



Hi! We're Steve, Heather, Sylvia, and Maecy. Thanks for taking time to get to know us. We understand you're making a challenging, selfless decision and we praise your act of courage and love. Your choice is life changing, yet one that will bless countless lives the moment you make it. We admire you for taking such a step. As you carefully consider a family for your child, know that we stand with you and we will be praying for you, regardless of the outcome.

Steve

Heather

Job Description:

Major in the U.S. Army

Stay-at-Home Mom

Education:

M.S. - Operations
Research/Systems Analysis
(Applied Math) &
B.S. - Math

M.A. - Outdoor Adventure
Education (Physical Education)
B.A. - Health & Exercise
Science & K-12 Teaching
Certificate

Favorites:

Animal
Dog

Animal
Liger

Dream Vacation
Backpacking in Nepal

Dream Vacation
Going to the "Eastern Riviera"
Near Montenegro & Croatia

Family Activity
Running Together

Family Activity
Riding Bikes Together

Food
Mom's Chicken Pot Pie

Food
Guacamole

Hobby
Photography

Hobby
Sewing

Children:

Sylvia (3) & Maecy (1)

How Adoption Has Affected Us Personally

Our life and family would be incomplete without adoption. We're blessed with two adopted daughters and hope to be blessed again through the gift of adoption. But parenting adopted children is only a part of our story. Adoptees, birthmoms, and other adoptive parents make up our circle of friends and family. Because of their stories, we're more in tune with and sensitive to all who are affected by adoption. For instance, Steve's former college roommate has offered advice about birth-family contact, since he and his brother were both adopted. Birthmoms in our extended family and at church have shared their experience with us, helping us understand what birthmoms go through. In fact, we're friends with a family who adopted a baby born to one of Heather's distant cousins!

On a larger scale, we constantly interact with other families who've walked the path of adoption. Our extended family, our church, and our community are filled with adoption stories. Many of our friends have adopted and even now are in the process of adopting. Quite often, people share their stories with us when they learn that Sylvia and Maecy are both adopted. We've formed new relationships with people based on the common bond of adoption - people we may have never gotten to know otherwise. So not only have we been personally affected by adoption, our story wouldn't be complete without it.



Our Family

Our Family Is Culturally Diverse

We are blessed to be a family of mixed race. Once we made the decision to adopt, we believed the right children would be added to our family, regardless of their race. And it just so happens that one of our daughters is Caucasian and one is Biracial. However, we understand that unique challenges may arise with being a family of mixed race. We've made it a priority to educate ourselves about these challenges so we're prepared to help our children if/when they face adversity due to the color of their skin. We also live in a community known for accepting and embracing diversity. We're surrounded by dozens of mixed race families from all over the U.S. living literally right out our back door. It's great for all of us to have such a supportive community.

Not only is our immediate family diverse, our extended families have children who are adopted and of other ethnic backgrounds. So neither adoption nor racial differences pose any difficulties within our extended family. We've both been blessed with families who love each member unconditionally.



Sylvia and Maecy Are the Best of Sisters

Our Extended Families

Our family is extremely supportive of our adoption plans. Adoption is highly regarded as a way for our family to grow. In fact, we're not the only ones who have adopted: Heather's cousins have two children from Guatemala. You can't believe how much love our relatives could share with your child. We both have loving, stable, solid families ready to welcome in another new face.

Steve's extended family is HUGE. His mom is one of eleven children and his dad one of four. Needless to say, Steve has more family members than you can count! Growing up, the tradition was to visit his Grandpa's house where each Sunday, all his mom's siblings assembled for Sunday dinner. His dad's side is close-knit, but they all live pretty far apart. This made for great road trips as a kid, visiting aunts and uncles scattered across the East Coast. Steve's one sister, Sheila, and her husband Mark, have a nine year old son named Creighton. Steve's parents, a.k.a. Nana and Papa, watch Creighton every Friday night so they can spend time with him.



Easter Egg Hunt with Cousins



A View of Our Home from the Mailbox



Raising Ducks Is a New Experience



The Family Reunion to Remember

Heather's family, compared to Steve's, is much smaller in size. She's an only child and the only grandchild on her mom's side. On her dad's side, she has five fantastic cousins, with whom she is very close. We often visit her parents and extended family, as they don't live too far away. Heather's parents also come to see us often so they can have some grandkid time.

Both of our families have supported and encouraged our adoption plans. They stood by us during the years the fertility treatments failed, and then rejoiced when we finally adopted Sylvia and Maecy. Like us, our relatives are excited for another sibling for Sylvia and Maecy. Where there is plenty of love, you will find a strong family.

KANSAS

Our Home and Neighborhood

We *love* our home and community. It's the greatest place we've ever lived. We're nestled in the trees on three acres with a huge, grassy yard and tons of space to play and explore. We also have a few chickens and have just befriended a kitten. Every day we spot rabbits, deer, raccoons, birds, and other critters that call our woods home. Inside, the girls have space to play throughout the house because our home is open and spacious. We even have a bright, sunny bedroom dedicated to be our nursery. It has large, south-facing windows and freshly painted walls. Although our home is wonderful, the best part of where we live is how close we are to so many different things. We border a rural landscape of farms and ranches, a large military installation, and a quaint historic city. We have access to all the amenities of the military post, including three nationally recognized schools, dozens of neighborhood playgrounds, three pools, a bowling center, movie theater, skate park, putt putt golf course, three youth centers, two gyms, a library, and scores of activities offered to military families. In addition we can also enjoy the shops, restaurants, parks, schools, libraries, theaters, and community center of our town. And we're not far from a major city. The opportunities for fun abound where we live. We never have to leave the premises to enjoy the outdoors, yet we don't want to miss the fun our community has to offer.



Steve Taking the Girls for a Run

Our Cultural Heritage

We are both grandchildren of missionaries who lived overseas serving people in Asia and South America. Heather's grandparents spent thirty-seven years working in various regions of China and Japan, and her mom was raised there. This Asian influence followed her mom home to the U.S., so when Heather was growing up, her mom made sure to pass along as much of the culture as she could. Consequently, Heather is used to being around people of other backgrounds because that's how she was brought up. Similarly, Steve's grandparents worked over forty years in different parts of Colombia, South America. His dad lived in Colombia for a while when he was young.

Because we have this kind of background, we truly understand cultural differences and what it means to love people of all cultures. Our extended families have a very large view of the world and all the different types of people that make it up. So although Heather's family background is Dutch and Steve's mostly German, we feel like many more cultures make up our family's heritage.



Hosting Our First Annual Fun Run with Friends

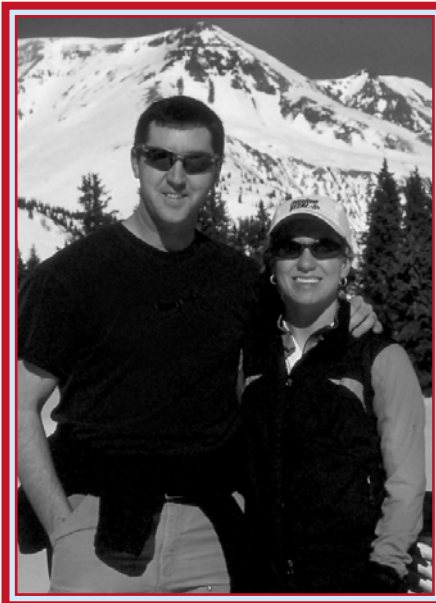
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Boating with Steve's Family in Florida



Heather Is a Bridesmaid in Her Best Friend's Wedding



Snowshoeing in the Mountains



Dancing the Night Away



Horseback Riding is a Treat

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Sea Kayaking with Friends

Dear Birthparent(s),

We know you're doing a difficult and selfless thing. Thank you for taking this monumental step. If you feel we could be the right family for your baby, know that your baby will be loved and cherished as the greatest gift God could give. We know that you'll always love your baby and our goal is to make sure that your baby knows it. Your child will also know that you chose adoption out of love and desire to do what's best for him or her. You will always be in our hearts as we make decisions for your child. We want to honor your choice by making the dreams you have for your child a reality.

Why do we want to adopt again? Kids are AWESOME! We love being parents and we love our kids. We relish the joy and humor that children bring. We also enjoy watching Maecy and Sylvia's relationship grow. They're quickly learning just how much fun it is to have a sibling. And ever since we told them we'd like to adopt again, Sylvia reminds us to pray for their little brother or sister before bed. She talks about how she'll help Mommy with changing diapers and feeding the baby. Maecy is young, but her face lights up when we talk of her little brother or sister. They're excited and ready for the adventure.

We're excited about our future. We're raising our children with unconditional love and acceptance. Our children will always know they can come to us with any problem or situation and we'll listen to them and help them in any way we can. We want them to know just how much we love them and appreciate them.

We're also raising our children according to our beliefs - following the love and compassion of God. They will know that He loves them and has a wonderful plan for their lives. Our desire is to teach them to be responsible and respectful people with a heart for others.

We know that our children will make their own choices. We'll respect their interests and goals and support them in any way possible. As such, we'll nurture their gifts and honor their decisions. If they so desire, we're preparing to help them pursue a college education. We have already put the financial pieces in place to help with college tuition and expenses for all our children.

If you choose us to parent your child, we will strive to be the best family we can be. You will have a place of honor in our hearts and we will pray for you and encourage you as much as we can. We will love your child and make sure they know how much you love them, too. We'll also send you pictures and letters so you will know how your child is flourishing in our home. We're comfortable and excited to do this since Sylvia and Maecy's moms both receive updates, too.

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about us. We hope that you will find peace through this process and that you will be blessed for your act of love and courage.

With all our love,

Steve and Heather

