



Jill, Shaela & Simon

# About Us

Jill is an English teacher and a varsity coach for two sports. She is extremely dedicated to her students and her athletes and works very hard to make sure they have all of the tools that they need to succeed. She has an older sister and brother. Shaela is an art teacher and has students that range from Kindergarten to Seniors in High School. On the weekends, she serves in the United States Army Reserves. Shaela is the third of four children in her family. Outside of work, we both love to travel and hit the local golf course. We also love taking our dog Diggy for walks and playing with him at the local dog park.



# About Simon



Simon was born in January of 2016. His birth mother chose us as adoptive parents a couple weeks before his arrival. After two years of waiting, we were finally chosen and were delighted! We were at the hospital and were the first to hold him and bond with him. We took him home and all of our court proceedings were moving along smoothly. However, prior to our adoption becoming final, the birth father surfaced. After months of discussion and legal processes, we were able to enter into a guardianship of Simon. We have custody of Simon and his father has visitation. We are thankful that we are able to continue to raise our son and that he has the unique opportunity to have three parents.



# Our Home



We live in a ranch style home in a very family oriented neighborhood. Our spacious four bedroom house allows Diggy room to run and Simon room to play. We are located right next to an elementary school and our fenced in back yard gives Diggy plenty of room to run and Simon room to play. We live in Iowa in a town with a thriving main street and strong school district. The Quad Cities are just down the road, and we are within half a day's driving distance to Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Louis.

# Our Extended Family...

Our favorite holiday traditions include a family Thanksgiving Day talent show, Christmas caroling and a huge Easter egg hunt for all of our nieces and nephews on Easter morning. Jill's family lives in a city very close to our town, so we get to spend a lot of quality time with them all year long. Shaela's family is spread all over the country, but we still get to see them several times a year. Our families are very important to us, and we make it a priority to stay close with them.





## WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

We both grew up in loving households, full of traditions and wonderful memories. We are deeply rooted in family values. Throughout our childhoods, we both had friends that were adopted. We saw firsthand the love within those blended families and wanted that experience for ourselves. We are excited to build a family together and feel that adoption is the key to starting that journey.

# Letter to Prospective Birth Mothers,

We would like to start this letter by saying thank you. We cannot imagine the decision that lies ahead of you and we appreciate you taking the time to consider us as prospective parents for your child.

Even before we met and fell in love, Jill and I have both dreamed of creating families of our own. We have been together for years and met at the school that we both teach at. We fell in love almost immediately and have spent the last four years building a home together. Our relationship is built on trust, honesty, communication and the pursuit of laughter. We like to think that we complement each other well. Shaela can be a bit messy, and Jill loves to clean. Jill tends to break things, and Shaela is a natural handyman. Shaela loves to laugh, and Jill is hilarious. Together, with our dog Diggy, we are a family.

Our household is full of love, and we can't wait to share that love with a little bundle of joy. We promise to raise our child in a supported, loving environment and will provide them with the opportunities and experiences that will help them to grow into a responsible, caring adult.

Sincerely,  
Jill, Shaela & Simon

