week. We extend the same love and care back to them. We attend gatherings the church has like pizza nights, Easter events, Mother's and Father's Day events, vacation Bible school and other fun activities. We seek God's help through prayer as a first line of defense if we have a problem we can't handle. We talk to God as a friend not just when we need something.





Education

Jaina attends a public charter school ten minutes away from our home. School uniforms are mandatory and a classical education curriculum is taught. We desire that all our children attend this school. However, if it is not the right fit for them, we would look into other options if needed. We love what this school stands for; preparation for life, not just academics and teaching the next generation to lead, follow, and help others. There is a monthly character theme that gets woven into the curriculum in a very tangible way that is not taught at traditional public schools. We have been involved with this school almost since its inception twenty years ago and have loved every minute. We are grateful to be a part of this school community.

No matter what our children's plans are for after graduation, we will support and encourage them financially and otherwise. We will encourage their interests as they age so they can experience what they love and make sound, solid decisions about their future, whatever that looks like.



Thank You



that, if we are chosen to be the adoptive parents to your sweet baby, we will love your child as our own.

We have longed to grow our family for many years and we would love to welcome your child and you as much as you are comfortable with, into our home and our life. We know that not only will we love, adore and cherish your child, but Jaina will as well. Our hopes and dreams for your child are that they come to know how much you love them and how much you care for them that you made the hardest, most important decision of your life, allowing them to be raised by our family. We will support them in whatever their heart desires and give them the tools and support they need to make their wildest dreams come true.

While we are trying to grow our family, we realize that perhaps growing yours may not be in your plan right now. Which is why we believe we are looking for each other. God has gently taken His sweet time preparing our hearts for bringing another child into our home in the way He intended; through your heart, through your brave decision and through your beautiful child so that we get to call you both part of our family.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter to you. We've written, rewritten, deleted, added, reworded and come back to this letter so many times to get our emotions, words and thoughts written in a way that helps you truly know who we are. It wasn't an easy task, but we hope its words provide you comfort and peace, knowing that we will love, care for and raise your child no different than we love, care for and raise our Jaina. We look forward to getting to know you in whatever way makes you feel comfortable, on your timetable, at your pace.

Thank you from the bottom of our grateful hearts,

With love, Trevor and Herch





