



# Dan, Danielle & Magnolia

## Our Letter to You

Thank you for taking time to learn about our family. We understand there are many things leading to an adoption journey and we hope to support you as you choose the pathway that is right for you and your child. We have some experience, as our daughter Magnolia is adopted, and our dream is to expand our family through adoption again. We have multiple family members on both sides who are adopted and our entire family views adoption as a beautiful gift. We are honored you would consider us as adoptive parents. We promise to love, nurture, and cherish any child in our family just the same as if they were born to us biologically. Our children will be safe, loved, and supported. In the next few pages, we hope to share how we have kept this promise as we show what life is like in our family. If you were to choose us as parents, we also promise to be honest and open about your child's birth story with them. If you would like, we would love to share your child's story with you, as well, through pictures, letters, or more – we would be happy to discuss what this openness would look like with you.

We know this letter can't begin to answer the many questions you may have, and we would love to meet you and learn more about you and share more about ourselves.

Sincerely,

*Dan, Danielle & Magnolia*

# Meet our Family



We met when Dan's cousin married Danielle's best friend - we quickly bonded over a love of lobster, our backgrounds in teaching, and favorite card games (we carry a pack of cards with us everywhere). We have several mutual friends and our lives just seamlessly fit together - Danielle even got Dan onto her kickball team! We got married in 2016 and started the adoption process in 2018, which was a natural decision for us when we faced infertility issues. On a typical evening we can be found at home having dinner, walking the dog, and playing until Magnolia's bedtime. We then spend time together by catching up on Netflix, playing games, or reading. We have great work schedules, so we have plenty of time to spend together as a family. Quality family time is highly valued! We are both silly and love to make Magnolia and each other laugh. We tend to only argue when we're hungry, and we solve our arguments through open communication. It is important to us to model healthy relationships. We are supportive of one another and strive to help each other achieve our dreams and goals. We will strive to do the same with Magnolia and any future children and will encourage them that there are no limits in what they can achieve. We believe in a positive parenting approach and we incorporate Magnolia into our day-to-day activities (she loves to water the plants) as well as activities that foster her creativity and imagination.



Most of our family lives nearby, and we treasure our visits to out of state family in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. We are a close-knit group - our parents are our "go to" babysitters and they visit frequently - at least once a week! We celebrate all holidays and birthdays together, and we even take a family vacation to Maine every year. Magnolia loves to visit with her cousins, three of whom are also adopted and only live 15 minutes away. Our families are extremely supportive of our decision to adopt again. We both grew up with siblings and know how important powerful that bond is, which is a huge reason why we are choosing to adopt again.

## Meet Dan, by Danielle



When I met Dan I had been warned that he would make a great husband, and he has certainly lived up to it! He is also an amazing dad - everything I could have pictured and more. He truly "gets" me. He is kind, goofy, honest, and completely devoted to our family. He is also one of the funniest people I have met and is constantly telling jokes and trying to make people laugh. He is generous, and will bend over backwards for anyone who needs help. He loves Maine, and has introduced first me, and now Magnolia, to his favorite vacation spot. He is a huge sports fan, and knows all about "his teams" including the Buckeyes, the Browns, and the Reds. He has shared this enthusiasm already with Magnolia, and "football" was one of her early words. Seeing him interact with Magnolia makes my heart full, because he has gone over and above every expectation I had of him as a father. He loves to brag about her, and is visibly proud of her accomplishments, from rolling over to walking to first words. He is a truly great guy and supportive life partner - on top of being a really wonderful dad.

### Dan's Fun Facts

He's been to Maine at least once a year since birth. He loves Christmas, history, eating, and being with family/friends. His hobbies include watching sports (Go Bucks!), snowboarding, kickball, and playing guitar. His favorite books to read Magnolia are "Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site" and "L is for Love (and Lion)."

## Meet Danielle, by Dan



I could stop at "she is the biggest Harry Potter nerd on the planet" but I won't, because she is so much more than that. She is outgoing, energetic, and makes friends with everyone. She always assumes the best of people, and strives to make everyone feel welcome and valued. She is also incredibly loyal, caring, and protective of people she loves. She is passionate about her work as a nurse practitioner, which is evident in how she advocates for her patients, and I know she'll always be an advocate for our children. Because she was an ER nurse, she handles all of the gross stuff at our house without batting an eye, and knows how to handle most medical situations. She makes being a mom to Magnolia look easy, and their bond is obvious to anyone who sees them together. I can't say it more clearly than this: she is a fantastic mother and Magnolia lights up every time she enters the room. She is a huge reader (I make fun of her every night for reading WHILE brushing her teeth) and she reads every day with Magnolia. I'm sure this is why Magnolia loves books! My favorite thing about Danielle is when she gets really excited about something and does a totally ridiculous "happy dance" that I'm hoping all of our children imitate at some point. I know that she can handle whatever comes her way, and I can't wait to continue building our family with her.

### Danielle's Fun Facts

She worked at Build a Bear for 6 years. She loves singing (loudly) in the car, visiting family/friends, and grocery shopping. Her hobbies include reading, crafting, kickball, skiing, and learning how to cook. Her favorite books to read Magnolia are "Bear Snores On" and "The Snail and the Whale."



**2012**  
we meet while in a wedding together



**2013-2015**  
we officially begin dating and get engaged while on vacation in Maine



**2016**  
we buy a house and get married

# Meet Magnolia



We welcomed Magnolia into our home in 2020 as an infant. We met her birth grandparents before she arrived, which was so meaningful to be able to share as part of her birth story, and we continue to send updates with pictures and letters to Adoption Circle. We named her Magnolia because the day we found out about her we were planting a Magnolia tree in our front yard. When she arrived, the name fit her perfectly! We are truly in awe of the person Magnolia is turning into. She has so much personality! She loves to be silly, make faces, and chase after her cats. She also loves to “read” books, and quickly memorized which books have cats in them and can flip right to those pages. Watching her at daycare, she engages easily with her teachers and other students, and appears to have learned already how to share. She has completely stolen our hearts, and we know she’ll make a wonderful big sister. We both grew up with siblings and know the value of a built-in best friend to build forts, ride bikes, and play with.

## Fun Facts about Magnolia

Her nicknames include Mags/Noli/Noli Cannoli/and Maggi-moo. Her nursery is Harry Potter themed with a giant mural Danielle painted on one wall. Her first word was “cat!”



## Meet the Pets

We have two cats, littermates Teddy and Calvin, and a dog named Laretta. Magnolia is obsessed with them! Laretta has acted like Magnolia was her baby since the minute she came home and continues to follow her around the house. Our pets are part of our family, and we believe they help children learn so much about life, responsibility, and caring for others.

## Traditions



We have multiple child-friendly traditions we celebrate with our family and friends each year on top of birthdays and holidays, which include some of the following:

- Whole family vacations to Maine where we stay in Dan’s parents’ cabin – sometimes 15+ people at a time!
- Ski/snowboarding trips – Dan’s uncle Doug will teach the kids to ski when they’re old enough!
- Camping, hiking, and canoe trips
- Cabin trips to Hocking Hills every winter
- Trips to Florida including Disney and Harry Potter World

## Education and Employment



### Dan

**Teacher** – teaches high school social studies. He gets weekends, holidays, and summers off plus additional sick/vacation time off each year!

### Danielle

**Nurse practitioner** – works in a local ER. She only works 4 days a week with flexible scheduling, holidays off, and over 7 weeks of additional paid time off each year! She was formerly a high school teacher and was an ER nurse before she became a nurse practitioner.

## Our Community



We live on a court in a neighborhood located in a small suburb. Many of our neighbors have kids, and our good friends just moved in right around the corner! Our house is a two-story home with a basement so there is plenty of space, and Magnolia’s playroom currently occupies our formal dining and living room areas. A second child would have their own bedroom, with a shared play space. We are within walking distance of a swimming pool, playground, library, and our church. We are located in a great school system, and the schools our children will attend are also walkable! Our suburb has a small town feel, and the streets downtown are closed several times throughout the year for family-friendly events. We are also close to Columbus, which has parks, museums, a conservatory, and a science center – all with tons of activities for children. We are extremely lucky to live within 15 minutes of many family members and friends. Danielle decorates for most holidays year-round; Dan’s favorite is when the house is all decked out for Christmas – Danielle hangs the lights herself!



**2018**

we begin the adoption process!



**2020**

we adopt Magnolia



**2022**

we’re adopting again!

# Our Values

**Family:** Our family is extremely important to us. We have a strong, loving, and committed marriage and we believe in modeling healthy relationships, including that between parents, to our children.

**Faith:** We both believe in God and we continue to grow in our faith. We attend a Catholic church weekly, and our faith in something greater than us is something we hope to share with our children.

**Education:** We are both educated with college and graduate degrees and we value how higher education has shaped our lives. Dan attended University of Dayton and University of Notre Dame; Danielle attended Denison University, Ohio University, and Ohio State. We can offer our children a strong school system as they grow, either through public or private school. We will encourage and help them attend the college of their choice if they desire. Our daycare is 5 minutes from our home, has an educational basis, and we get constant communication throughout the day. We continue to help Magnolia learn and grow at home through interactive, Montessori-based play on top of all the books we read with her. We hope to raise our children to always ask questions and to be lifelong learners.

**Health and Happiness:** We are committed to being healthy, happy, and mindful, and we hope to instill these values in our children. We make time to exercise, and we walk the dog as a family on most nights. We eat as organically as possible, and our home is environmentally friendly. We will encourage our children to participate in activities that foster their development, whether it be sports, music, arts, or something else. We promise to raise our children to be healthy, happy, and to strive to make a positive impact on their world.



Wedding day with all the parents



Hiking in Maine



John Mayer concert



At the cabin in Maine



## *In closing*

We've always known we wanted our family to include multiple children and we are experiencing the love adoption has already brought our family. We hope these pages have shown you more about our lives and the promises we made when we adopted Magnolia, which we will continue to keep for future children. There is no doubt in our minds that adopting again is the right choice for us. Should you choose us as parents, we promise to love your child to the moon and beyond. If you would like to learn more or discuss your adoption plan, we'd love to meet you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.