



Since becoming parents, we are more patient, loving, and nurturing. We have learned how to work well together as a parenting team. It would bring us great joy to add another child to our family.

Scott

Job Description:

Sales & Marketing Executive
for Large Insurance Company

Education:

Bachelor of Arts
in Psychology

Favorites:

Animal
Beagle

Children's Book
Curious George

Dream Job
Astronaut

Memory with Spouse
Asking Kathy to marry me at
Lake Beauvert in Jasper,
Canada

Sports Team
Ohio State Buckeyes

Children:

Taylor (age 4)

Kathy

Part Time Attorney with
a Small Law Firm

Bachelor of Arts in French;
Doctor of Jurisprudence

Animal
Lion

Children's Book
Charlotte's Web

Dream Job
Running a Bed & Breakfast
in the South of France

Memory with Spouse
Seeing Scott's tears of joy the
first time he held Taylor in his
arms

Sports Team
Dallas Mavericks

Exposure to Adoption

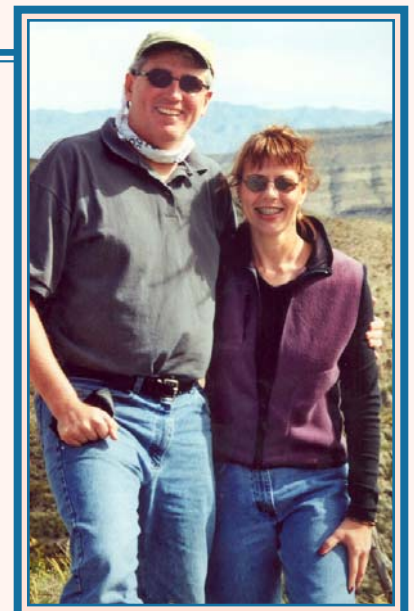
By Kathy: My mother is adopted and my mother's half-brother (my uncle) has adopted three children, so adoption has always been a positive presence in my life. One of my cousins and her husband adopted a child five years ago, and it has been such a joy to watch my cousin's child grow and bloom into a vivacious, active kindergartner, who worships his big brother. My cousin has shared with me that even though her son is only five, the family regularly talks to him in a way that he can understand about his birth parents and his unique adoption story. I truly believe that this type of open and honest communication about the child's birth parents and adoption, and even counseling if necessary, are so important in helping a child to understand and learn to manage the feelings and emotions the child may have growing up.

As a Lutheran pastor, Scott's dad has had the opportunity over the years to counsel people who have been involved in all aspects of adoption. Talking to Scott's dad has provided both of us with valuable insights into some of the special issues that birth parents and adopted children often deal with. We feel that this has made us both more aware of and sensitive to the emotional needs of this child. Our families are very excited about our decision to adopt, and this child will be welcomed with open arms and hearts.

How We Met

By Scott: Kathy and I met through a mutual friend who had offered to introduce me to some of her single girlfriends. But before doing so she asked me a great question - "If you were at a pool party, would you rather be there with a woman who looked good, or one who wanted to jump into the pool and have fun?" "Well," I said, "ideally, I would like both." "No," she said, "you have to choose." I told her I would rather meet someone who wanted to jump into the pool and have fun. With that information in hand she arranged for me to meet Kathy. And you know what? I ended up not having to choose. I think for me what was originally attractive about Kathy was her happy and outgoing nature. She is energetic and has a wonderful smile that is very contagious. It only took a few dates until we realized there was a serious relationship forming.

By Kathy: When my friend asked me to meet Scott I hesitated initially because I had just gotten braces a few weeks earlier, and I was still self-conscious and worried about getting lettuce caught in my brackets. When I met Scott, his comfortable manner put me right at ease. I remember that Scott radiated an aura of inner peace and calm that I was immediately drawn to. Over the next two years, we enjoyed spending time together going to hockey games, concerts, movies, basketball games, plays, and dining out with friends. The true test of our growing relationship came one weekend when we survived a camping trip together! Although Scott, a former Boy Scout, grew up camping with his older brother in northern Michigan, I am what my youngest sister calls "an indoor girl." I was not prepared at all for sleeping in the rain without a tent while the hungry coyotes howled nearby, and going without a shower for three days. However, I lived to tell the story, and the next time Scott proposed camping, I brought my own tent and a roll of quarters for the pay shower at the motel in town.



**Our First Camping
Trip Together**

Religious Beliefs



Taylor's Baptism (Scott's Dad on Left)

Scott is the son of a Lutheran pastor, and he grew up in the Lutheran church in Michigan and Ohio. Kathy was raised a Catholic, but had not been to church for many years at the time she met Scott. When Kathy started attending Scott's Lutheran church in Texas, she was moved by the incredible music program and the Pastor's message of love and grace. Over time, Kathy began to look forward to attending Sunday morning services with Scott because of the sense of inner peace and calm she felt in church. Kathy formally joined the Lutheran church before she and Scott were married. Kathy and Scott are active members of their church; with both of them serving on various church committees, and it is a central part of their family life.

We believe that one of our most important jobs as parents is to nurture and grow our children's spirituality. Taylor was baptized at the age of four months, wearing the same baptism gown that Kathy wore when she was baptized. Scott's dad traveled to Texas and performed the baptism in our church in the presence of our congregation, families, and friends. Witnessing Scott's dad baptize our daughter was a moving moment for both of us - we both cried through the entire ceremony!! Scott's dad already plans to return to Texas to baptize this child, and of course, this child will wear the family baptism gown.

Our church has a wonderful children's and youth education program; it begins at age two and continues through high school graduation. Kathy volunteers as one of the pre-school Sunday school teachers in Taylor's class. There is also a children's Christmas pageant, Music Week, and Vacation Bible School in the summer. Taylor is excited because this will be her first summer attending Vacation Bible School. When the children reach confirmation age, they go on mission trips where they make a positive impact on the lives of the people they serve.

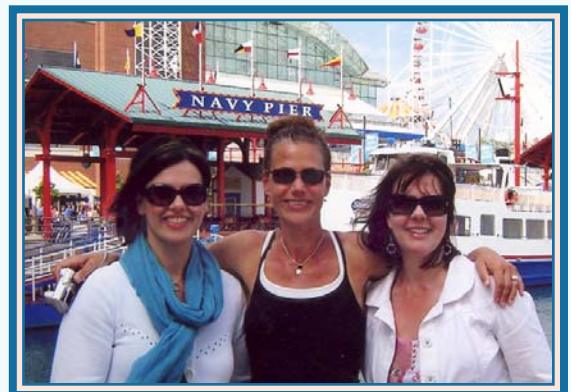
Our Extended Families

Kathy: All of my family, including two sisters and a brother, live back East. We come together for family gatherings 2-3 times each year. Christmas is an especially joyful time. We gather at my parents' house in Connecticut on Christmas Eve and share Swedish smorgasbord. There are traditional foods and drink that we have only on Christmas Eve, such as Swedish meatballs, pickled herring, bondost cheese, and rice pudding. We toast the holidays with homemade Swedish glogg. After dinner, one of the uncles dons a red suit, wig, and hat as the children gather excitedly at the living room window awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. The excitement builds when Santa is spotted, and the children begin pointing and squealing with delight. When Santa enters the living room with his large pillow case full of presents, he places each child on his knee and gives the child a hug and a special present before heading back to his sleigh. The year Taylor turned two, she was a little shy around Santa. Last year however, she jumped and shouted for joy, and gleefully tore the wrapping paper off the present Santa gave her. After Santa leaves, we all attend Christmas Eve services together. My aunt loves telling the story about how when I, as a small child, sat on Santa's lap, I remarked that Santa wore the same watch as my daddy. We wonder how long it will take for Taylor to notice something similar between Santa and one of her uncles!

Scott: My family lives in Ohio, Michigan, and North Carolina. Even though we live far apart, we see each other several times each year. My dad, brother, his boys, and I have gathered together in Columbus, Ohio to attend Ohio State football games. We have a great time tailgating and cheering on the Buckeyes. After the game, we go out for a big steak dinner whether the Buckeyes win or lose! This is a tradition I am looking forward to sharing with my own children. We sometimes spend Thanksgiving week in rural North Carolina with my brother's family. My younger nephew and Taylor dress up as Indians, and my older nephew, who loves cooking, supervises the preparation of our Thanksgiving feast. We take an afternoon hike through the woods, and in the evening we drive through the Festival of Lights and look forward to the upcoming Christmas holiday. Every Memorial Day weekend, my Aunt Caroline hosts a family reunion in Ohio. Family members travel near and far to spend the weekend together, exchanging funny family stories and eating great quantities of cheese!! We always have breakfast at Bob Evans, which is my favorite breakfast place in the world.



Taylor with Kathy's Parents



Kathy and Her Sisters at Navy Pier in Chicago



Our House & Neighborhood

TEXAS

We live in a large metropolitan community in North Texas. Our suburban neighborhood is quiet, with lots of mature trees. Our home is a single story brick ranch style house that was built in the 1970's. We bought it the year before we were married. When we first saw the house, we fell in love with the beautifully landscaped backyard with pool, water fountains, and flagstone patio. We envisioned all the fun summer time pool parties we would have with friends and family. We made an offer on the house right then and there.

Our Home

After we bought the house, we spent the next year remodeling it. We passed many Sunday afternoons slapping paint colors on the walls, until we found just the right color for each room. The colors in our home are those found in nature - greens, blues, and sand, with a splash of berry in the wet bar. The walls of our home display tons of family photos, and art work depicting nature. We absolutely love our home. It's just the way we want it! We are both home bodies, and we enjoy entertaining friends and family in our home, or just hanging out. As our children grow, we want our home to be a welcome gathering place for them and their friends.



Our Family



Our Budding Artist



Skiing at Lake Tahoe



Tailgating at a Buckeye Game



River Rafting at Lake Tahoe

Dear Birthparent(s),

Words fail us when we think about the weight of the decision you have ahead of you. We are here to offer our prayers and hope that you find the peace you are seeking. We are grateful you are considering us as you look for an adoptive family for your child. We hope that this letter shares with you a bit about our family, our dreams, and what we willingly and lovingly can offer a child.

Our names are Scott and Kathy. We started our family after working for many years. As a result, not only are we blessed to have a secure financial situation, but we are truly ready for the responsibility of parenthood. Since becoming parents, we are more patient, loving, and nurturing. We have learned how to work well together as a parenting team. It would bring us great joy to add another child to our family. We are humbled by the difficult decision you have to make, and we thank you for considering us as adoptive parents for your baby.

Both of us enjoy close relationships with our siblings, and we want the same experiences for our children. Our daughter Taylor is so ready to be a big sister! Because of a difficult pregnancy, we have decided to expand our family through adoption. Both of us have always been open to adoption, and we even discussed adoption before we were married. Kathy's mother is adopted, so it seems that adoption has been a part of our lives since the beginning and a natural step for us to expand our family.

Our weekends are spent doing things together as a family. On Saturday mornings, Scott and Taylor attend swim class together, and go out for chocolate milk. After Taylor's nap, we do something fun, such as a trip to the playground or the zoo. Sunday mornings are lazy, with Kathy making pancakes while Scott and Taylor read the sports section of the newspaper. After breakfast, we attend Church as a family. On Sunday afternoons, we enjoy swimming in the backyard pool and grilling, often with friends. Sunday nights we spend relaxing at home.

We are very excited about opening our hearts, our home, and our family to a child. We feel that another child will complete our family. We have a lot of love to share with a child, and we look forward to nurturing a child to grow and develop into the unique individual he/she really is.

Our goal as parents is to raise all of our children to be confident, self-sufficient, and to know that they can accomplish their dreams. As a result, our children's education is very important to us. We want for our children to attend school in an environment where the Christian morals and values we believe in are not only taught, but practiced. Taylor attends pre-school at a nationally recognized private Christian school that offers education through the twelfth grade. Taylor has really thrived at this school, where she is already writing her name in upper case and lower case letters. Taylor can't wait to introduce this child to her favorite teachers. We also plan for our children to attend college, and not necessarily The Ohio State University!! We will support and encourage our children to discover and develop their unique God given talents.

We are hoping that you are comfortable communicating with us. We would like to learn about your interests, hopes, and dreams so that we can share those insights when your child asks questions. We also would like to be as much a part of your pregnancy as you are comfortable with. We are hopeful that together we can discuss what communication would feel best for you going forward. We would like to share letters, photos, telephone calls, and visits. We know that our relationship will develop over time, and we will work to keep open communication between us.

We intend to be very open and honest with the child whom we are blessed to adopt about their adoption story, and we want the child to feel comfortable discussing his/her feelings about their adoption and birth parents. We will tell the child at every opportunity how much you love and care for them.

We know you are giving this decision a lot of time and thought. We trust that you will make the decision you feel is best for you and your child. Whatever you choose, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Respectfully yours,

Scott and Kathy

