

## Intro:

We are the “W” Family. We live in the Desert Southwest and love it! We are a close-knit family who enjoys all kinds of fun, family traditions. In fact, our friends often say they want us to adopt them because we enjoy coming up with fun things to celebrate! We do this for one reason...life is meant to be joyful. We have gone through our share of developmental and medical challenges as parents of children with special medical needs and we have learned that you can insert joy into even the toughest medical days.

We are the parents of 4 sons: Joshua, Jameson, Jian (who all live at home), and Jonathan, our oldest, who is married and lives in the Northwest with his wife, Amanda and works as a computer specialist (M. Sci. in Computer Security).

We met during our college years and quickly fell in love and were married and soon after were parents. We credit over 3 decades of marriage to principals of love, respect, friendship, loyalty, understanding, communication, and fun!

We truly do celebrate EVERYTHING! Life isn't about disabilities or difficulties and how hard they are, but how you can work with and embrace them joyfully. Sometimes challenges help us see the world in a much richer and more beautiful way. If you are reading this, we know you are considering an adoptive family for your amazing daughter. We hope, no matter what your decision, you will feel you found some new friends! And certainly...that you have found a family who knows how to take the serious things seriously, but also knows how to live happily with challenges! We are super excited to someday soon find our little girl and have her learn to take joy in her journey too! She will be loved and no doubt...helped to find her smile!

With love,  
*Darín, Diane, Joshua, Jameson, & Jian*





## Darin—

Darin grew up in a small farming community in Utah. He spent a lot of time working on his Grandpa's farm as his trusty farm-hand. He learned a work ethic of get-in-there-and-get-it-done-well and this served him well as he applied his hard working zeal to his young life. He served on student government and was a state champion soccer player. He loved to do 100 mile backpack adventures in Wyoming with his friends and work in his other Grandfather's wood shop.

Darin received his Bachelors in Business Management from Brigham Young University and his appraisal license with the state of Utah. He works as a review appraiser for a statewide bank (auditing appraisals for accuracy). He continues to put his best work forward as he was taught to do, thus earning him over 31 years of loyalty from his employer.



However, don't think Darin is all work and no play! This is one silly and fun Dad! Darin is quite competitive and loves playing board and card games with the family and being the comedic relief on family road trips. It doesn't take much to talk this Dad into a Friday night ice cream treat either! Darin is an active member of his church and serves in family history and community outreach.

Darin's main concern is for his family. By his bedside will often be a notepad for his list of concerns and solutions and a Sudoku puzzle book to help him get back to sleep when a nighttime epiphany hits. He likes to make sure everyone is happy and content and puts his all into his family!





## Diane—

Diane was born and raised in Utah. She grew up doing gymnastics and swimming and loved to be anywhere near the water. Her “happy place” as a child was being in and on (boat) the water of Lake Powell. It started a life-long love of the Desert Southwest, which she now calls HOME! AND her love of water has never ceased with the ocean being her very favorite place to visit!

Diane is a Stay-at-Home-Mom that LOVES her “job”! Diane is a total kid at heart and loves to play board games and take weekly field trips with the family. She loves anything that has a little bit of adventure from small hikes on the local petrified sand dunes to visiting a local dairy farm to rock hounding...She totally loves to live and learn and include the family in the journey! She has taught her children that learning is not only fun, but awesome!



Her family jokes that Diane has a little “Dr. Doolittle” in her as she often takes drives in the evenings to “talk” to the sheep, horses, and cows in their community, which makes her family laugh. She love nature and being outside. She loves her tulips and daffodils that come up each year and planning the family’s twice yearly garden. (She may even talk to her plants to encourage them along!) She loves to make things with her hands, especially to gift to others.

Diane is active in her local Christian church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) and presently works on family history efforts alongside her husband. Diane loves to sing in the church choir...especially at Christmas-time. She adores music and being able to participate with the only “instrument” she has...her voice. Diane has a passion for writing...whether simply in her journal or for a professional publication...it’s just something she has truly enjoyed since childhood.





## Joshua—

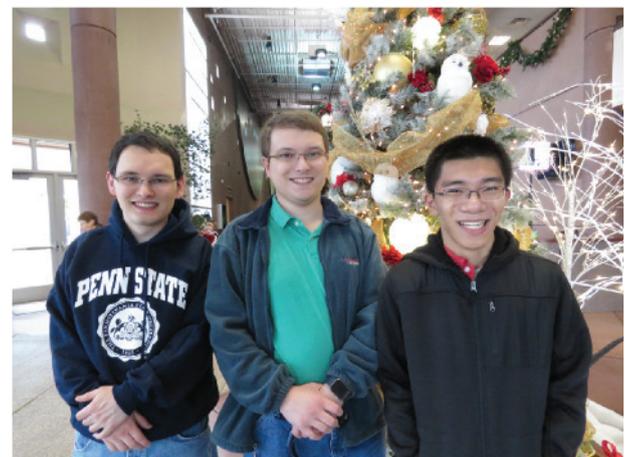
Joshua came into the world early and with challenges. However, it never seemed to stop him in any endeavor he sought to do. He could read before he could talk. He seemed to have this innate ability to understand the complexities of music without even being able to play an instrument. When he was introduced to mathematics...it was a match made in heaven!

Joshua graduated with a B.Sci. in Computer Science from our local university. He then went on to receive a second B.Sci.; this time in Mathematics. In December 2019 he earned his Masters of Applied Science from Penn State in Applied Statistics.



Joshua currently has a full time job (working from home) as a computer programmer/analyst for a firm that makes computer software for trucking and transportation companies. It's been very interesting work. He loves solving problems, but there comes a point when he is just "done" for the day and he is ready for some down time. Joshua loves to play board or card games with the family and nothing delights him more than a really well prepared meal!

Joshua is bright, witty, amazingly analytical, and yet...he's very kind and considerate. There is no absent-minded professor here. He does care about the people around him. He's generous and while he seems super focused on the task at hand...he is always thinking of what he can do to improve people's lives. He told us just recently that perhaps he may hope to study engineering and make things to improve the lives of others. Speaking of improving the lives of others, Joshua is active in his Christian church and actively supports worldwide humanitarian efforts.





## Jameson—

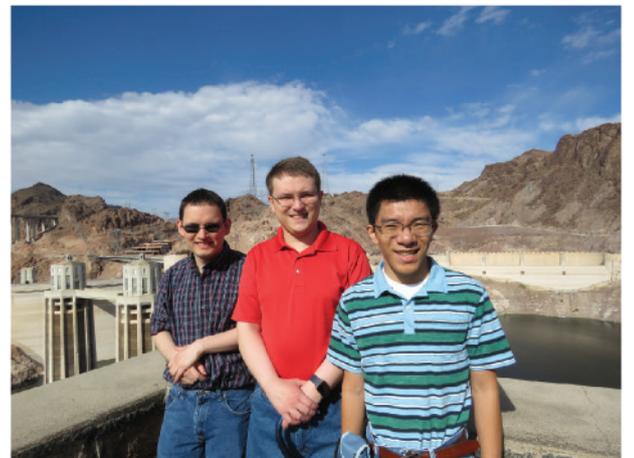
Jameson came into the world calm and a peacemaker. It just seems to be in his nature. Certainly we had our “wonder years” of toddler mayhem, but he came back to that calm and caring aspect as he matured. Jameson always...always asks, “Can I do something for you?” He truly cares how people feel and is often the litmus for the family emotions. He knows when people are down or if they have something fun to share. He just understands people.

Jameson had multiple brain and spinal cord surgeries as a young child. They were tough and left him with some physical challenges. He has proven to be wise...selecting an education and job that work with his needs. Jameson received his Certificate in Visual Technology in 2015 from our local university. He decided he was ready to open up his own company and launched it shortly thereafter. His clients often say how easy Jameson is to work with.



Jameson is a talented web developer and visual technology specialist. He really loves to help people achieve their goals. He is truly committed to helping others become what they want to be. He loves to teach and has clients who hire him to help them learn how to run their computers and iPhones. People trust Jameson. He does what he says he is going to do. He lives by a motto that is really amazing: “I always assume the best of people!” Jameson is active in his local Christian church and enjoys serving others through church service projects.

Jameson loves pine trees and really anything green...even Yoda! He loves the creativity the computer allows him to have. He enjoys laid-back, family time. He’s content to have things be simple. He has taken a real interest in researching color blindness (which his Grandpa has...) and finding adaptive technologies not only for making computer use easier, but also for explaining the condition to others. His love of people seems to help him greatly as he seeks to be a successful businessman. He also works part time for the largest community bank in our state.





## Jian—

Jian joined our family on July 20th, 2003...the 34th anniversary of man landing on the moon. We felt that was totally appropriate for the miracle it was to find him in the middle of far-away China. Jian's name means "strong-willed" and we felt the orphanage did an amazing job naming him! Jian's strong will comes through in his determined goals and actions. Once he determines to get a job done...he does it! Well! Jian was adopted when he was nearly 3.

Jian is a very talented 19 year old! He sings bass in our local church choir along with his brothers and mom (who have very different ranges). He has begun his study pathway into B.Y.U. Idaho, where he will work on a Business Management degree. He plays the Native American flute and loves to study Native American culture and language. We have followed his learning curve and so he often comes up with amazing new talents by his own choice. He is currently learning to carve wood and hopes to someday have a wood-shop of his own.



Jian is hard-working, determined, self-starting, and reliable. He's our "go-to" guy when we need a task done. He just gets in there and gets it done. He likes to kick back and go fishing. He loves the idea of a cabin by the lake and often takes drives with his Dad scoping out a possible retreat location. Give him a fishing pole and a quiet place to be and he is a happy camper...literally!

Jian loves to study science, especially this year as he has delved into Chemistry. He rather likes the idea of studying engineering. He also has a desire to teach. He loves to learn languages and besides Navajo, he is learning Spanish. He loves learning about other cultures and studying history. He really takes in a good museum and doesn't bore from looking at things from the past. He's serious-minded, but don't let it fool you...He can crack the whole family up in split second with his hysterical sense of humor.





## Why Down syndrome adoption?—

“We knew when we adopted our son, Jian, from China that there was another little person destined to be a part of our family.

We started the adoption process a couple of years after getting Jian, however it just didn't feel right to us and we felt we needed to allow him to adjust and grow and thrive and trust after spending nearly 3 years in an orphanage.

One day, those feelings came back that there was still a little someone who wanted to be a part of our family. We made it a prayerful consideration and we felt strongly that Down syndrome adoption was in our hearts and that this time a little girl would grace our family.

You see...when we had our first child...prior to his birth...we were told we were going to have a child with a trisomy. They had performed some preliminary tests due to some cardiac issues he was having in-utero and we had to make some very intense and determined decisions in a little antenatal testing room.

Those decisions I think changed our hearts. Our son didn't end up having a trisomy, however the thoughts and process of accepting that possible diagnosis were already implanted deep within us.

The commitment to this was already forged long ago and prepared us for saying, “Yes” in a very bold way to Down syndrome NOW!

While our family is nearly raised (We started early!)...we feel we now have the life experience of raising 4 sons with special medical and developmental needs that helps us to embrace Down syndrome with JOY and a knowledge that each child comes with their own unique set of challenges and amazing gifts. The joy comes in helping children overcome or accept challenges while always embracing their personal strengths. We feel like we have a lot of love to give a little one. We are at a time in our lives when we have the time and resources to give her all that will help her to thrive and become all that she can be! We have anticipated this beautiful daughter with great happiness! If you chose us, you have our solemn promise to give her everything we can to help her to become the amazing person she is meant to be!



## Our home—

We live in a 3800 square foot, two-story home in a friendly, suburban neighborhood. Our 1 year old home has rambler-style living with a larger main level with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, living room, kitchen, dining, and formal living room. The second level has 3 bedrooms and 1 bath and a large family room. Our favorite room in the house is the second story family room where we play games, watch movies, do crafts, and sometimes just enjoy the sunset on the palm-framed yard below. It's quite lovely!

We love our backyard, which has a private patio and is fully landscaped with abundant palms, grass play-yard, and garden space. Our entire yard front and back is fenced. What we love most about our back yard are our gardens. We work together to harvest our plums, apricots, figs, almonds, strawberries, and grapes. We enjoy going out to our garden beds to pick a daily variety of tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, squash, etc... Gardening is a family affair and we all work together to enjoy garden-fresh produce and even make a little jam to enjoy on warm bread in the winter.



Our neighborhood is friendly and kind. People love our walk-about neighborhood with wide sidewalks. The hardest part about getting exercise this way is stopping to talk to all the friendly neighbors. Everyone knows each other and we have a diverse neighborhood from young families to retired seniors.

Speaking of seniors...Grandma and Grandpa live a mile away and provide easy access to "Grandparent spoiling" any day of the week, which our family totally enjoys! We are happy to live, work, play, and dwell in our home. It's our safe haven and we work to keep it such. We love to play music in our home whether by CD or listening to one of the children practice one of their instruments. Our favorite times of the day are often the times we sit down and read a good book out loud as a family or enjoy a great meal for dinner.





## Parent Experience—

Diane and Darin have had a lot of experience with raising children with special and developmental needs, as all 4 of their sons had a genetic syndrome, which caused them to have a lot of mid-line birth defects and complications. Many of these needed multiple surgeries, early interventions, and specialized education.

Diane has been called by developmental pediatricians, a “Parent Expert” having had to take on many aspects of care from general nursing (IV maintenance, oxygen administration, shots, special feeding, pre & post-surgical care, etc...) to therapeutic interventions.

Diane entered into a world where she felt she could both learn and contribute and help make for meaningful changes for her children and for the special needs community at large. She has done research and had two medical papers published that helped to bring light to the conditions with which her children dealt so that others might feel supported and represented in a clinical way.

She helped found an international genetic syndrome support group and served on its board to make certain that there was a peer support system for her children and a mother support system for her lifelong friends in the syndrome community.

Diane’s goal was simple: “Let’s make life with this syndrome better!”

She looks to the needs of each child and what will serve them best and then seeks out appropriate and timely therapies when needed. She also knows when to just back off and let time work its magic too.

She brings to the table over 2 decades of patient advocacy work not only for her family, but also for other families newly treading into the world of special medical needs.

Darin has served right alongside Diane in these efforts. He is an amazing insurance expert and takes on the role of making sure that the family’s medical needs are met with appropriate insurance coverage. He will write for grants to help get specialized care that is needed. He is amazingly gifted in being able to diplomatically solve claims and to make sure that no service is denied his family. He enjoys participating in the special needs support groups along with his family. He has been there for nearly every single surgery or procedure and is an equal partner in this special needs “adventure”.



## Services—

We selected our area to live because it gave us the best of everything. We had this amazing, enriching lifestyle mixed alongside award winning medical care. Our integrated medical care network has been consistently rated in the top 5 nationally for patient quality. We have established medical relationships with the following specialties: Cardiology, Hematology, Endocrinology, Genetics, Neurology, Internal Medicine, etc. Our state children's hospital is a nationally ranked hospital for 9 specific specialties...the highest of which is cardiology, in which it ranks #10 in the entire nation.

We live within 1 mile of the #1 charter school in our state. The school has been praised for its work with children who have special needs. It's a parent participation school that encourages parents to take an active role in helping steer their child's educational plan. Our state is an open choice state for education, so parents have a choice of public (which are exceptional in our area), charter, private, specialized schools, or homeschool or any combination thereof. What we love about our community is the way Down syndrome is embraced. One amazing woman coaches children with Down syndrome in cheer (both boys and girls) and they perform during the high school's half time performances. They are BELOVED in the township!

Therapeutic services are provided by each school within our district for children with Down syndrome. There are also specialized therapies provided in town with cutting edge research in helping children with developmental disabilities like Down syndrome, Autism, X-linked disorders, etc. Beyond these are the therapies provided by our medical system. We purchase premium medical insurance to make sure our children can receive a plethora of choice when the need arises for specialized therapeutic care.

We have a local Down syndrome chapter. In fact, one of our adoption counselors is its president. They meet monthly as a play group. We hope to be able to participate with them when we have a participant! We are actively involved in our special needs community locally. We have had the pleasure of speaking at events, doing teaching demonstrations, and at Christmas-time this past year...just going and reading Christmas stories to the children. We are at-home in these groups and are excited to add a little one into this beautiful community of embraced diversity.



## All About Town—

We live in the desert southwest and LOVE it! We chose this area because of its focus on health and well-being. We love taking walks on any one of the over 30 paved walk-paths throughout our pristine desert landscape. We enjoy taking along our binoculars and seeing the pretty blooming desert flowers, lizards, and migrating birds. Our communities are dedicated to parks and recreation and recently opened the incredible, “All Abilities Park”, which boasts its own train and playground equipment that

any child can enjoy whether mobile or with mobility challenges. Our area is often called, “Broadway in the Desert” because of our amazing offerings of box office hits like, “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Wizard of Oz” in our spectacular, red rock, open-air amphitheater. Children can begin attending these productions at age 3 and there is nothing more adorable than seeing kids dressed up like their favorite characters to attend a Tuacahn offering! We love our year-round climate of 40–70\* days in the winter and 60–100\* days in the summer. When summer heat gets to us...we head to our local, state-award-winning recre-



ation center, which has the most incredible pool with abundant water slides, splash pads, zero entry pool, lazy river, and many other fun-filled ways to cool off.

We love to pack the family up for a day up in Zion National Park, which is only 45 minutes away. In fact...we live in an area called, “The Grand Circle”, which includes The Grand Canyon (1.5 hours), Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon (2.5 hours) and many other awe-inspiring national and state parks. Utah is the place for beautiful vistas and our van is the place for the ultimate trunk picnic!

We love living in the residential/agricultural area just outside the metro. It's like having the best of both worlds. World class medical care just 5 miles away. Equestrian/farm lifestyle is all around us. We have 7 public, private, and charter schools within 2 miles of us. We have amazing museums in each community. However, what we love very much is a visit to one of our local libraries, especially our main hub library in the metro where we go for a good book and then out for ice cream!



# Mother to Mother...

Dear Mother,

So often you have been in my mind. As one mother to another, we share a common bond always. I wonder what struggles you have endured. I wonder what trials have been laid at your feet. Many times I have prayed for you and for your comfort and peace of mind. I want you to know that I care. I truly do. You have done something for me that I am unable to do for myself, which is carry a child. That wonderful step of creation is beautiful and something for which I am so grateful. I know as you have carried this incredible baby...your heart has been touched by the magnitude of her precious spirit. Your efforts to carry and sustain life are so appreciated and it is no small sacrifice for you to do this and to give birth. Every step of giving life to another human being is unselfish. You give of yourself in ways that forever change you and affect you. My heart goes out to you...for I know if you receive this letter...you are making very difficult choices. As a mother, I understand how deeply agonizing and painful this decision may be. My heart has been with you...wishing I could take away the pain. All I can do is assure you that your effort to carry this life is a tandem motherhood. You have carried life and sustained it and perhaps you have even given birth or will give birth soon. You are a mother. You have done a great work and it is something that never can be taken from you. You will always be a mother. You have a mother's heart. If you choose adoption for your baby, you share in a tandem motherhood (whether the adoption is open, semi-open, or closed) with me. If you choose to place your sweet baby girl into our lives, I will continue on in caring for this beautiful little girl. I will do my utmost best for this precious gift of life! She will arrive into a home where she is wanted, understood, and will receive the best of care. It is our solemn promise to you that she will be loved and cared for to the best of our abilities. We love her. We want her as-is. We want you to know that you will be respected, spoken of with love, and remembered always with deepest love and admiration. When I think of you...the words that come are: unselfish and courageous and loving. The road you are traveling is hard. You are so special and we love you and thank you for your deep concern for your baby. Please know that you are bringing a precious soul into the world. She has a mission in this life. We will help her find it. You have given her so much already to start her time on Earth.



Dear Mother...May God bless you and give you strength, comfort, and peace of mind and heart. May you be watched over, receive all the blessings that can be bestowed upon you. Thank you for your precious gift of life!

With my love,

*Diane*



**Thank You**  
for getting  
to know us!

