



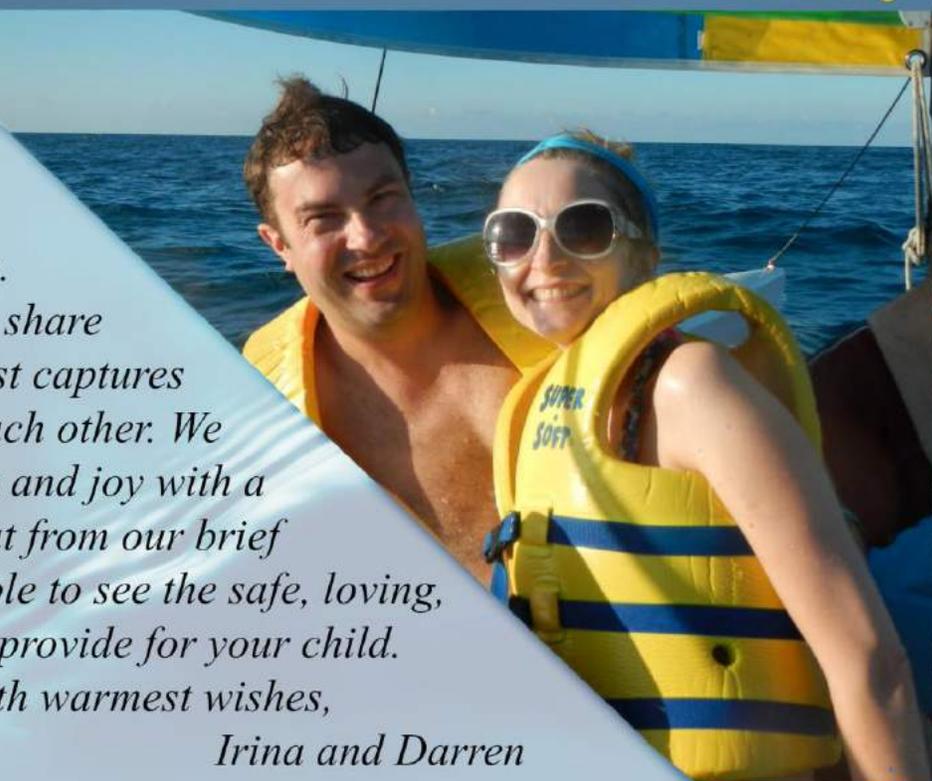
Irina & Darren

Dear Birth Parents,

We are so pleased you are taking the time to read about us. We chose our wedding photo to share with you because we think it best captures the joy and love we share for each other. We want so much to share that love and joy with a child in our family. We hope that from our brief introduction to you, you'll be able to see the safe, loving, and nurturing family we would provide for your child.

With warmest wishes,

Irina and Darren



Irina

Born: 1973

Occupation: Export Control Officer for a medical device company

Education: MBA in International Business

Favorite activity: Traveling

Favorite sport: Figure Skating

Favorite quality about Darren: He is warm, wise and very smart. He is a good cook. Darren makes me laugh even in the most difficult situations.

Favorite memory with Darren: Swimming with turtles in Hawaii

Favorite children's book: Karlson on the Roof by Astrid Lindren

Favorite flower: Orchid



Darren

Born: 1974

Occupation: Biology Professor at Kent State University

Education: PhD in Aquatic Sciences

Favorite activity: Fishing

Favorite sport: Kayaking

Favorite quality about Irina: Irina is a very caring and proactive person. She is always looking for ways to improve her life and especially lives of those she loves.

Favorite memory with Irina: As we first met skiing, I always love seeing the pictures of ski trips we've taken.

Favorite children's book: Any from Doctor Seuss

Favorite Music: Classic Rock or Classic Country



Together

We met through an internet dating site in 2012 and soon after went on our first date skiing at a local ski hill, Boston Mills. We really enjoyed each other's interests in active hobbies. Fairly soon into our relationship we knew we wanted to start a family together, and as we were at the age where this opportunity might be brief we decided to start down that path immediately. As we are fairly traditional people, moving ahead in starting a family before we were married felt strange, but we knew family was our priority. Our commitment to one another and to starting a family was solid, so we felt safe. We moved in together in 2014. Unfortunately, we were not blessed with our own child. On one hand this does make us sad. But on the other hand, we still feel we have so much to offer a child in the way of love and support that starting a family still remains a priority for us. We were married in September of 2017. And now we begin our search for a child to join our family. We enjoy outdoor and indoor activities equally. We love attending music festivals, theaters, museums and dancing events. Or getting outside to go kayaking, skiing or hiking. And we support each other in our individual interests as well.

Our families

Irina: My parents, Zoya and Valentyn, are from Ukraine. They are both retired. In 2018 they immigrated here, and now live nearby. They often stay with us to enjoy the lake and company. I have an older brother who is married and has a son. They now live in Moscow, Russia. I lived with my brother and his wife when my nephew was born, and helped raise him until he was 5 years old. So I have good experience with raising a child.



Darren: My parents, Darlene and Roger, are also retired. They live in northern Wisconsin and visit us several times a year. Irina and I usually go to visit them on Holidays. I also have a sister, brother-in-law and twin niece and nephew. My whole family usually gets a chance to visit in the summer to spend a week on our beach, playing in the lake, or hanging around a campfire. If it is raining we'll go bowling or play board games.



Our home

Our house overlooks the water on a private lake and is nestled between two large shade trees. We have 3 bedrooms in our house and a partially finished basement. We have plenty of room to play indoors and outdoors. Our beach has a swing set and kids are always visiting us to go for a swing or slide – sometimes right into the water. Our neighbors are friendly and always share their beach toys with anyone visiting. We routinely take walks on the nature trail through the forest around the lake.

Our house is located close to excellent educational opportunities. Most notable is the Child Development Center at Kent State, where we would plan to enroll our child. Kent State also offers free college tuition to employee's families, when that time comes.

We're always happy when friends and family can visit to enjoy our beach while grilling out. Our lake community hosts a few events throughout the year. The favorite is the 4th of July party that includes sand sculpture competitions, games for kids of all ages, and professional fireworks in the evening.



More about us...

We consider ourselves as a mix of cultures and family traditions.



Darren grew up in a rural area and his extended family were mostly dairy farmers. They enjoy their large family gatherings. We often visit Darren's family in Wisconsin for holidays. Irina grew up in a city in Ukraine, and she loves urban events, theaters, shows, and art. She likes visiting large cities like New York, Chicago, Shanghai, Kyiv, Toronto, and London. She takes dance lessons, yoga, and attends local salsa dancing events for fun. She loves all international holidays and foods.



As a family we would like to introduce a child to as many traditions as possible and share this beautiful world, nature, people, cultures, and countries.

We hope

we have given you a sense of comfort and confidence that your child will be loved and well taken care of. And we want you to also feel assured that your involvement in your child's life is something we support.

Starting a family is a priority for us even though we were unable to conceive. We've had deep discussions together and intense personal reflection about choosing adoption. The contemplation and decisions that you as the birthparents are making is even greater than we could imagine. We want you to feel assured that we have given great care and thought into this process and choice. Hopefully, we can be of support to not only your child, but to you as birthparents as well.

Although adoption is something new to us, we have several friends and coworkers who have adopted. Their stories of the benefits of open adoption have touched us. We are kind and caring individuals and want to include you in the child's life to the extent that you feel comfortable with. This may include photos, letters, social media, phone calls or visits.

We think our life experiences are pretty typical for new parents. We are confident (but nervous, of course) that we can successfully raise a child to be happy and feel loved. Irina was very involved in raising her nephew, and is experienced in many of the ups and downs. Darren has always enjoyed interacting with kids of all ages, especially his niece and nephew. As an educator, he loves to help kids develop intellectually and as people.

We feel we have so much to offer a child and we would feel so privileged if this were your child. We are humbled by your interest in us as adoptive parents.

With Love and Respect,

Irina and Darren



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