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## Sylvester

## Jasmine

### Job Description:

Information Technology  
Manager

Associate Professor

### Education:

Masters in Business  
Administration (MBA)  
Information Technology

Ph.D Education Leadership  
& Policy Studies

### Favorites:

**Form of Exercise**  
Weight-lifting

**Form of Exercise**  
Dance Aerobics

**Hero**  
Nelson Mandela

**Hero**  
Martin Luther King

**Magazine**  
Newsweek

**Magazine**  
Essence

**Olympic Event**  
4 x 100 Meters Relay

**Olympic Event**  
Beach Volleyball

**Memory with a Child**  
Playing Card Games

**Memory with a Child**  
Camping with Niece  
and Nephew

### Children:

None

## What It Means To Be Parents and Our Strengths

We can't wait to be parents! We have a deep appreciation for each other and for family. We were both taught important Christian values and look forward to passing them on to your child. We have had many opportunities to learn how to take care of children through interaction with other families and through service in the Children's ministry at our local church. Also we have read many books on parenting. Because our marriage is stable and we are financially secure, we are in a great position to care for a child and give him/her the best that life has to offer. We see parenting as a trust where we are given the opportunity for a few years to invest into the growth and development of a child. We value the opportunity to guide your child to follow his/her interests and to give him/her the best possible foundation to reach their goals. It would be an honor to raise your child.

The only thing missing in our lives is a child; we long to share our love with. Our strength in raising a child is that we are very secure, stable, sincere and loving people who feel we have so much to give to a child, emotionally and financially. Sylvester is very patient and loving, and looks forward to leading by example and sharing many experiences with your child, including his love for fitness and health. Jasmine is very kind and warm-hearted and especially looks forward to the "little things" in raising a child; bathing, reading books, playing pat-a-cake or peek-a-boo and all the experiences only a child can bring to a family.

## What We Do For Fun

We love our leisure time. Together, we enjoy travelling and visiting different states and countries. To date we have visited several countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. We have plans to visit many more and provide a world perspective to your child. We believe travelling broadens the mind and is a form of education as you learn a lot from diverse cultures and meet many people.

We also love to exercise regularly at home or at a fitness center. We engage in a wide range of physical activities including aerobics, Zumba fitness dancing, weight-lifting, 5K runs, swimming etc. Our house is on a hill and together with our neighbors - we love to take walks up and down the hill in the evenings - enjoying fresh air and nature. Engaging in such activities is exhilarating for us and it helps to keep our bodies in good health. We look forward to introducing your child to a healthy and fit lifestyle.



**Cruising in the Bahamas**

# Sylvester & Jasmine

## Extended Families

**Sylvester** - I am the middle of three children; I have one older sister and a younger brother. My years growing up with my siblings were pleasant and we remain close to this day. My sister lives only about five hours away so we have regularly exchanged visits with her family. My cousin and her family live in Tennessee too so we get to see them often too. Jasmine and I eagerly look forward to spending time in fellowship with my family on holidays, birthdays, or any special occasion that brings us all together. Our reunions are joyous times of fun and reminiscing. We enjoy visiting new places, favorite vacation spots and hanging out at the beach. Our commonalities as a family are great for sharing in wonderful times together. Growing up, my family home was always visited by friends and extended family members; it was a loving environment with conservative Christian values. I was taught the importance of service and sharing by example; strong traits I carry with me today.

**Jasmine** - I am the youngest of three girls; my oldest sister has three children and lives in London; my older sister has four children and lives in Texas. We travel once a year to visit my sister in London and they come to the US once a year on family vacations and visit with us. I also am very close with my cousins who live about two hours away; they host an annual family get together and barbeque every summer. We have tons of fun together during this reunion. My parents, known as "Ma Cee and Pa Cee" live in Sierra Leone and often travel to visit all of us, vacationing for month or two, in the US. Since my parents are so far away, my family takes turns visiting Sierra Leone, throughout the year. Since we are not together as much as we would like we communicate with my parents; we stay in regular contact with them via phone.

We are very close with our families and are excited to introduce a child to our wonderful life filled with large extended families that are eager to shower him or her with their love. They are very excited about our adoption plans and continually stay involved as we move along our journey. Jasmine's parents are especially thrilled to add another child to their "bundle" of grandchildren. We look forward to sharing the wonderful gift that is our family with your child.

## Education

Our parents gave us the best in terms of education. They were all highly educated and introduced to us the value of education. We both grew up in a very supportive environment where the values of education, politeness and integrity were emphasized.

We were taught early in life that education does matter and plays a significant part in a person's life and destiny. We both have advanced Bachelors and Masters Degrees. Jasmine additionally has a Ph.D. This education has served us well - providing fulfillment, opening up many doors and opportunities and securing a stable financial lifestyle. We have also had the opportunity to learn from life and experience through the opportunity of travelling widely. We have visited several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Travelling and exposure to other cultures has helped to further broaden our perspective on life and taught us many

things that cannot be learned in school. We have also learned a lot though community service locally and internationally.



**Sylvester Teaching a Basic Computer Training Class to Youths in Africa**



**Vacation Family Cookout**



**Vacationing in Chattanooga (at the Tennessee Aquarium)**

With this in mind, we look forward to providing the very best education to your child. We intend to encourage and support him or her to pursue the desired career relative to his / her interests and strengths. Our goal is to encourage your child to pursue his / her dreams, with the sky being the limit. We will give you child the gift of education with the realization that this will stay with him or her forever and no one can take this away from him or her. At an appropriate age, we plan to travel widely with your child and involve him/her in service opportunities - both locally and internationally.



Our Home

Our beautiful, four bedroom home sits on an almost one acre corner lot. Our yard is lined with big beautiful trees and is fenced in the back. We are excited to see a child playing in the yard on their swing set or just running around acting silly as most children do. We are big time cooking enthusiasts and enjoy our large kitchen; it is especially helpful when major holidays are concerned and we are the hosts. Another perk of our home is the four bathrooms that go with the four bedrooms, a child that we adopt will have their very own bathroom from infancy to college age and who doesn't enjoy their own bathroom. We love that our home is big enough to accommodate large crowds but also gives off the air of coziness and warmth - we love that our home is so inviting to all our friends and family.

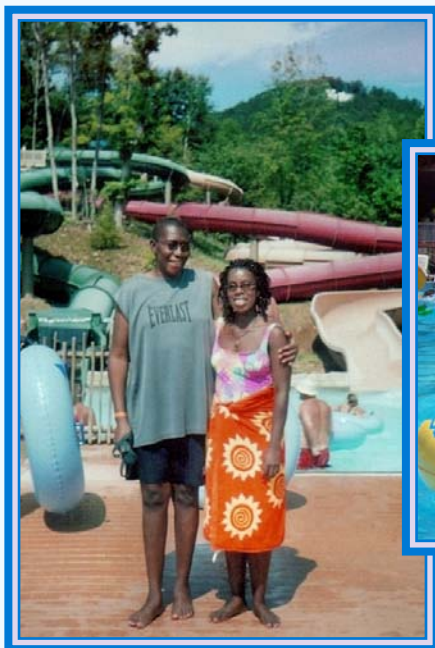
Our neighborhood, surrounded by trees, is very diverse and friendly; filled with young children that are always eager to welcome new playmates! We are a very family oriented neighborhood - everyone is always watching out for everyone else. Schools, parks, and a family recreation center are just a few miles from our home. There are many family-focused activities available throughout the year. The city has several annual festivals and lots of fun learning activities: volleyball, drumming, swimming, skating, chess, tennis, and quilting, just to name a few. Other family-friendly activities include hiking and biking on trails and some of the best trophy trout fishing in the country. This unique region is noted for having a diversity of leisure, cultural services and recreation opportunities. Our city has been described as a great place to raise a family; it is listed as the eighth best place for African Americans to retire by the Black Enterprise magazine.



Syl on Lumley Beach  
West Africa Sierra Leone



Jasmine Enjoying Jetski in West Africa



Dollywood Water Park  
in Tennessee



Neighborhood Water-Park



Jasmine Keeping Fit  
on an Elliptical Machine

## Dear Birthparent(s),

We would first like to say thank you for choosing adoption for your child and for taking the time to read our profile. We can not imagine what a difficult decision this is for you but it speaks volumes of the love you have for your child. We deeply admire and respect your courage.

We will be sure to tell your child that he or she is loved not only by us, but you as well. We will let your child know what an unselfish, courageous, and loving act you did by entrusting your child's life with us. If we are blessed with your child, he or she will always know his / her story, and that you loved him / her so very much that you entrusted us to love and protect him / her forever.

We will share pictures and letters with you regularly through the years to let you see how your child is thriving in our home, and to comfort and assure you that you made the right decision. We are open to also communicating with you by phone prior to the birth and meeting with you, if you so desire.

Our names are Sylvester and Jasmine and we have been happily married for fifteen years. A few years after we were married we started trying to have a family, but that didn't go the way we had planned. We encountered infertility challenges. After several attempts we decided that adoption was the best option for us to raise a family. We hope that you will consider us as parents for your child, and that you find peace with whatever decision you make. It is hard to put into words what you and your gift would mean to us and our family. We are committed to honor your decision by providing a home filled with faith, unconditional love, laughter and fun.

Because of Jasmine's own positive experience with having an adopted middle sister, we feel this will be an added benefit to your child, not only will this child be able to learn about their own adoption, but Jasmine will be able to share with your child her own fun loving memorable experience with her adopted sister.

We both grew up in loving homes, and have wonderful childhood memories. Our immediate families live within driving distance and we meet together for reunions, birthdays and special occasions. There are several kids in our extended family, so your child would have a loving family all around. They are really excited about being cousins, uncles and aunts.

We feel very fortunate to be able to have Jasmine be a stay at home mom. We both have flexible schedules at the university where we work. Sylvester has already planned leave time to stay with the child, in addition to Jasmine. We both love the outdoors and on nice days we enjoy outdoor activities. Sylvester enjoys swimming and he can not wait for the day that he can enjoy these activities with your child. We also enjoy our annual vacations on the beach with family.

We are both committed active Christians and strongly believe in Christian values of raising children. We will provide a Christian, stable and protective environment to raise your child. We believe the most important role in life is that of a parent, and it is something we do not take lightly. We plan to give your child the best, to nurture his / her spirit, encourage their creativity and to experience all the world has to offer in a loving family atmosphere.

We both volunteer at a non-profit organization that supports education (providing books, school supplies, scholarships etc), skills training and microfinance activities in Africa. We are involved in the administration, fund-raising and have had the opportunity to travel to Africa on volunteer service.

We assure you that we will provide your baby with a home filled with, joy, love, protection and stability. We believe that adoption is the greatest gift of love. If you choose us, we will do everything we can to ensure that your child has access to all that life has to offer. We look forward to giving your child unconditional love, support, encouragement and a strong education. We will forever be grateful for this wonderful gift you have given us.

Thank you again so much for taking the time to read our letter. We hope that you have a wonderful support system behind you as you make someone else's dreams of adding to their family come true. We cannot tell you enough how excited we are to add to this new chapter in our life.

With heartfelt thanks,

**Sylvester and Jasmine**

