



Eric and Aki

FROM INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Hi! We are Aki and Eric from Indianapolis, Indiana. We appreciate you taking the time to read our letter, and admire your bravery as you consider what is best for your baby. We are excited to grow our family through open adoption and look forward to learning more about you. We hope that this letter gives you a sense of who we are and the kind of parents we hope to be. Please call or email us anytime! —**Warmly, Aki & Eric Cunningham**

THE STORY OF US

We first met in Kyoto, Japan while Eric was studying abroad. We quickly became friends and spent many weekends visiting temples, trying new restaurants, and laughing. After Eric returned to America, we stayed in touch through letters and postcards. When we met again, we realized that we had feelings for one another! We were married a year later at a temple in Kyoto that we had visited on one of our first dates. We have spent many of our married years in Hawaii, where Aki was working on a Bachelor's degree and Eric on a Ph.D. Though our years in Hawaii were wonderful, a job opportunity brought us to Indiana. Here, our love continues to grow stronger and we have hope to share that love with a child.

We both enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors and look forward to taking our child to the beach, hiking in the woods, or to visit temples in Japan. We can't wait to share our different cultures with our child, as we travel together as a family.

We share our home with our dog, Pualani, a Corgi. She is so sweet and she loves people, especially children, so we can't wait for her to meet the newest member of our family and to have snuggles on the couch!



Enjoying the outdoors with our dog, Pua



Getting a lift from uncle Eric



Getting the hang of it with our friends' kids!



Reading time with a friend's son



Crab-tastic in Japan!

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OUR HOME AND COMMUNITY

We live in a diverse community in downtown Indianapolis. Our neighborhood is family friendly and walkable. We look forward to spending time with our child visiting the library, taking walks in nearby parks, and going to our favorite shop for ice cream! When the weather is warm we will enjoy picnics and explore the woods at nearby Brown County State Park.

The college Eric works at is full of friendly and supportive people and there are always a variety of family activities going on, including game nights, holiday parties, and cultural performances. It is an open and caring community that will welcome our child and support their development.



Goofing around with our niece Gracie



Hiking in Hawaii



Camping in Hawaii

ABOUT AKI — by Eric

Aki is the love of my life. She keeps me smiling and always encourages me to strive for my best. She is the most caring person I know and will make a wonderful mom. Aki has always loved spending time with children, whether her own nieces and nephews, friends' kids, or students that she teaches. Children are naturally attracted to Aki because she loves to talk with them, listen to their stories, and play all sorts of games. Aki is also a passionate learner and a person who cares about the well being of others. I look forward to watching her play with, care for, and teach our child.

ABOUT ERIC — by Aki

Eric is a wonderful partner. He puts his family first and always makes me feel like I am supported and cared for immensely. He is intelligent, patient, and sensitive to the needs of others. As an educator, he is constantly working to improve the lives of his students. All of these qualities will make Eric a caring, loving, and supportive dad. He also has a great appreciation for nature and the outdoors, so I am excited for him to lead our little one on a trail hike, or teach them how to set up a tent for camping!

OUR CAREERS

We are both educators, and love to teach others and help them learn about the world. Aki works with elementary aged children and Eric teaches anthropology and Japanese Studies at a local college. Our work schedules are flexible, so one of us will always be at home with our child. We look forward to having free time in the summers, when we will travel and visit family in both the U.S. and Japan.



Love being auntie and uncle!



Nephew's birthday kiss!



Swinging with our niece!



Hanging with Gracie



At a Japanese inn with Aki's parents



Jackson Hole trip with Eric's family

PERSONAL VALUES

As a couple with different nationalities and cultural backgrounds, we both value the experience of learning different languages and understanding different cultures. We are committed to ensuring that the child we raise will be deeply immersed in both of our cultural backgrounds—Japanese and Euro-American. We wish for our child to be bilingual and to have access to all of the opportunities that both languages and cultures offer.

We consider ourselves lifelong learners and we value the opportunities that education provides for personal and professional growth. We are committed to ensuring that our child is given the utmost chance to pursue his or her passions through education. We are also committed to making time and space in our lives to support education and lifelong learning.



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FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Our child will be lovingly welcomed into two big families. Aki's parents, two sisters and their families all live in the same neighborhood in Kyoto, Japan. Everyone is eagerly awaiting our yearly trip to Japan with the newest member of the family. We cannot wait to see our child in his or her summer kimono, eating shave ice, and watching fireworks during a festival.

Eric's parents and most of his siblings live in Salt Lake City, Utah. Two grandparents, five aunts and uncles, and two cousins cannot wait to play with and help take care of our child. Everyone looks forward to summer hikes and winter ski trips in the Wasatch Mountains, and we are already imagining Christmas at grandma and grandpa's house with a beautiful tree and plenty of presents!

OUR PROMISE

We promise that we will give our child all of the financial, emotional, and social support needed to be happy and successful in life. We desire nothing more than for the child we raise to have a joyous life, to find pleasure and satisfaction in whatever he or she undertakes, and to enjoy close and meaningful relationships with others. We understand that life is a gift that only you can offer to our child and so we will always treasure that gift through fostering an open and healthy relationship with you. Our child will always know who you are and will know of the amazing gift of life that you gave. We look forward to learning about your hopes and dreams, and walking this journey with you. Please reach out to us at anytime! —**Aki & Eric Cunningham**