



KIRSTEN & DREW

Your child will always know that our family grew because of your love for him or her.



DEAR BIRTHPARENT,

We don't presume to know your circumstances. We do, however, know that even in thinking of an adoption for your child you are doing something beautiful and courageous. Thank you for considering us.

We have been married for eight years, and when we were engaged, we talked about the possibility of adopting. We knew that we were called to be parents and that children would be part of our life together. After being married for a few years and not conceiving on our own, we began the adoption process, and last year were thrilled to welcome our daughter, Therese, into our family. She has turned our world upside down in the best possible way and has reinforced that we are being called to be mom and dad to more than one child.

Love grounds and sustains families. Your child will always know that our family grew because of your love for him or her. As his or her adoptive parents, your child will come to see us as an extension of your love. We will celebrate the graced fact that he or she is adopted. There will be no big surprise, no mystery — only the understanding that he or she is unconditionally loved by both you and us. We have already seen the benefits of an open relationship with Therese's birth mother and very much look forward to another open adoption should you desire that.

You are considering something selfless and strong. Thank you for being open to us as part of your decision. You have both our gratitude and respect.

Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Gratefully,
Drew and Kirsten*



MEET KIRSTEN & DREW

About Kirsten...

in Drew's words

I have a tendency to accidentally smear peanut butter on the fridge door. It happens, right? Still, along with a legion of other (more important) things, I'm working on it; and Kirsten is so understanding and patient that she gracefully gives me the space to do so.

She has created a home where we break into dancing in the kitchen (twirling Therese as my phone plays Dancing in the Moonlight), we sit on the couch and talk about a movie for an hour after its last credit, and bath time for Therese turns into romps filled with splashing, suds, and laughter.

There is a grace and consideration for others grounding all of her relationships. A squirrel begins to scamper in the back yard? Kirsten will scoop up Therese to help her witness the hectic furry bolting. Papers are piling up? She will arm herself with a red pen, join me at the dining room table and help me grade.

She is the love of my life and the heart of our family. The greatest gift I can think of for anyone to receive is to have her as an adoptive mother.

About Drew...

in Kirsten's words

It is a cliché, but I knew by the end of our first date that I would marry Drew. It was clear from the start that his relationships with his family and friends took priority in his life. He is selfless and humble, ever the level-headed one in conversation and in action. While he is intelligent and thoughtful, he doesn't take himself too seriously, so we laugh often and easily. On one road trip, we got on the wrong highway because we were so into our conversation, then shared a laugh when we finally turned around after going 30 miles out of our way.

Drew is a tremendous father. He is caring and attentive with Therese, sometimes acting as her jungle gym, other times gently rocking her to sleep. She knows that when I say, "Dad's home," regardless of how tired he is when he gets home from work, she is in for a toss in the air and some playtime with Dad. Drew lets Therese and I both know through his actions every day that he loves and cares for us more than anything or anyone else in the world.

EXTENDED FAMILY

Our lives are centered around family. Each of us is blessed to have parents who have been

married for over forty years, and we look forward to creating that type of stable home for our children.

We meet up with Kirsten's parents and three siblings'

families, who all live in western Pennsylvania, often. We sit around the camp fire talking late into the evening while making s'mores until the mosquitos chase us inside; gather at her

parent's house for Thanksgiving, spending the day cooking, talking, eating, and playing Pictionary; everyone goes to the nieces' and nephews' hockey games, concerts, and

plays. Therese has six cousins on this side of the family, so every time we get together, it is loud, rambunctious, and lots of fun.

On Drew's side of the family, we have a weekly standing date with his parents for

dinner. Either we have them over and we make it from scratch, or we go to their house and they order take-out.

While Drew's brother-in-law's job has taken his sister's family out

of state, he travels to see them every year, and we look forward to family road trips to visit aunt Leah, uncle Ryan, and cousin Ty.



Reading with Grammy (Kirsten's mom)



A little hot dog help from Uncle Drew



Our weekly night with Grandma and Grandpa (Drew's parents)



Enjoying a beautiful evening in Italy



Having some fun on Lake Erie



Checking out the eclipse

MORE ABOUT US KIRSTEN, DREW, AND THERESE

More About Kirsten

Age: 41

Occupation: Stay-at-home mom

Education: Master's Degree in English Literature

Favorite Author: Jane Austen

Favorite Hobby: Yoga

Favorite Dessert: Oreo cheesecake

More About Drew

Age: 39

Occupation: High school teacher and coach

Education: Master's Degree in Theology, Master's Degree in Education

Favorite Author: John Steinbeck

Favorite Hobby: Cycling

Favorite Dessert: Our (self-proclaimed) world famous peanut butter pie



Drew's first photo with Therese



One of Kirsten's first moments with Therese

We met doing something neither of us thought we would ever do: go on a blind date. Thankfully, we were willing to listen to our friends' advice that we should meet, because we immediately hit it off. After a year of road trips, concerts, ball games, movies, dinners, and meeting each other's families, we became engaged. We were married six months later in October of 2009. We simply enjoy each other's company and are willing to try new things, so it is easy for us to find things to do. From a taking a class on how to make pierogies to swing dancing lessons, from classical music concerts to exploring the trails in Hocking Hills, we enjoy spending time together and seeking out new experiences.

Our most recent new experience is the adoption of our daughter, Therese. We welcomed her into our family when she was born in April 2017, and she has filled our lives with love, laughter, and growth. She is a sweet, happy girl and brings joy to everyone whom she sees (we call her our goodwill ambassador). We can't wait for her to be a big sister and share her spark with a younger sibling.

OUR HOME & COMMUNITY

We live in a suburb just outside of Cleveland, and we bought our house and selected our neighborhood with kids in mind. There is plenty of space for children to play and explore, both inside and out. And, our block seems to have exploded with young families over the past few years. Each summer evening, there is a parade of mothers and fathers pulling kids in wagons, jogging watchfully next to unsteady bike-riders, and pushing strollers. Block parties are a staple of summer; a park, complete with splash pad, is within walking distance from our house; and,

our city's rec center is a stroll away. Therese and Kirsten have already taken parent-child swimming lessons there and are going to weekly storytime at the library right next door.

We love taking in all that Cleveland has to offer. One of our favorite annual traditions is attending the Cleveland Orchestra Christmas concert. In the warmer months, you will find us with Therese strapped to our backs, hiking the trails in the nearby national park. We also love going to concerts in town, taking in the art museum, and hitting up our local farmer's market.



Therese's Baptism



Summers are for strolling



Hitting the trails



Our happy Halloween tiger



Staring contest! (With our nephew)



With Kirsten's dad on the field of Browns Stadium



Picking out a pumpkin for Halloween



Playing some pond hockey



Friday night is home made pizza night!

OUR PROMISE

Should you choose us as parents for your child, we promise that he or she will always know that our family grew because you engaged in a tremendous act of love and strength. We promise to send regular updates, and if you would like, will video chat and get together in person with you as your child grows. We promise to provide a stable home and family. We promise to laugh a lot and not take ourselves too seriously. We promise to hug and kiss him or her every day. We promise to eat dinners together as a family. Above all, we promise to love your child unconditionally for the rest of our lives.



For more information about our family, please contact Adoption by Gentle Care at (800) 824-9633.