

What It Means To Be A Parent

This is a BIG question. The definition of a "parent" in the dictionary is: "a father or mother; one who begets or one who gives birth to or nurtures and raises a child." This is definitely true of a parent but being a parent means so much more. A parent is that person who listens to your hopes and dreams and then supports you in accomplishing them. A parent lets you dream as big as the moon and does not tell you that anything is out of your reach, instead a parent is your biggest cheerleader. Every night at bedtime we tell Quinn that we love him "to infinity and beyond" and it warms our hearts when he can repeat it back with the same depth of meaning. As parents we often hug our child and tell him of our love for him every chance we get as this is something that is important for us. We only hope Quinn understands how much he means to us. Our love as parents is so strong that it will just strengthen as our family has a chance to grow and spread even more love to another child and hopefully to your family as well.

Ryan

Job Description:

Special Education Teacher,
Varsity Boys Tennis Coach

Education:

Master's Degree in Education,
BA in Psychology

Favorites:

Hobby

Landscaping

Holiday Tradition

Opening Presents with Quinn

Form of Exercise

Playing Basketball

Childhood Memory

Myrtle Beach Vacations

Classic Movie

Swiss Family Robinson



We just want you to know that we are in it for the long haul and understand that you are looking out for what you believe are the best interests of this child, your child. We wish you the best of luck in whatever decision you make and would love to come along for the ride with you!

Children: Quinn, born Dec., 2012

Anne

Job Description:

Early Childhood Mental Health
Consultant, Licensed Social Worker
Working Towards My LISW

Education:

Master's Degree in Social Work,
BA in Political Science

Favorites:

Hobby

Scrapbooking

Holiday Tradition

Christmas Family Gathering

Form of Exercise

Family Walks

Childhood Memory

Labor Days with Extended Families

Classic Movie

West Side Story

What Made Us Who We Are

That, to us, has such a simple answer ... our families! We both grew up in traditional, middle class homes with old fashioned values. We learned how to respect others, how to respect ourselves, and to share all of who we are whether that is through volunteering, coaching, teaching, loving, or just cheering someone on who needs our support. These are also values that we wish to instill in Quinn and any other child raised in our home and in our hearts. Young children are so loving and giving. We believe that starting these values young helps them become more natural and more from the heart as they grow. It is hard to think of all of the opportunities and people we would have missed in our lives had this not been the case. We want Quinn and this child to experience the same unconditional love and enrich their lives through the people that surround them and the opportunities that await them. We wish for them "the world"!

Our House & Neighborhood



We moved into our current house about 2 years ago. We love it here! This is the community that Anne grew up in so we have many friends and family in the area. Our neighbors are all extremely helpful and have young children to play with. Our community and/or school often hold special events such as the street fair, High school sports, musicals, local church events (Vacation Bible School, ice cream socials, free family dinners, programs, etc...), a local Farmer's Market, and many other attractions for a small community.

We live within a 15 minute drive of a bigger community that holds a large carousel, a Children's Museum, a Performing Arts Hall, Chuck E Cheese, and many other family friendly options. This is a community that has always been close and will look out for each other's children as if they were their own. This is one of the reasons that drew us back to this area. Our community is directly in between Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio. It is supportive and a great place to raise and teach children. We strongly believe in the statement that it takes a village to raise a child.



Our Home

Our Son, Quinn

We currently have a son named Quinn who was born in December 2012. He is the light of our life as we never thought we would be able to have any biological children. We are amazed at how much he learns everyday and the amount of love he shows towards us. He is very affectionate, curious, active, creative, and already dreams of driving Lightning McQueen one day. We even drove all the way to Pittsburgh on a whim so he could meet Lightning McQueen in person this spring for about half an hour. The smile on his face made it all worth it! He has his grandparents and his aunt wrapped around his little finger. We continue to talk to him about adding another child to the family. We are unsure how much he actually understands but we have noticed he is often pointing out babies to us and telling us how cute they are. He announced at Vacation Bible School that "Mommy is having a baby" which really threw us off. He loves to play with other children and will be a great big brother.

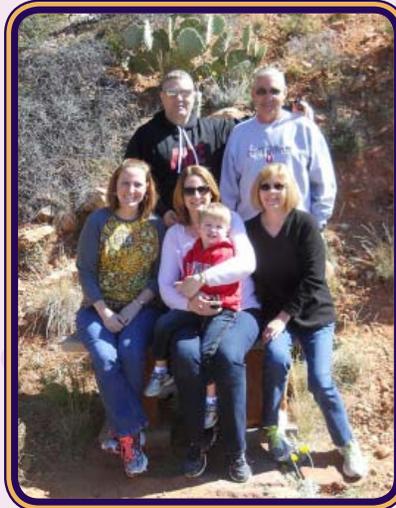


Mother's Day 2017

Our Extended Families



Quinn Washing Sand Off of Anne's Dad, Gaggy's Feet



With Ryan's Family in Sedona



Sharing a Frosty with Anne's Mom, Nini

We are blessed to have the extended family that we have! We live directly in between both of our parents (12 minutes each way). We see this as a blessing as our children can grow up to know their grandparents as an everyday part of their life. They take turns babysitting when Quinn is not in school. He enjoys every minute of it from getting in water fights and playing soccer with Ryan's parents to going on walks and getting "Quinn presents" (cars) from Anne's parents! Ryan's sister is also a big part of our life and lives nearby. She is a foster mother and typically has a house full of children to play with. We often have cookouts and swim in her pool with family. We see extended family (aunts, uncles, and cousins) on both sides of the family a couple of times each year, as they do not live as close by. During these gatherings, there is plenty of great food, laughter, and lots of children playing everywhere. This can also lead to trips to exciting cities such as Chicago and Pittsburgh. The family continues to extend each day and we are so excited to extend it more!

Family Time



Our First Drive-In Movie

We are a very low key family who likes to spend time together. Our favorite thing to do is curl up on the couch to watch a family movie covered in blankets with a big bowl of popcorn. This is our typical Friday night. At bedtime we can be seen racing up the stairs as a monster (Quinn) tries to catch us. We love to be outside and explore our 13 acres. We can be seen taking walks, helping Quinn ride his bike, and watching a monkey (Quinn again) hang from his swing set. The dog and cat are often nearby and often join in the fun. When we get together as an extended family usually Ryan and Anne's families are both united.

We even go to Holden Beach each year and share a house for a week which is typically the highlight of the year. Ryan is often home during the summer with Quinn as he is a teacher and has his summer's off. Anne's job is very flexible and she spends a lot of her time off in the summer to create more family time. As long as we are together as a family we feel like we can take on anything and we want any addition to our family to feel that same strength and love.



Movie Night



Ryan's Family at
Our Nephew's Graduation



Las Vegas

Anne & Ryan



Checking Out Hoover Dam



Quinn With His Cousins
at a Graduation Party



Dad and Quinn "Steering the Gator"
While Kane Looks On



Kane Playing
in the Snow

Dear Birth Parent,

Wow! No words can express our overwhelming emotions right now so it is beyond imaginable what you may be feeling in this moment. We commend your bravery and selflessness in looking into this option for your child. It warms our hearts that you would even consider us for the awesome task of helping raise this child. To know that you would trust us to help mold, direct, cheer on, and dream with this child so that he/she may become all that they want to be and more, just blows our mind!



We are a simple family. We have always discussed adoption, even before we knew we would struggle with infertility. When we moved into this home two years ago, we became very aware of the empty bedroom that exists in between our bedroom and Quinn's. Our goal is simply to add onto our family. We have room in our home and our hearts to love another child and to share this love with you. Pictures are definitely a must in our home. We will have plenty to choose from to share this child's growth, adventures, and personality with you. We have so many pictures with Quinn that it is hard to find any of just us. The more we thought of this fact, the more we liked it. We now exist as a "family" not just as a couple. That is what we wish to add onto and hope that you can be a part of the journey.

Extended family will also remain a part of this child's everyday life as maternal and paternal grandparents will take turns babysitting when Anne returns to work. We loved this arrangement for Quinn as we both either lived far away from or did not get to know our grandparents as well growing up. We love the fact that our children will have this option in their life. Now that Quinn is getting closer to school age, this child will still get many opportunities to have that one on one attention and affection from parents/grandparents that a young child needs and wants. We can't promise that he/she won't be spoiled (we have no control over grandparents) but we can promise that this child will learn to appreciate and understand the love in his/her life and beyond words know that he/she is loved by many, including you.

We want to thank you for taking this opportunity to listen to our story and for even considering adoption in the first place. We are sure this is a long, scary journey that brings up many emotions at one time. We just want you to know that we are in it for the long haul and understand that you are looking out for what you believe are the best interests of this child, your child. We wish you the best of luck in whatever decision you make and would love to come along for the ride with you!

Anne & Ryan