



Hi.

We're Monika and Joe and are really excited to meet you!



Thanks for taking time to learn more about us. We have great respect for the decision you've made in considering adoption and we'd love to learn more about you and your hopes for the future too.

Our love of the outdoors, being with family and friends and building relationships in our community is what makes us who we are. Our greatest joy would be to have a child with whom we could share the struggles and joys of life and be positive role models, encouraging them to become whatever they want to be! We hope the next few pages give you a glimpse into our lives that we would be honored to share with your child.

Our Story



Enjoying a fall day riding our bikes

We met on a camping trip in Wisconsin that was organized by one of our mutual friends. While we didn't start dating right away, we immediately connected with our love of cycling, running and hanging out with our friends. A year into the friendship Monika finally realized how great Joe was (clearly, she's a little slow!) and we started dating. We've been best friends ever since! True to our personalities we had a simple wedding in a beautiful park in downtown Chicago followed by brunch. We've been married almost six years.



Our Home



We live in the city of Chicago on the top floor of a four-story brick walkup condo with a cat named Maggie. We love the culture a big city brings but most of all enjoy the simple things in life. Our street has many small children either in strollers or riding bikes. Our neighborhood elementary school is less than half mile from our home and many children walk to school with their parents (and plenty of crossing guards). We walk everywhere...to the grocery store, church and half a mile to Lake Michigan where we enjoy spending our outdoor time. We have a neighborhood playground park within a quarter mile and the lakefront with more playgrounds and room to run. We can't wait to strap a baby carrier to the front of us and to walk around and allow for the baby to see what's around them. Additionally, a baby running stroller will allow us to enjoy our runs together as a family!

Active Life

We enjoy an active life that involves some sort of exercise most days of the week. We love to cook and have friends over to hang out. Catching a Cubs baseball game is a fun summer activity — too bad they can't seem to win as often as we'd like!

We love taking vacations including visiting family both in Switzerland and in the United States. Our favorite vacations include our passions such as hiking and cycling and learning more about how we can help animals such as our visit to the Farm Sanctuary in New York.



Top section: Our home; Hanging out on our deck; Our cat Maggie

Bottom section: Enjoying a Chicago Cubs baseball game; Visiting Farm Sanctuary. Joe's favorite animal is the pig; Hiking in Switzerland with Monika's dad



About Monika

BY JOE

I fell in love with Monika while we were recreational and life companions. I love her laugh and fun nature that complements so well her tenacity and integrity. She's a hard worker both at home and at work, and loves to have fun. She is an amazing cook and is very generous with her time cooking for our friends. With the clean eating and living comes a healthy inside and outside! I love her and she will make an awesome Mom!

About Joe

BY MONIKA

I can't tell if I fell in love with Joe during the year we were friends, or if it happened all at once. What I do know is that Joe is the kindest, most generous and loving person I know. He's super smart, works hard and loves my cooking — bonus! His eyes light up whenever he sees children and I can totally see him coaching baseball or soccer, teaching a child to ride a bike and generally raising a child to be a happy, healthy adult who cares for other people.

Family Life

Monika's parents immigrated to the US from Switzerland where she was born in Northern Indiana. Monika has dual citizenship with Switzerland and we can't wait to share our love of that country with him or her.

Joe grew up in Western Colorado and played ball sports throughout high school. His dad was the assistant principal at his school, so that kept him out of trouble! His family is spread out across the country and we make sure to visit as often as we can.

Monika has one brother, one sister and five nieces and nephews. Joe has two sisters and five nieces and nephews. Monika's immediate family lives in the area and we get to see them often. We enjoy spending time with our nieces and nephews, and they would love another cousin to join the family!



Top section: With Monika's brother and nieces; With Joe and his sisters; Monika enjoying coffee with her dad; with Monika's family at the Christmas Market.
Bottom section: On vacation with Joe's family

Working Life

Monika has been working in communications for a medical devices company for 20 years. Joe is a math modeling analyst for a consulting firm based in Dayton, OH that works mostly with the United States Air Force. We are fortunate to be able to work from home when not traveling for business.



Our Future & Promise

Thank you for taking time to get to know us a little better. We don't pretend to know how difficult this decision is for you, but we do know that we are ready to take this leap of faith into the unknown with you and love your child with all our hearts. We are committed to openness now or in the future as we work toward decisions that are best for the child we all care about. You will always hold a place of respect in our family as we help our child understand the decisions we've made.

We are committed to a lifestyle that takes the whole family into consideration so that we can fully invest into the life of a child. Educational opportunity is very important to us, and we would provide the very best education possible supplemented by support at home. We would love our child to engage in sports or other extracurricular activities, focusing on what they enjoy the most.

We are committed to living a Christian lifestyle and nurturing a child with the goal of sending him or her into the world mentally, physically and spiritually healthy in order to lead a productive fulfilling life.

WITH LOVE,
Monika & Joe

Spiritual Life

While we come from different backgrounds we have grown together into a Christ-based faith. We are members of a Presbyterian Church and love that it's within walking distance from our home. It is truly a neighborhood church whose mission is to welcome and serve anyone through their spiritual, emotional and physical needs. We are passionate about doing the same and creating a space of kindness, humility and service whether in our church community, our neighborhood or at home. Our desire is to raise a child who knows they are loved, and who is kind, selfless and happy in their journey through life.