

Dave and Laura

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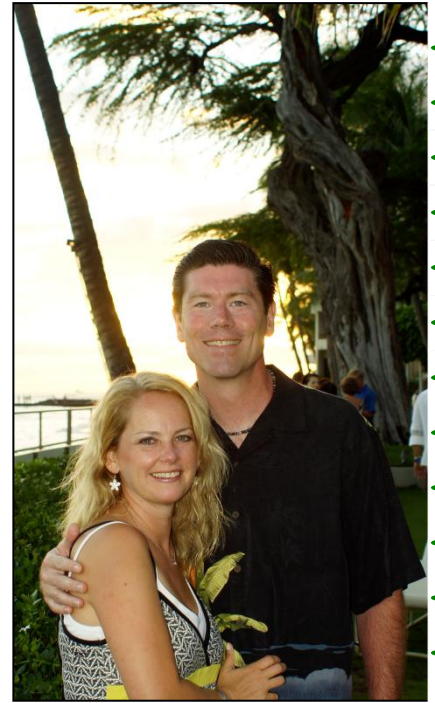
Hello!

There is no question-you have great strength. At the same time, you may be feeling so many different emotions. We pray that you feel peace inside as you create an adoption plan. We appreciate the opportunity and time you are giving us to tell you about the life we can provide for a child. There is no gift as great as receiving the gift of a child.

We can't imagine how you are feeling, but hope that from our letter you will feel confident knowing that we can offer limitless amounts of love to a child. We hope you will know that we believe family is the ultimate support system and that security and happiness is always found in our home, guiding a confident, well-rounded child in every step of life.

HOW WE MET:

Our names are Dave and Laura and we have been married for 6 years. We were set up by a mutual friend and realized quickly that we worked together at a restaurant eleven years prior! Truth be told, Laura always referred to Dave as the 'the cute cook'. Imagine the excitement-she was actually going on a date with him.



We were hooked on each other from the first minute of our first date. Can you fall in love *and* make a best friend at the same time? Yes. What a deal.

We were engaged exactly 2 years later on July 3rd in Las Vegas. Dave planned it perfectly taking Laura by surprise-just as she hoped, but never thought he would catch her off guard. We just celebrated our 6-year anniversary back in Las Vegas. We went to the same restaurant and sat in the same booth where it all began. We are both complete romantics!

CREATING OUR FAMILY:

We are excited about the possibility of building our family through adoption. We were unsuccessful having children through fertility treatment. This didn't change our desire have a family. We continue to want to give our love to a child, nurturing them to have the utmost confidence in themselves, a sense of humor in all situations, and pride in everything they do. We believe a child should understand their adoption plan and know that the building blocks prior to their birth were carefully placed by *you* with thoughtfulness, courage and great love. We will be honest because we believe this is what is best for the child.

We are anxious to share the life we have built with a child. Our marriage is based on love, trust and giving each other the room to be our individual selves. Without a doubt, our love for each other is strong and it shows. We believe that a child should feel love around them always in order to feel

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safe and secure. We have already created this environment for our own relationship-now we hope and pray we can share it with a child.

DAVE *(written by Laura)*

Dave is intelligent, funny and affectionate. He was raised with strong family values. I count on him and know how much he loves me by his words and actions. He makes me laugh through the good and bad. He is honest always and never resists taking on challenging responsibilities. I am truly lucky to know I will spend the rest of my life with him.

Dave is a loan officer for a large bank, so he helps families buy their home. He's the 'numbers guy' in our relationship and makes sure that we are financially secure and planning appropriately for the future we have planned. Dave is a respected leader. He is on the Board of Directors for our neighborhood because he wants to preserve the strong community we live in. Dave is generous with his time and likes to help others. He is the one that secretly gets up early in the morning and snowblows the sidewalks so that everyone can still walk their dogs and exercise! Nobody knows-he



doesn't need the recognition. He just wants to make everyone's busy life easier.

Dave is close with his family and mine. He always helps our parents with computer or tv/cable problems. He is happy to trouble shoot or help them shop for technology. Our niece and nephew love him so much. They run and hug him the minute they see him and fight over who will sit next to him at the dinner table. When they visit, they never want to leave. The neighborhood kids call him Mr. Dave and think he's the greatest. I think it's because they know he truly likes playing with them!

Laura *(written by Dave)*

Laura is sensitive, caring and smart. She is a great support to me, but also to friends and family. She is a great listener and is always encouraging. She gives great advice and makes people feel good about themselves. She loves to be the hostess, planning fun events that are now traditions. We host a huge Super Bowl party for our friends as well as an Easter egg hunt with our family. She is always involved in planning the kids' games at parties whether it's an egg toss or hiding crayons, pennies and macaroni for a scavenger hunt.

She stocks our pantry and game closet to be kid-friendly: juice boxes, goldfish, coloring books and crayons. Visits from family and friends always include children from



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newborn to 7th grade!

Laura is a 7th grade National Board Certified Reading teacher. She inspires kids to love reading, always using new ideas to make it fun. She works for an award-winning school that always exceeds its high academic standards. In the summer, she teaches younger children how to cook-enchiladas, salsa, warm apple crisp-you name it. She sees what motivates and inspires kids, and also what discourages them. She makes it a point to really get to know her students so she can support their individual needs whether it be academic struggles or social issues like bullying. She is always helping them tap into their talents to help them gain confidence in themselves. She will be a great mother because of how much she already knows about children. We have nieces that live far away, yet she makes sure to keep in touch by texting, emailing and having book clubs over the phone! Laura will continue working. Her schedule allows her to be home early and for extended breaks throughout the year. A high quality, nationally recognized daycare facility is located near our home where growth and learning begins from the moment the child enters their care.

OUR HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in a spacious four-bedroom home with a big basement ready for playing and a large backyard. Our neighborhood is filled with children. We know most of them because we are friends with their parents! Our neighborhood is very safe and is complete with numerous parks, swimming pools and amazing park district programs that offer activities meeting any child's interests. We have an award-winning library that caters to children. We have many friends within walking distance, so we are usually hanging out with them on the weekend playing games, watching the kids play and just catching up! We celebrate holidays and special events with them in the shape of barbecues, dinners and even trips. We are extremely lucky and believe it is rare for two people to know so many truly good, honest people so close by. As we watch our friends' children involved in soccer, t-ball, cheerleading, tai kwon do, music, softball and swimming, we become more excited to include a child in activities they are interested in, as well. There are exceptional opportunities available in our community.

OUR FAMILY

Both of our parents are still married and have shown us the value of marriage. They are amazing grandparents because they enjoy spending time with their grandkids. It shows with visits that include themed activities like the Olympic Games, Summer Camp Club, and Let's Be Artists! Laura has an older brother and sister and Dave has an older sister. We have four nieces and one nephew and we believe we are the 'favorite aunt and uncle' ☺. Because most of our family lives nearby, we have traditions-Thanksgiving football games and scavenger hunts, Easter egg hunts, the annual family summer trip and even the funny Birthday Hat we must wear on our birthday. Our families are anxious to welcome a new member. They are extremely supportive.

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AND THE LOVE CONTINUES: The life we have built together is full of happiness. We have strong communication- this is the key! We make a point to talk about our day and bounce ideas off of each other- we truly respect each other's perspective. We laugh a lot. We work out differences quickly because we believe that being angry with each other is wasted time and only creates a stressful home. Friends have told us they envy how much fun we have together-laughing and sharing inside jokes. We love our family, the neighborhood we live in and the careers we have chosen. We are truly blessed that we share real happiness and true love. We believe our lives will be truly complete when we can share this love and happiness with a child.



Our dog BLUE!

WE BELIEVE...

We believe that a child should be ***given the opportunity to reach their highest potential.*** They should be allowed to explore their own unique interests and talents and continue to grow in the path that they choose.

We believe that a child should ***always feel safe*** and know that home means a family that loves them unconditionally and are always available and will not judge them.

We believe that a child should be ***encouraged always*** so they have confidence to reach the goals they set for themselves.

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We believe that a child should ***know the importance of a sense of humor***. Life can be tough, and having the ability to laugh will give them a positive perspective so they never give up.

We believe that a child should be ***given a quality education*** to have a life *they* choose.

We believe that a child should be ***raised with Christian values***, knowing there is a special plan for them.

We believe that a child should be **surrounded by positive role models** because this will help them make good choices for themselves as they create their own identity.



Thank you for your time and we wish you the best as you decide on an adoption plan. We hope that the information we have shared has given you great confidence in the love, security and safety we can offer a child.

We pray for your continued strength and courage as you take your next steps.

Kind regards,

Dave and Laura