

carey & ashley

AND JACKSON TOO!



Adoption

SUPPORT CENTER

CALL OR TEXT 317-255-5916

hello,

We are thankful that you are giving us the gift of reading our letter. It is exciting and incredible to know that there is an amazing person out there learning about us and our dreams.

OUR FAMILY, ALREADY, HAS AN IMMEASURABLE AMOUNT OF LOVE FOR THE POTENTIAL FUTURE ADDITION TO OUR FAMILY. As parents, we have an immense desire for Jackson, our son, to have a sibling. Not only to enjoy the play filled times they will have as children but to support and love each other through life's journeys. While we are blessed to be in a position to have another child join our journey, we are also blessed to have the opportunity to share in that child's history and story. **WE RECOGNIZE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE IN GIVING A CHILD THE GIFT OF KNOWING HIS/HER BIRTH FAMILY AND TO BE CONNECTED TO THEIR HERITAGE.**

We know that there will be challenges presented to us in joining our family to a child that may be of a different culture, race, or family history. **WE BOTH STRIVE TO BUILD COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES THAT ARE ACCEPTING AND UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE FROM ALL CULTURES AND LIFESTYLE PREFERENCES.** We believe that this starts by living this commitment within our own home. We are building a home that is to be an example of love for each other and love for all people.

Even with our dedication, **WE BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL ALSO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN GIVING THIS CHILD THE LOVE AND GUIDANCE THEY WILL NEED.** To bless them with the knowledge and the opportunity to understand who they are and who they want to be. **WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH YOU THESE MILESTONES AND EXPERIENCES THAT THEY WILL HAVE IN THEIR LIFE.** We are excited about the opportunity to share with you pictures, videos and stories about your child as they grow and experience life. We will make it easy and convenient to access these memories online or through another method that you may prefer. We want to work with you on finding fun opportunities to spend time together. Working to schedule 4-6 visits every year and celebrate them as joyful opportunities to make memories.

Again, thank you for spending this time reading our letter. We wish you wisdom and strength as you continue on your journey. **KNOW THAT WE ARE THINKING OF YOU AND PRAYING FOR YOU.**

Peace and blessings,

carey, ashley and jackson

our story

AND HOW IT ALL BEGAN

We met while living in Muncie, IN. Ashley was finishing college at Ball State and Carey had graduated and was working in Muncie. **WE WERE INTRODUCED BY MUTUAL FRIENDS A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO NEW YEARS EVE.** We both changed the plans we had already made for NYE in order to attend the same NYE party. Carey played hard to get at the party and this locked in Ashley's interest. **A FEW DAYS AFTER THE PARTY, WE WENT ON OUR FIRST DATE AND QUICKLY BECAME INSEPARABLE.**

We dated for almost exactly one year. Around the holidays, Ashley had started to bring up conversations about marriage. Little did she know, Carey had already purchased an engagement ring. Carey had to deflect the questions and conversations to not ruin the surprise. After the holidays, we took a weekend trip to Chicago, Ashley having no idea that a proposal was coming. We had a fantastic seafood dinner. We then went to the Hancock building and went indoor ice skating on the top floor of the building. All this time, Carey had a photographer taking pictures of us. So the photographer was ready when Carey proposed to Ashley while over-looking the city of Chicago. That picture hangs proudly in our home. We were married in August of that year and just celebrated our 10 year anniversary.

Our relationship was built upon our shared interests and shared personalities. It is strengthened by the areas in which we are different. We are supported by the other's strengths in our areas of weakness.



our thoughts on each other..

We are both calm and steadfast people. We strive to have a peaceful home that is a place of joy and rest. **OUR CHILDREN WILL BE SUPPORTED AND LOVED BY A LARGE COMMUNITY FILLED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.** As parents, we want to support and encourage our children to become kind and thoughtful and to embrace the person they were meant to be.



“Ashley is by nature very motherly, nurturing and caring for all people in her life. It makes my heart happy when I see Jackson run to her for nurturing or soothing. She is very creative in making fun activities for Jackson that engage him, entertain him and teach him.”

We have worked diligently to adapt to each season of life with attention on communication. **WORKING TOGETHER AND CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS, UNTIL THE ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED.**

“Carey is incredibly patient and wise. He can sit with Jackson and play (whatever Jackson wants) for hours. I believe this is something that Jackson will be able to look back on as an incredibly fond memory. He is also always willing to take the time to feed Jackson's curiosity. Jackson is incredibly curious by nature and Carey, not only loves that about him, he loves to feed that curiosity.”



PARENTING HAS BEEN THE MOST DIFFICULT AND REWARDING ADVENTURE OF OUR LIVES.

The hardest part about parenting is remembering you are always teaching. Your words, your actions, your reactions are all being watched and committed to memory. The responsibility of creating a kind human starts with you modeling that behavior. In contrast, the most rewarding is watching Jackson show love and grace to others. In spite of our short comings, Jackson is learning kindness.

meet ashley..

I was born in LaPorte, IN and lived there until I moved to Muncie for college.

I am now a stay at home mom. In my free time, I enjoy reading. I also enjoy caring for and learning about my numerous houseplants.

I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT MY FAMILY. During this season in my life, I have found that most of my time and energy is devoted to them and I find great fulfillment in that.



What I love most about being a parent is the pure joy and love a child is capable of feeling and giving. Jackson's ability to brighten a room with a laugh is truly life giving.



SOME OF MY FAVORITE
HOBBIES ARE...

Reading. I love thrillers!
Traveling
Crafting
Hiking
Caring for my plants.



meet carey...



THINGS I ENJOY MOST ARE...

Traveling.

Exercising through crossfit, cycling, and weightlifting.

Spending time outdoors. I especially enjoy hiking and kayaking.

Cooking food and trying new ethnic restaurants.

Playing music and going to concerts.

Playing sports like golf and pickleball.

In my free time, I love to cook and entertain for family and friends on our back deck. I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE AS I BELIEVE IT IMPROVES MY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. I also want to stay healthy so I can be an active and energetic father. I love the gift and the responsibility of providing for and empowering Jackson to be the best version of himself.

I LOVE BEING ABLE TO ENCOURAGE HIS CURIOSITY AND WITNESSING THE MOMENTS WHEN HE PAUSES FOR A SECOND AFTER HE EXPERIENCES OR LEARNS SOMETHING NEW.

I was born in Indianapolis however my family moved to the Muncie area when I was 10 years old. My parents still live in that same home.

I currently work as a Chief Operating Officer for a regional landscaping company. I spend most of the week working out of my home office while also working with my internal team and partners to ensure the business is successful.



A LITTLE ABOUT **jackson**...



JACKSON IS AN OUTGOING AND ACTIVE 3.5 YEAR OLD BOY WHO IS FULL OF ENERGY. He started talking and became conversational very early. This fueled an extrovert personality that has him engaging as often as possible with grandparents, neighbors and strangers. We worked as hard as we could to continue to fuel this personality through the pandemic. We are happy to see him be able to embrace this personality more frequently now. HE LOVES GETTING TO SEE OUR NEIGHBORS, HIS GRANDPARENTS AND HIS COUSINS AS MUCH AS HE CAN. For the last year, he has been going to a preschool for two days a week. This has really helped him in interacting with other kids his age and being independent away from home.

Jackson will provide entertainment and activities for his younger sibling. He will also be very caring and affectionate to them. FROM AN EARLY AGE, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE THAT HAS INITIATED KIND WORDS OR HUGS TOWARDS HIS FRIENDS AND COUSINS.



as a family..



WE BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE VALUE OF TRAVEL AND EXPERIENCES OVER THE ACCUMULATION OF THINGS. Jackson has already traveled out of the country, been to the ocean, experienced all kinds of diverse food and hiked in many beautiful places.

WE ARE SET APART FROM MANY COUPLES BECAUSE ADOPTION WAS ALWAYS PART OF OUR BIRTH PLAN AND WE HAVE ADOPTED BEFORE. WE ALSO HAVE A STRONG COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALSO ADOPTED. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN OPEN ADOPTION RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CHILDREN'S BIRTH FAMILIES.

WHILE JACKSON'S MOTHER DOES NOT WISH FOR CONTACT AT THIS TIME, WE CONTINUE TO SPEAK TO JACKSON ABOUT HER AND ENSURE THAT HE KNOWS SHE IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE THAT LOVE HIM.



A typical weekend consists of Jackson and dad going to the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. In the afternoon, we often have family or friends over for a visit and spend time outside. Sunday we usually have a quiet and peaceful morning and then have a family "adventure" in the afternoon



AS A FAMILY WE LOVE TO GO ON HIKES, SPEND THE DAY AT THE ZOO, GO TO THE MUSEUM OR TO OUR FAVORITE INDIAN RESTAURANT.

We believe in teaching a young child to be kind first and foremost. KINDNESS, HONESTY, AND PATIENCE ARE LEARNED AT HOME THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF THE ADULTS AROUND THEM.



our HOME SWEET HOME

We live in a two story home that has 4 bedrooms and was built in the 90's. This means the houses are more spread out and have beautiful mature trees. **OUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT OUR HOME IS THE 3 SEASONS ROOM AND THE LARGE FENCED IN BACKYARD.** We enjoy spending as much time out there as possible. When it's not nice enough to be outside, we enjoy playing in our front room that is now a toy room. It's spacious and gets the most natural light in the house.



We live in an incredible neighborhood. Our house sits on the corner of a cul-de-sac and we are close with most of the other families. There is diversity in age and life experiences. **OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOVING AND CARING AND HAVE ALL ACCEPTED JACKSON AS IF HE WERE PART OF THEIR FAMILIES.**



When we brought Jackson home from the hospital, it was our neighbors who left a giant moving box filled with baby supplies at our front door. They love Jackson and he loves them. **IT'S BEEN DELIGHTFUL TO WATCH HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OF THEM BLOSSOM AS HE HAS GROWN.** There are several homes, within a stones throw, that have young children that Jackson enjoys spending time with. In the evening, we often start playing in our driveway and before too long another family joins us to play and talk for awhile. There are multiple parks and fantastic schools nearby.

our family and friends

ASHLEY

I AM VERY CLOSE TO MY DAD AND MY BROTHER. My mom passed when I was young and my half-sister has always lived with her dad. My brother has an 8 month old daughter, however, they live in northern Indiana so we only see them a handful of times a year. We FaceTime with them often. Even though there is distance between us, they would most certainly be part of our new baby's life. **WE SEE MY DAD MORE OFTEN AS HE WILL COME STAY THE WEEKEND HERE AT OUR HOUSE TO SOAK UP SOME QUALITY TIME.**



CAREY

I am the oldest child and I have three younger sisters. Both of my parents are still alive. **WE ALL LIVE IN CENTRAL INDIANA AND WE TRY TO GET TOGETHER AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE.** We see my parents at least once every two weeks and Jackson usually gets to spend the day with them. My youngest sister has two children that are Jackson's age. They all get along and love spending time together. My other two sisters are both the beloved aunts to the nieces and nephews. At this stage of life, we get together and just watch the kids play together and laugh along with them. **MY FAMILY IS VERY SUPPORTIVE AND INVOLVED IN OUR LIVES. THEY WILL ALL BE INVOLVED AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR CHILDREN'S LIVES.**

Why we chose adoption.



ADOPTION WAS ORGANICALLY ALWAYS A PART OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WHEN TALKING ABOUT GROWING OUR FAMILY. Two of our closest friends both adopted so we were able to experience the challenges and joys of the adoption process alongside them.

Following our first attempt at getting pregnant, which resulted in a molar pregnancy and multiple months of follow up doctor appointments for Ashley, we were both emotionally ready to transition to pursuing our first adoption in 2018. **FOLLOWING OUR ADOPTION OF JACKSON, WE WERE AGAIN OPEN TO BOTH PREGNANCY AND ADOPTION FOR OUR SECOND CHILD.** At the end of 2020, we decided we were going to attempt to get pregnant. It took almost one year, but we did get pregnant towards the end of 2021 but that pregnancy, very early, ended in a miscarriage.

Through both experiences we have done our best to make the best decisions in the moment for our family and have faith that there is a bigger plan that we do not know. We have had to trust that with each step forward we are moving forward in that plan. **WITH JACKSON, WE NEVER COULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD OR SCRIPTED ALL THE STEPS THAT WERE TAKEN BEFORE HE ENTERED OUR LIFE AND HE HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST BLESSING IN OUR LIFE.** We take peace in knowing that we are on another journey right now and we cannot see the end yet but we know that it will be another life changing blessing.

We commit to loving your child unconditionally. We commit to always being open about adoption and loving on you, their birth mom.