Hello!

Hi There! We are Jake and Jenna and we want to thank you for taking the time to read our profile book. Shortly after we began dating, we daydreamed of our ideal family. Adoption was too perfect for us. It seemed like an insurmountable goal that could only exist in storybooks. Not long after we were married, we tried to start a family. We knew we were supposed to be parents, but didn’t seem to be getting there. Instead of being discouraged after years of trying, we had a calling. We were always supposed to adopt our child. God was answering our prayers from 9 years ago. We are so glad life has gone this direction because we are so excited to grow our family through adoption!

With Love,
Jake + Jenna
Jake is a strong-willed, hard-working person, who also knows how to have fun. It was this personality that first attracted Jenna when he joined the staff at a hardware store in the Midwest. Jenna was not hard to notice, with her enthusiastic smile and infectious laugh. It was not long after meeting that we enjoyed watching a Sunday Night Football game together in a booth sharing an appetizer after work. We both recall who played that night, as it was the very start of our love story. The boutonnieres at our Fall 2016 wedding were even centered around our favorite NFL teams. To this day, football games are on the TV on Sundays as it became a special part of our relationship.

Jenna in her natural habitat reading or doing research
Us with our shepherd we bought together
Jake in his natural habitat working on a wood project

No surprise! Our favorite pose from our wedding is a football one.
Being first time parents, we cannot say for certain we will not mess up on parenting. We do know that we will love our child no matter what and that God will guide us every step along the way. Based on our personalities and what we have learned from our own parents, we know we will not be overly strict or disciplinary. Adventure will play a huge part in our lives, as we cannot wait to travel and take our child to Disney World someday. Jenna is the researcher and has already read enough parenting books to know the way she will parent is through love and understanding, with a set of rules and expectations put in place with strong input from our child. Both of us grew up in homes where quality family time is still important to this day and free entertainment was valued. We both had nicknames for our overly cautious parents but now understand the strong importance of safe fun and the newly coined term helicopter-parenting. A joke still running today on Jenna’s side of the family is to always wear a helmet, even in silly situations. We plan to instill strong values in our child and always remember to have fun.

Both families love each other and cannot wait to welcome a new family member. Everyone is especially looking forward to Holidays.
Jenna’s family traditions include game nights, escape rooms and Birthdays!

Work / Life Balance

We are fortunate enough to work in the same industry of logistics. We both have full time desk jobs and love every aspect of it. Jenna has been climbing at the same company since 2013 and has an extremely positive reputation. Jake recently moved to day shift so he can be together more often as we grow out family. Jenna is currently working from home so we find other ways to get out of the house like horseback riding!

The plan is to keep this going and have a child in daycare to socialize with many other kids rather than be home with only mom or dad all day. We will not be strict. We will instead have an established set of guidelines to follow for our child to ensure safety and fun in the household.

Jake’s family always includes an adventure such as golf or four wheeling.
Jenna talks Jenna

Jenna’s sense of humor will get us through everything it seems. She finds the positive note in every situation. She was ready to be a mom well before we dreamed about it. Kids are drawn to her because she has that ‘it’ factor about her. Funny and outgoing, but calm and super caring, she will make an excellent mother and I cannot wait to be a parent with her. She has done all of the research and is as prepared as she possibly can be and I know she will only continue to learn as our child comes home.

Jake talks Jenna

Jake is going to be a fantastic dad. He has been talking about all of the activities he plans to do with our child for at least 4 years, if not longer. He is patient and kind and balances me out in so many ways that will be beneficial to raising our child together. We are a true team. He will always take the lead if I need to be the shy one in a situation. I know I will never have to worry about being the only tired or overworked one when it comes to parenting because he will be there beside me to experience everything. Jake is extremely social and will be an excellent partner when we start to advocate for our child. I could not imagine a better father to share a child with. I know he is looking forward to sharing sports, including wrestling with our future child!

Jenna talks Jake

Jake is always smiling or trying to make someone else laugh. He loves hanging out with his dad and brother at sporting events.
Lifestyle

Jenna grew up playing the piano from a very young age. She has a serious talent for music. Her sister, an aspiring musician, is her best friend. Music courses through their veins, making it a huge part of Jenna's life that she hopes to pass on to her child. Jake loves to build things and cannot wait to build a themed bedroom for our kid. In rain, shine or winter, Jake loves to cook and be outside grilling. His hope is to learn to cook cultural foods from our child's birth culture.

Jake grilling at our new home

Whether it is watching or participating in sports, we both have a huge passion for athletics. We dream of the day we get to be on bleachers for our child and watching Professional sports; all in jerseys of our favorite teams.
We cannot wait to travel with our child and go on adventures like our Honeymoon in Miami where we went parasailing...

...and kayaking day trips with the family

Trips to other cities wouldn't be the same without close cousins!

Evenings by the lake are common here in the Land of 10,000.
Community

We built our dream home in 2018 in a brand new development residing in a small city on the outskirts of Metro Minnesota. Our 3 bedroom home already includes a special space for the new family member. One of the main reasons for choosing this quiet suburban town we live in is the children's playground specially designed in the center of our very neighborhood. While being in a town with an unintentional lack of diversity, we made it a point to be close to cities with community centers and extra curricular programs with thousands of options. Our beautiful home is walking distance from the Elementary school, but the plan is to drop our little one off at school whenever we can, as we want to spend every minute we can with them.

Making adjustments to our new home 2018

Us with our dog and new garden we built together

Feeling blessed

We have been attending churches in the area since we first moved in and finally found one we know we belong at. We are working on becoming members at a neighborhood Lutheran Church. We cannot wait to baptize our child here and bring them in for Sunday School and get involved in everything else there is to offer.

Symbolically braiding God into our marriage
Jake grew up with a family friend who adopted two girls from Guatemala, one of which went to school with him. Jake and his family learned positive adoption language a long time ago, thanks to this friend. Through the years, this has provided us with comfort, knowing we have a role model and mentor if we ever want. Jenna's best friend has a sister who adopted nearly 10 years ago. Due to this connection, her friend cannot wait to be an influence in the child's life, as she too would like to adopt one day.

We look forward to working together to create an openness plan that will respect both us and our child's birth family while also encouraging our child to feel comfortable asking questions about their origin. We hope to have a relationship that will result in yearly updates, with room of development should everyone want. We have a huge network of people, all wanting to support us as a whole, including our child's birth family.
Diversity

We do not know what our child looks like. We know they will be perfect no matter what and fit with our family because of our strong faith. Not only does it not matter the race or ethnicity of our child, but it excites us to be different! We both grew up with different traditions and we cannot wait to grow our family culturally. Jake is excited to learn to cook the cuisine of our child’s birth culture. Jenna is more excited to start planning Holidays native to their birth culture. We both know the importance of keeping that culture alive, which is why we started expanding our diversity awareness through training and taking action. Jenna has started to seek out minority owned hair and nail salons, contributing to small and minority owned businesses in the State and Nationally. Jake has started to seek out a minority owned barber for all personal (and possibly children in the future) haircuts. Both of us are contributing to the loss and devastation in Minnesota where minority owned businesses were severely damaged. We have taken an active role in our community to make sure we are doing our part. No matter the race, our child will be instilled to have racial confidence from a very young age. We will never stop learning and educating ourselves and our child will always know where they came from. We will have a houseful and a life full of culture.

We have so many friends, all from different backgrounds. Three of our best friends are from Guyana and cannot wait to travel with us someday to explore the Country in which our child’s culture is from. We have learned a lot from them about differences in parenting alone and cannot wait to utilize them as role models. Another friend of ours is full Irish and we never knew there were so many traditions to be kept alive until we met her. She plans to adopt in the future as well and has already taught us so much about the importance of keeping that culture alive. Jenna’s sister’s husband has Vietnamese background and we have learned to be more aware of traditions due to our education on culture.

Although we live in a rural area of the State, we are in close proximity to the offerings of the diversity and beauty the Twin Cities offers.
We want to thank you from the very bottom of our hearts for taking the time to read our profile. We cannot imagine what you are going through but we will not forget your sacrifice. Our promise is to love your child unconditionally and raise him or her to know where they came from. We promise to teach empathy, emotional intelligence and help him or her become a strong, fun and confident individual. Thank you for considering us.

Love and Respect,
Jake + Jenna