



Brett & Jacqueline

We intend to make your child's adoption story a source of pride for him or her, encouraging curiosity and answering questions in a compassionate way. We can't wait to be parents and experience all of the smiles and tears, trials and triumphs, barriers and beauty associated with it.



ADOPTION BY
GENTLE CARE

Serving as a partner in creating and sustaining nurturing families

370 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, SUITE 2, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-5433
TOLL-FREE: (800) 824-9633

About Brett

BIRTH YEAR: 1983

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Assistant Athletic Director

EDUCATION:
Bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism, Master's degree in sports administration

FAVORITE MOVIE:
"Anchorman"

FAVORITE BAND:
Nine Inch Nails

FAVORITE SPORT:
College basketball

FAVORITE HOLIDAY:
Christmas

FAVORITE HOBBIES:
Golf and basketball

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:
Hawaii

FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK:
"Green Eggs & Ham"

MARRIAGE DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2016

About Jacqueline

BIRTH YEAR: 1988

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Physical Therapist

EDUCATION:
Bachelor's degree in exercise biology, Doctorate in physical therapy

FAVORITE MOVIE:
Any superhero movie

FAVORITE BAND:
Imagine Dragons

FAVORITE SPORT:
Hockey

FAVORITE HOLIDAY:
Christmas

FAVORITE HOBBIES:
Running, swimming, biking

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT:
Colorado mountains or NYC

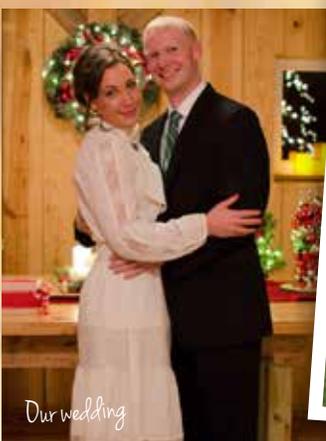
FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK:
"Mrs. Piggle Wiggle"

ABOUT BRETT: In my free time, I love to play golf. I've played golf since I was about 10 years old, and I enjoy getting outside and playing with friends or with my dad when he comes to visit. I have a regular group that plays every weekend, and we have a lot of fun together. Whether I am playing in a tournament or just hitting balls on the driving range, I find being outside and swinging a golf club very therapeutic and relaxing. I also enjoy playing basketball and softball, as well as running and working out at the gym. Basketball has always been my favorite sport, and I get to be around it a lot with my job. I spend time with our team and coaching staff, traveling around the country during the season, and being a part of postseason tournaments. I feel very lucky to get to do something that I really enjoy every day.

ABOUT JACKIE: As an orthopedic physical therapist, I work with patients who have sustained injuries or had surgeries. I like the variety that my job allows, as I generally have patients ranging from ages 9 to 90 and who come from a whole host of different backgrounds. I enjoy being active and in my free time I can often be found in the pool, on my bike or out running. I have been an avid runner for about five years, and have recently shifted my focus to include triathlons. I started competing in triathlons last year and qualified for a national competition in Cleveland. Doing well in this race, and participating in my first half Ironman are my goals this season. I also enjoy spending time with kids and volunteering at our church where I help with third-grade Sunday school and a quarterly respite night for families with children with special needs.

Our Home and Community

We live in a beautiful house in Cincinnati. We bought our home about two years ago, and it's worked out perfectly for us! We absolutely love it because of its proximity to the city, architectural character and big, beautiful tree in the backyard. Our house is more than 90 years old, and we love the wood floors and the stained glass windows in the living room. It has a small bedroom next to ours that we are looking forward to decorating for our baby. It is also very close to where Brett works, and the sports medicine clinic where Jackie treats patients. As much as we love our house, we love the neighborhood even more. There are sidewalks everywhere and people in the community are very active. There are always runners and bikers out, which is great for us because being active and staying fit is very important to both of us. There are also two parks that are very close to us, and we're looking forward to visiting the swing set and going for walks as a family. It's a great place to raise a child!



Our wedding



Our home!



Reading to our niece & nephew



Our Families

Brett has extended family in two main locations. He grew up in Paducah, Kentucky, and his father's side of the family still lives there. His parents, grandparents, aunt and uncle and several cousins live there. We go to visit them at least once per year, sometimes over holidays or just for a long weekend. Growing up there, Brett is very close to his parents, grandparents and aunt and uncle who live there. They always enjoy meals together and celebrate holidays as a family. Brett's mother's side of the family lives in the Nashville, Tennessee area. His brother Brad has also lived there for more than 10 years. We see his brother at least once a year, most of the time when we all visit Paducah at the same time.

Jackie's family is a little bit smaller. One of the reasons that adoption means so much to her is that her father was adopted at a very young age. Her father never knew a lot about his birth parents, and that's something that Jackie wants to make sure her child knows! Her parents and her sister, Brianne, live in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her sister is married to Tanner with two 'littles' that Brett and Jackie adore. Jackson has just turned four, and his sister Ruby is 2 1/2. Jackie and Brett love to FaceTime and visit with them. Jackie's aunt, Pam, lives in Maryland. Her son, Dan, was recently married and lives in there, too, with his wife, Allison. Dan, Brianne and Jackie were very close growing up and still stay in touch now.

Our Religious Beliefs

We are both strong Christians. Our faith is one of the major things that brought us together. Early on, we realized that we were attending the same church, but at different locations. Both of us were attending Crossroads Church, but at different locations. We began attending together early on while we were dating. Bonding over our commitment to lives with Christ has been extremely helpful for us. We attended a Building Blocks of Marriage premarital class there for a few months before we were married as well.

When we were married, we made a commitment to each other, and before God, that whatever trials we encounter, whatever hardships we each face, that we would never give up on each other. In a time now where about half of all marriages end in divorce, we are committed to our pact. Whatever comes our way, we are devoted to each other first and foremost. Above all, that's the message that we want to convey to our child; to be firm in his or her commitments and that one's word is honorable. We will provide a strong family dynamic and supportive environment for our child!

Talking To Our Child About Adoption

One of the biggest things that we have learned through the adoption process is how important it is to communicate with the child about his or her story. Initially we were both a little hesitant to have an open adoption, but we recognize that our fears were rooted in ignorance and our hearts have completely softened to the idea. We now realize it is so important for our child to know his or her adoption story.

We want to communicate how much you love your child, and that it was in fact your love that helped you make the decision to allow us to parent him or her. We want our child to appreciate everyone who has played a part in his or her upbringing, and that includes you. We want the fact that our child is adopted to be a source of pride, something that is exciting to share. We'll talk to our child about their adoption from the first day with us. We are so excited to be able to raise a proud and confident child!

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter; hopefully it allows you to connect with and learn about us. We can't begin to assume that we know what you are thinking or how you are feeling. The amount of courage it takes to consider creating an adoption plan is astounding, and we admire you for that.

We met through a mutual friend. We had our first date at a Reds baseball game on a Friday night, and there were fireworks scheduled after the game. The game was delayed due to rain, which afforded us plenty of time to talk, and believe it or not, adoption came up! After the rain stopped and the game finished, there were still fireworks, which Jackie loves, so it was a wonderful end to a great night. Brett was very excited the next morning to see that she had already texted him. His delight quickly dissipated when he read: "Do you have my wallet in your car?" After getting in touch with the security staff at the ballpark, neither of us had any success finding it and so it was presumed stolen. But, it gave Brett the opportunity to ask her out again and the rest is history.

We dated for about a year, going to sporting events, musicals and weekend flea markets and farmer's markets. We even went skydiving once! We enjoyed running together, going to church and attending game nights with friends. After church one Sunday, Brett felt strongly that he needed to propose to Jackie. So he drove her to the top of a local park just as it was getting dark. After being redirected by a park ranger and getting lost trying to find "the spot," he decided to just drop to one knee and ask her. She didn't say anything at first, but she finally nodded yes. We were married in a small Christmas-themed ceremony in the attic of a winery, with only our closest family members present. Jackie's niece and nephew were featured in the wedding, and we traded wedding cake for Christmas cookies and wine. We stayed in a hotel downtown that night but waited to go on our honeymoon for about five months, where we visited San Francisco, Maui and Kauai.

We are both hard workers and although we are invested in our jobs, family comes first. We hold family meetings, which right now comprise of just the two of us, on a regular basis to make adjustments and communicate about our marriage, finances and goals, both separate and together. We allow our faith and the insight of each other to steer our family, making adjustments and improvements along the way. We have hobbies that we share and things that are just our own. Brett enjoys golfing and playing basketball, while Jackie trains for triathlons and runs with a "tribe" of women, who meet at 6 a.m. multiple days per week for the exercise and friendship. We attend and volunteer at church together nearly every week, sometimes going to breakfast with friends afterward. We enjoy taking day trips and exploring wineries, different cities and hiking through parks and trails.

When we realized that Jackie's blood clotting disorder would put her and any pregnancy in a very high-risk category, it further solidified the idea of adoption for us. Jackie's dad was adopted, so it has always been very close to her heart. We are so excited to expand our family to include a child with whom we can learn and grow. We are motivated to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which a child can explore, develop and mature. We live in a very active community close to two different parks, and look forward to frequenting them. We are determined to provide comfort, support, guidance, and above all, love to our child, giving him or her the license to dream and achieve. We can't wait to introduce this new child to Brett's family in Paducah, Kentucky, and Jackie's niece and nephew in Charlotte, North Carolina; Jackson and Ruby will be so excited to have a cousin!

We intend to make your child's adoption story a source of pride for him or her, encouraging curiosity and answering questions in a compassionate way. We are excited to include this new member in all of our existing family traditions, and create a few new ones of our own to celebrate our child's heritage and background. We're excited to meet you and talk about what traditions you may have that we can incorporate as well. It goes without saying that there will be adversity or obstacles along the way, but we are committed to tackling these together as a family. No family is perfect, but we can't wait to be parents and experience all of the smiles and tears, trials and triumphs, barriers and beauty associated with it.

Thank you again for reading about us and hearing our story. We wish you the best of luck, and pray for your health and protection through your pregnancy, regardless of the decision you end up making. We appreciate your bravery and wish to encourage you during this time!

Best Wishes,

Brett & Jackie

