GINA & BRIAN

OUR ADOPTION JOURNEY



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ABOUTUS

We were set up on a blind date by Gina's good friend who was also a coworker of Brian's. She knew we had a lot in common, and she was right! We both enjoy traveling, cooking (and eating!), watching old movies, and spending time with our family and friends, and we make each other laugh like no one else can! (Brian can be a bit of a goofball.) We married in 2006 and have always known it was our goal to build a family. Brian has made a successful career in the healthcare industry and is based out of our home. Gina's career in early childhood education has taken her from teaching pre-K on to long-term nanny positions with three wonderful families. We are both so incredibly lucky to have married our hilarious best friend!

OUR HOME

We live in Gina's childhood home that we recently renovated—a three-bedroom, three-bathroom ranch on an acre surrounded by 200-year-old oak trees. The house is in a woody, established neighborhood a block from one of the highest-rated elementary schools in our state. Our town has a literal "Mainstreet, U.S.A." designation and celebrates year-round festivities, including holiday tree and menorah lighting in the main square. Our hometown gives us the best of both worlds in proximity to urban cultural centers, museums, and plenty of sports teams to cheer for! We can't wait to share our favorite places and explore new ones with our child.

WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

Building our family together has always been our goal. We both come from large, close families. Family is at the heart of our relationship. Adoption is also a foundation for both our extended families as Gina's grandfather was adopted and both sides of our family include first cousins adopted internationally and domestically. We endured several years of heartbreaking loss of pregnancies and unsuccessful fertility treatments, but we've always known in our hearts that adoption is our opportunity to continue to grow this big family. We are positive there is a child meant for us and us for them.

OUR PHOTOS













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GINA

Occupation: Nanny Education: Associate degree Race: Caucasian Religion: Catholic

MY FAVORITE...

Sport: Baseball, hockey, dance Musical Group: U2 Movie: The Wizard of Oz Dream Vacation: European river cruise Holiday: Halloween TV Show: Downton Abbey Subject in School: History, art, dance Book: Little Women, Anne of Green Gables



BRIAN

Occupation: Director of Sales Education: Bachelor in Arts and Sciences Race: Caucasian Religion: Catholic

MY FAVORITE...

Sport: Golf, baseball, football, and soccer Musical Group: Pearl Jam Movie: The Empire Strikes Back, Back to the Future Dream Vacation: European river cruise Holiday: Fourth of July TV Show: Parks and Recreation Subject in School: History, politics Book: The Martian, The Sun Also Rises

OUR FAMILY & TRADITIONS

We come from very large, sometimes loud but always fun, extended families. We both have older sisters the same age and have parents who married the same year and enjoyed long and happy marriages. In fact, Gina's mom lives with us since her father passed away in 2016. We are a proud uncle and aunt to two nephews and two nieces and also godparents to five. We are so lucky to be able to spend time with our many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who are family. Everyone is very excited for us to take this journey.

Some of our favorite family traditions include everyone making 300 homemade ravioli for Christmas Day dinner. Thanksgiving always concludes with a rousing game of Bingo or another ridiculous game! A fun Fourth of July tradition for 20 years is celebrating with our closest friends and their kids, swimming and BBQing. Attending our annual Cousins Picnic is another summer tradition where we play bocce ball and eat lots of Italian foods!







DEAR EXPECTANT MOTHER



We first would like to thank you for considering bringing us into both your and your baby's lives. Creating an adoption plan is a truly selfless act of love, and we are forever grateful for your courage. Raising a family of our own has always been our hope. We have always desired to build our own branch in our family's trees and continue on with our family story.

The time we spend together as a couple is so wonderfully varied. We are each other's rock, biggest supporter, favorite comedian, and best friend. We have a love of travel and have seen much of the U.S. together, judging each location based on the quality of food (of course), but we also enjoy our time spent at home, whether we are cooking out with family and friends or just enjoying a good Netflix binge. It's hard to pin down what we love to do most because we always have fun together.

We hope to take on this great responsibility and honor to nurture their self-esteem, curiosity for life, and love of others. There is a quote from author Jess Lair that encompasses our feelings on raising a child: "Children are not things to be molded but are people to be unfolded." We move forward in life side by side and are forever hopeful and incredibly excited to build our family with you.

With Love,

GINA & BRIAN

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