

Brad & Ann

AND RAELYN TOO!



Adoption
SUPPORT CENTER

CALL OR TEXT 317-255-5916

Hello! Thank you for taking the time to consider us. We understand that you are considering some very big decisions right now, both for you and your child. We can't imagine what all you may be feeling as you contemplate these decisions. **PLEASE KNOW THAT WE WANT TO SUPPORT AND HONOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD IN WHATEVER WAY YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE BEST DECISION FOR YOU BOTH.**

We are very honored, excited and eager to be part of this journey with you and grateful to be considered as potential adoptive parents. Brad and I are super excited to be parents again and for our daughter, Raelyn, to finally be a big sister! She has been talking about being a big sister for over 2.5 years now. **ALL 3 OF US HAVE A LOT OF LOVE TO GIVE A CHILD AND LOTS OF EXTENDED FAMILY WHO ARE EAGER TO WELCOME ANOTHER CHILD INTO THE FAMILY.** We feel that we have many things in our life that would make for a good, memorable and strong childhood. First and foremost, we can offer amazing amounts of love, commitment, and determination to create the best atmosphere for a young child. We can also offer the ability to support educational goals like going to college, camps, vacations, and fun activities like sports, social clubs, etc. Your child will be nurtured to follow the path they choose to grow into as an adult.

Our lives have been positively and beautifully changed by Open Adoption with Raelyn. **WE HAVE SEEN THE POSITIVE POWER HER BIO FAMILY HAS HAD ON HER DEVELOPMENT AS A PERSON.** Having an open adoption has also allowed Brad and I to grow as people and allowed for us to have a larger extended family.

**You will always be known to your child as his/her Birth Mother.
He/She will grow up knowing how much you love them
and how you always wanted the best for them.**

WE ARE HOPING TO HAVE SHARED EXPERIENCES WHERE YOUR CHILD KNOWS WE ALL LOVE THEM AND WILL SUPPORT THEM. We want to have pictures of you in our home, so that your child grows up knowing who you are and how much you love them. We are committed to 3-4 visits per year, and sharing monthly pictures and updates for the first couple of years and then quarterly after that. We are also open to sharing emails, photos, letters, and texts.

Our thoughts are with you,

Ann, Brad, and Raelyn

HOW OUR STORY BEGAN:



We met in High School and both rowed for the Indianapolis Rowing Center.

ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT DATE IN HIGH SCHOOL, WE SHARED A SPECIAL BOND. We went our separate ways in college briefly catching up at one point during that time.

IT WASN'T UNTIL 2009, WHEN ANN WAS PLANNING A TRIP WITH HER FRIEND OUT WEST THAT WE MET UP AND HAD WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE BEST VACATIONS EITHER OF US HAD EVER HAD.

WE RESURRECTED OUR HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP AND TOOK A BIG STEP TOWARD DATING. We dated long distance until Brad graduated and took a job back home again in Indiana.



On a beautiful Fall day, Brad got down on one knee and proposed while we were visiting White Point in Cape Breton Nova Scotia. Less than a year later, we got married on a peninsula jutting out into Lake Lure in North Carolina.

our thoughts on each other..



"I really appreciate Ann's deep compassion for all living creatures.

ANN IS MY LIFE LONG COMMITTED SOUL MATE. I love exploring life and the world with Ann who like me is committed to actions to try to make the world a better place.

I love how hard Ann works to help her friends and family."

"I love that Brad is a hard-worker, smart, a great motivator, teacher and someone who can be trusted.



I love having a partner that understands, appreciates and holds many of the same values, beliefs, and passions that Brad holds.

I love Brad's big heart and his zest for life. **HIS QUIRKINESS AND ALL HIS TRAITS MAKE THE JOURNEY OF MARRIAGE FUN!"**



We really enjoy being together as a family no matter what we're doing!

RAELYN HAS A CUTE SAYING THAT SHE SAYS,
"LET'S DO IT LIKE A FAMILY",
WHICH IS HER WAY OF SAYING SHE WANTS
TO DO SOMETHING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY THAT DAY.

OUR FAITH...

We consider
ourselves non-
denominational
Christians.

FAITH FOR US IS
ABOUT KNOWING
THAT THERE IS A
PURPOSE TO OUR
LIVES AND AS
LONG AS WE STAY
DEDICATED TO
HELPING OTHERS,
GOOD WILL COME
FROM OUR LIVES.

Raelyn attends a
Christian day care
and we will most
likely do the same
for our next child.



AS A FAMILY...

One of our favorite things to do as a family is taking walks in our neighborhood or visiting a nearby playground. Most weekends we like to visit a park, our neighborhood pool, or spend time with friends or family. We are members at the Childrens Museum and the Indianapolis Zoo. **IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO DO SOMETHING UNIQUE OR SPECIAL AT LEAST ONE WEEKEND A MONTH.** This can be a museum, trip to the lake, festivals, zoo, or a fair. We also like to have “movie nights” on the weekend where we watch a movie, eat popcorn, and relax together.



MEET Ann

I grew up in Ohio until moved to Indiana when I was 11 years old. I am a mental health therapist by background but currently work in a management role in a health promotion services department for a local hospital. I enjoy my role as I get to work with a whole team dedicated to improving the well-being of people and the communities that they live in.



I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE CREATE THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES THAT THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE IN WHATEVER WAY THEY ENVISION.

I like to read, go to movies, plays and art shows. I love to be outside and enjoy water sports, horseback riding or just going on walks as a family. I enjoy listening to music and love a good Netflix show. Spending time with family and friends is also very important to me.

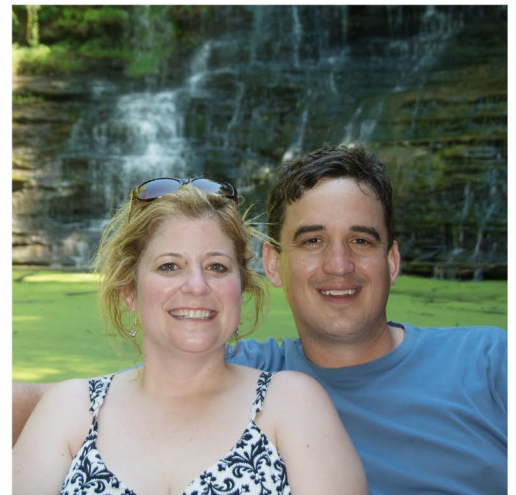
THE BEST PART OF PARENTHOOD FOR ME IS NURTURING AND HONORING THE UNIQUE PERSON THAT RAEYN ALREADY IS, HELPING HER TO LEARN AS MUCH AS SHE CAN, AND KNOWING THAT IT IS MY HONOR TO BE HER BIGGEST ADVOCATE, CHAMPION, AND ALLY.



I love making a difference or being a part of something “big” in life



I love being with people that I love, like and admire.



MEET Brad

I grew up mostly in Indiana, but lived in Australia from ages 7 to 13. I spent a lot of time on my grandparents farm and with my cousins during the summer. I am now an engineer in a manufacturing plant helping people and improving processes to make a difference in the world.

I HAVE A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND ENJOY GETTING DOWN ON THEIR LEVEL. The best part of parenthood for me is watching how Raelyn interprets the world and helping her grow and develop her mind.



Top 5 things I enjoy doing

- -Family activities at events, parks, or at home.
- -Helping others solve problems or fixing things.
- -Working on the house, garden, or landscaping.
- -Time spent with extended family and friends at the lake.
- -Relaxing watching movies or TV.



I first became involved in Big Brothers and Big Sisters in 2002. I was matched with a 10 year old little brother named Rico in 2014. Rico worked hard to overcome many obstacles to graduate high school in 2022. Rico and I love to go to football and basketball games, to the movies, Holiday World or just have dinner. Rico has become a great Big brother to Raelyn.



Meet Raelyn

RAEALYN IS A KIND, SWEET, SMART, INQUISITIVE AND ATHLETIC GIRL THAT MOVES AT 100% SPEED MOST OF THE TIME. She loves to invent siblings and loves make believe play which we strongly encourage and play along to help build her imagination and let her dream big.

RAEALYN LOVES SPENDING TIME WITH HER COUSINS AND BIO SIBLINGS AND WOULD LOVE TO BE A BIG SISTER. Christmas of 2022 she spent many hours with some of her baby cousins and she lit up every time. She loves spending time with them and helping them sit, crawl, walk or whatever was appropriate in their development. At school she has a lot of friends and other kids migrate to her. **SHE IS A NATURAL CARETAKER.** She remembers little things about each person—what their favorite color is, what foods they like, memories they have shared with her. **SHE WILL BE AN ATTENTIVE, CARING, AND AWARE OLDER SIBLING.**



Our relationship with Raelyn's Birth Family



We have been blessed to have built an ongoing relationship with Raelyn's biological family. **WE FEEL LUCKY TO HAVE EXPANDED OUR FAMILY BY HAVING AN ACTIVE CONNECTION TO RAE'S BIRTH MOM, SISTER AND BROTHER AS WELL AS SOME OTHER EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS.** We have been able to meet at parks, fairs, museums, and theaters so that everyone would have a chance to build memories together and share updates.



We are definitely excited and open to doing this with you and your family as well!



Meet Reba and Moo!

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ANIMAL LOVERS AND CONSIDER PETS AS FAMILY. We have a dog named Reba, and a cat named Moo. We rescued both of them and they each have very distinct personalities and came to us with some very funny habits.



REBA IS A RED-HAIRED, ATHLETIC, SMART, PROTECTIVE, AND AFFECTIONATE DOG. She is very protective of Raelyn and has tolerated being dressed up in several outfits by her. Brad and I often say that Reba helped get us ready to be parents because she was the first dog we had together as a couple.

She was high-strung, anxious, fidgety, and horribly afraid of thunderstorms when we first brought her home. Today, Reba is a calm and loving dog! **WE ARE VERY THANKFUL FOR HER.**



Our cat, Moo, (he is black and white spotted like a cow, hence his name) came to us from a neighbor who had 4 kids in 3 years and could no longer give Moo attention. Moo immediately bonded with Ann but was hesitant to “play” with Raelyn much.



OVER THE YEARS, RAELYN HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO WIN MOO OVER AND WE CAN SAY THAT SHE HAS SUCCESSFULLY MASTERED THIS! He lets her pet him and will hang out in her room while she plays “dress up” with her dolls. Unlike Reba though, he is not willing to be used as a clothes model, and still “high-tails” it out of her room as fast as he can, if he thinks he’s going to have to put on an outfit!

WHERE WE CALL HOME



We live on a cul-de-sac in a well established neighborhood. Our home has 4 bedrooms and plenty of room for our family to grow. There are kids of all ages in our neighborhood and families of different ethnic, racial, and cultural heritages.

WE LOVE OUR WRAP-AROUND PORCH WHERE WE CAN WATCH THE SUNSET AND ALSO THE OPENNESS OF OUR FLOOR PLAN. We can easily know what we are all doing, but also have some room to work on projects if needed.



The neighborhood and community we live in is focused on families and there are many families with kids. The schools are well-regarded and have good reputations for academic learning as well as extra-curricular school activities such as sports, music, etc.

IN THE SUMMER AND FALL THERE ARE LOTS OF FESTIVALS AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARTIES. Our neighborhood has a community pool that we love to visit. There are lots of parks and playgrounds nearby as well as walking trails.

WE ALSO HAVE A BIG FENCED-IN BACKYARD WITH A SWING-SET, GARDEN, DECK, AND LOTS OF ROOM TO CHASE BUBBLES AND FIREFLIES.



OUR FAMILIES

BOTH SETS OF GRANDPARENTS ARE WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF US AND ARE EAGER TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS NEXT CHILD'S LIFE.

Ann's Family

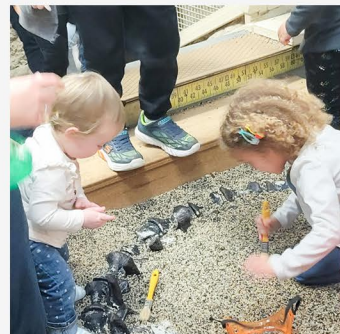
My family is spread out across several different states but we all try to get together several times a year. My niece and nephews are living their adult lives now, but nonetheless, we communicate when we can and share about our lives.

ALL OF MY FAMILY HAS WELCOMED RAELYN AND FEEL THAT SHE IS SUCH A BLESSING. I AM POSITIVE THAT THEY WILL FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT A NEW CHILD THAT COMES INTO OUR FAMILY AS WELL.

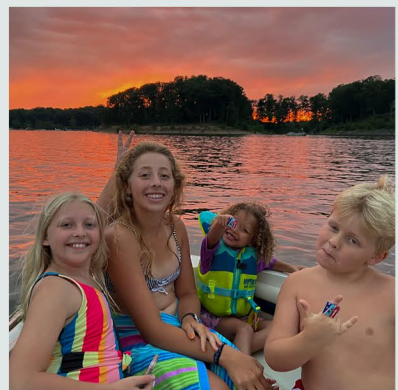
Brad's Family

My siblings are in California and New Zealand. Although they are not a big part of our daily lives we try to see them about once a year. I have some cousins in the central Indiana region and we try and do something a couple times a year with them too.

ALL OF MY FAMILY HAS WELCOMED RAELYN AND WOULD BE HAPPY AND THANKFUL TO HAVE ANOTHER CHILD TO WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY.



OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY



Our Hearts for Adoption



We tried many different methods to become pregnant on our own including multiple rounds of IVF. One of these rounds resulted in a miscarriage. **THESE ATTEMPTS WERE DISAPPOINTING, BUT WE ARE THANKFUL ADOPTION IS AN OPTION FOR US.**

Brad has two cousins who have adopted children of a different culture. Ann also had a grandfather who was adopted and came from an open adoption.

Both have been a positive experience within our families and has furthered our feelings of why adoption is not only a beautiful thing but the right thing for us.

ADOPTING RAEALYN AND EXPANDING OUR FAMILY TO INCLUDE HER BIOLOGICAL FAMILY HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST SPECIAL EXPERIENCES IN OUR LIVES. We know we have the capability to further grow our family and are excited for Raelyn to grow up with a sibling.



What sets us apart...

Because we found our way back to each other in our 30's, we had a chance to make sure that we knew what we wanted in a marriage and in a partnership. **THIS HAS HELPED US WEATHER SOME STORMS AS A COUPLE AND COME OUT STRONGER.**

We are older parents that have come to this decision to adopt from a very conscious, intentional, and loving place. We have the advantage of having years and wisdom to know what are some of the most important priorities in rearing a child. **WE BELIEVE IN LOTS OF LOVE, ATTENTION, CONNECTION, AND GUIDANCE.** We also are old enough to “not sweat the small stuff”.

We are truly committed to open adoption and an ongoing relationship with our child's birth family. **WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS CRUCIAL FOR THE WELL-BEING AND HAPPINESS OF ALL INVOLVED.** Our individual and collective life experiences have defined our continued commitment to this. **WE WILL ALWAYS HOLD OUR CHILD'S BIRTH MOM IN THE HIGHEST REGARD.**

WE PROMISE A BIRTH FAMILY THAT WE WILL ALWAYS TALK LOVINGLY, RESPECTFULLY, AND WITH A COMMITMENT TOWARD AN ONGOING/LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP IN WHATEVER MANNER WORKS BEST FOR ALL.

-Brad and Ann