

Julie and Cory

FAMILY RULES
ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH
WORK HARD
KEEP YOUR PROMISES
TRY NEW THINGS *Don't Whine*
LAUGH OUT LOUD
Always Say I Love You
USE KIND WORDS-DO YOUR BEST
BE GRATEFUL BE KIND
BE PROUD OF YOURSELF
SAY PLEASE And THANK YOU
Remember You Are Loved

Family is not defined
by our genes...
it is built & maintained
through Love



Hello! We are Julie and Cory, and we are thankful for your consideration.

We have been dreaming about starting a family for so long and appreciate you taking the time to consider us. We know this is an important decision for you and we are committed to providing a wonderful life for your child. On our cover page is a saying around "Family Rules". We have this poster in our home and we try our best to live by it...be kind, work hard, be honest and loving. I remember when I hung it up a few years ago, I always hoped that our family would include a child and that he/she will grow up with those same family values.

We first tried to have a baby through egg donation and IVF but were unlucky in our attempts. We thought this was some sort of sign, but we later realized that having a family was important to us and it did not matter how we created one! So we started on this unknown journey of adoption. We have so much love to give and want to provide a supportive, nurturing atmosphere for your child to thrive and grow. Our extended family shares our feelings, we believe that FAMILY is the most important thing in life...and we are hoping to bring that joy and love to a new baby through adoption.

We are so thankful to you for giving us this chance...you are thoughtful, admirable and the answer to our prayers. We are both so grateful for your consideration.

We hope this book helps you learn about who we are and what is important to us...

About Julie...

I grew up in Connecticut with 2 younger sisters, Kerry and Megan. We are still very close and they are my best friends. My mother was a stay-at-home mom who showed me what motherhood should look like. I am lucky to have her nearby and look forward to introducing her to her grandchild some day. My dad was an accountant and provided a good life for us. Both my parents are still married and we spend every holiday together. Growing up, my sisters and I were active in sports, Girl Scouts, church, and had many neighborhood friends. Plus, we had tons of dogs! I look forward to sharing these experiences with my child some day.

I went to college in New Hampshire and studied psychology and communications. Plus, I played college soccer. I love being active and enjoy team sports and skiing. I worked in Healthcare as a group home manager for people with disabilities for five years before moving to the Human Resources field. For the last 15 years, I have enjoyed helping others in the workplace.

Every Christmas growing up, we would spend it with our cousins. We still see them regularly and they join us every summer for our family vacation. I am in the purple sweater next to my dad.



Julie's niece's baptism, Sarah

My 3rd grade slumber birthday party. My 2 younger sisters are in the front row, and my best friend, Christina, is in the overalls. We have been best friends for many years and she was my maid of honor.



Senior year in high school on a weekend retreat for the Peer Leadership Program, I am wearing the Esprit T-Shirt. We had such fun. My parents still live in my home town.



Julie and her best friends for the last 20+ years





Cory with his mom and step-dad



Cory with his niece, Grace



Cory as a baby



Julie & Cory

Cory's sisters, brother, dad, step-mom, brother in-laws, and nieces and nephews – who all live in Michigan. This is at his sister's farm.

Cory and his sister, Katie, in elementary school



About Cory...

I grew up in Michigan. I was the oldest of 5 children – my siblings include Katie, Nate, Emily, and Andrea (1 full sister, 1 half-brother, 2 step sisters). No matter what the “official” relationship, all of them are my real family. With so many of us, life was always busy. I played high school golf, tennis and worked at Dominos as my first job at the age of 16. My parents separated when I was young but they both are now in happy long-term relationships. We visit them when we can. Growing up in a small town in the Mid-west taught me to value family and traditions – and I continue to embrace my Mid-western roots.

I went to college in Michigan. Right after I graduated college, I moved to Chicago and then to New York City. I have worked for the same financial firm since I graduated college and really enjoy what I do.

While I don't get back to Michigan a lot, I always stay in touch with my family, especially my grandparents. They are very special to me and I call them almost every week and cherish that relationship.

Cory with his grandfather, father and brother

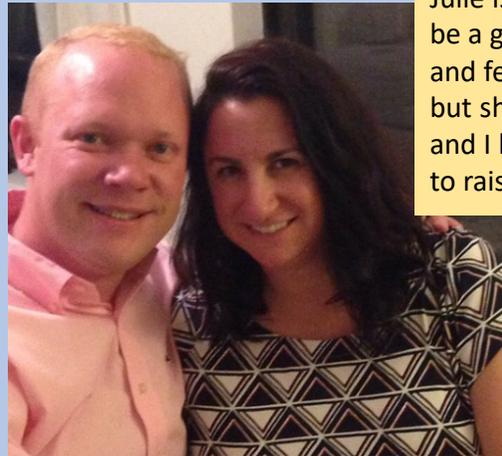


So what does Julie think about Cory?

I think Cory is one of the smartest, most compassionate and responsible human beings I know. Maybe it is his Mid-western roots, his strong upbringing or just pure luck, but I am grateful for it. I know he will be a great dad and everyone who meets him who has kids, says the same thing. He is fun and patient with kids. But he also knows that being a strong role model and having rules are important. He does more than any husband I know – laundry, cleans our home, cooks, and handles the bills. The only thing that he does not like to do is driving long distances, so sometimes I have to do that. A small price to pay for all he does!

I also appreciate Cory's dedication to his job. It is admirable. He takes great pride in it and considers his colleagues like family. So he gives 110%. When you are happy at the office, it makes it easier to be happy at home.

Cory is not just my husband, he is my best friend. I cannot wait to raise a child with him. I know he will be a great dad.



So what does Cory think about Julie?

One of the first things I noticed about Julie when I first met her was her great smile and strong personality. Julie is the least selfish person I know and would do anything for her family and friends. Whenever she is around our nieces, nephews or even our friend's kids, she has an infectious glow about her. Family is very important to her. She makes sure we not only spend time with her family on the East Coast but that we also make time to travel to the Mid-West to visit mine as well.

Julie has a very strong work ethic and is highly respected by her colleague's at her firm. I think this speaks highly to her personal character. Julie has very strong morals and I think that is a great characteristic to have in raising a family.

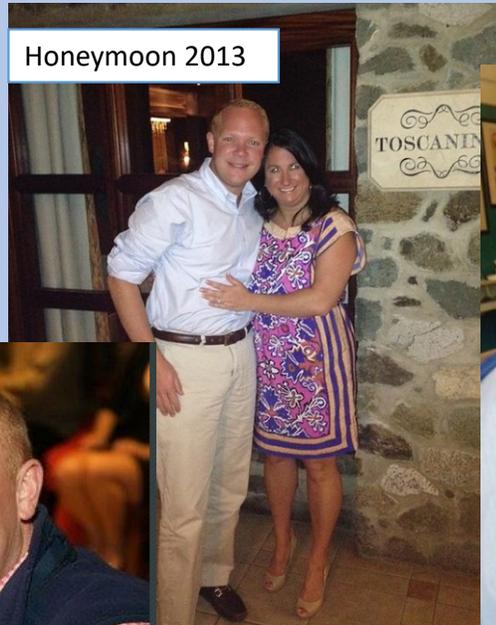
Julie is very excited to start a family and I know she will be a great mother. Julie and I share the same thoughts and feelings towards each other; she is not just my wife but she is my best friend. Julie is an extraordinary wife and I know she will be an amazing mother. I cannot wait to raise a child with her.

The start of our relationship...

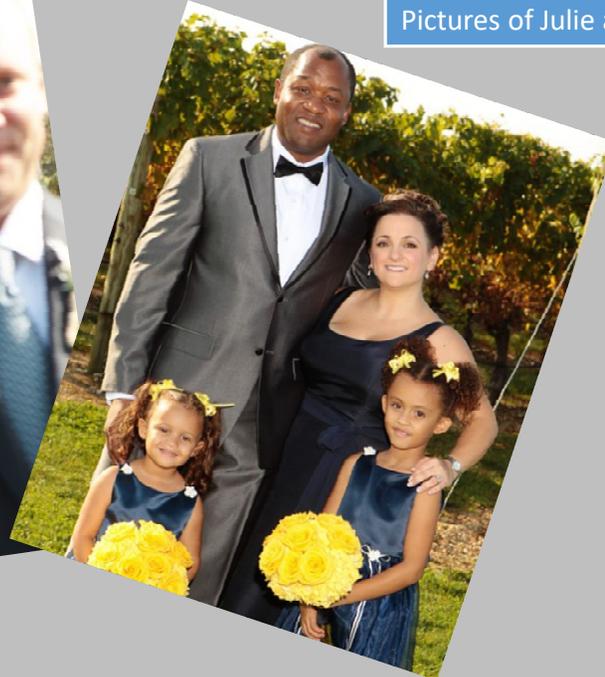
We met in January 2012 and soon enough we knew we had each met “the one”. Actually, Cory says he knew after our third date that we would get married. We wish we could say we met in some **romantic** way. But to be honest, we met through online dating. They say eHarmony helps you find your soulmate and guess what – they are correct! (Cory will never let me do this, but I thought we would have been a good couple for the commercial! Ha!)

Besides enjoying each other’s personalities, **WE HAD SIMILAR VALUES**, plus we both loved skiing, going on vacations, hanging at the beach, going to restaurants, planning a good road trip , and spending time with family and friends. In addition, we both have very fulfilling careers and take pride in our work and the impact we have.

Here are some pics of us over the years -



Pictures of Julie and Cory's wedding, plus one of my sisters, Kerry, and her family



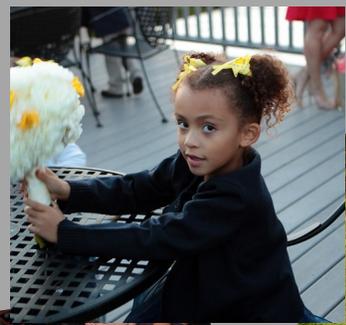
Our wedding...

About 18 months after we met, [we got married at a cute vineyard in Long Island.](#) We love the beautiful sites out there – beaches, vineyards, fishing, and exploring the countryside of the North Fork. If we are lucky enough to have a child, we know they would enjoy spending time out there.

Our wedding included 110 of our closest friends and family and *we are lucky and blessed to have such good people in our lives.* Both of us still have a best friend from our childhood and treasure all our friendships. We have a group of 7 couples that we have been friends with for many years and will be for the rest of our lives. We look forward to bringing our child into this wonderful circle of parents and kids. In this circle, there are about 12 kids. So, they will have immediate friends within this group.

In addition to our friends and their children, we have 11 nieces and nephews (all under 11 years old). [So there will never be a lack of kids to play with at our family gatherings!](#)

More pics from our wedding – all our immediate family members



Our life now...

Besides the beach, we love the mountains. So in 2016, we bought a home in the Catskills (upstate New York) to spend weekends skiing in the winter and hiking and swimming in the summer. We are lucky that this home has 4 bedrooms, so we always have family and friends up with us. We get to ski every winter weekend which is not only fun, but keeps us active. I know a child would love our home and community there – skiing, tubing, and snowboarding. The ski programs for kids create such fun and friendships. In the summer it is just as fun - we have a heated pool and lots of options like hiking, canoeing and fly-fishing. We love having our siblings, cousins, family and friends join us there. Our home is built for kids with many options for activities. We just built a special loft with TV and play cubbies – the kids who visit our home love it. I know our future child will love it too.

Plus, we have lots of outdoor space for a soccer game, wiffleball, playing tag, or just hanging out. Here are some pics of us having fun there -

Pics at our home in the Catskills
Julie and Cory, their siblings, nieces and nephews



Our life now continued...

Our main home is in New York City. We have lived on the Upper West Side for many years and it is a wonderful place for kids and adults. We have a great apartment that is next to two parks – Central Park and Riverside Park. There are multiple playgrounds and museums in walking distance like the Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium. It is also a great location to quickly visit our family. We have a large SUV that can fit a family.

Xmas tree in our apartment in NYC



We love living in New York City and have seen children in our lives thrive and enjoy the opportunities here. We get to visit fun places like the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and the ice skating rink, Empire State Building, Museums, and many other historic sites. We feel lucky to have the experience of a big city, while having and embracing small town values.

Out in Times Square



Hanging out in Central Park with our nieces, Penelope and Sophia



Cory teaching our niece, Penelope, how to make pizza



Visiting the American Girl Store with our nieces



Family trip to the Mets game, our niece, Sarah, in full gear



Cheering on our friend at the NYC Marathon



What do we do Monday to Friday?

Of course, to do all this fun stuff on the weekends, holidays and vacations, we need to work! Both of us are passionate about our careers, love our jobs, and are successful. We know we are lucky, because many people do not love their jobs. Cory has worked for the same financial firm since he graduated from college. His co-workers are like family to him. His company helps create financial products that go into investment or retirement plans so that all of us can have savings when we get older. Which is very important.

Julie works for a similar type of company, but she works in Human Resources. In that role, she is the Head of Recruiting, plus she handles employee issues like salary and benefits. She is the person employees reach out to when they need to talk and get advice. Having a degree in Psychology helps with these conversations, and having patience is very important. Being in Human Resources teaches you to be non-judgmental and accept all types of people.

And what do our family members do Monday to Friday? Both of Julie's sisters are teachers and Cory's sister and her husband are also teachers, so they are great with kids. In addition, Julie's mom was a teacher's assistant, and Cory's mom was a teacher. So all will be great resources for us as we raise a child.

What do we do for the Holidays?

To be honest, Julie gets her way for the holidays since her family lives the closest. For **Christmas**, Julie's family will all come up to our home in Upstate New York. We decorate the whole house – the more lights and decorations, the better. We just switched over to a fake tree, they look great (and very real) and it is just safer. We typically spend Christmas Eve playing board games and trying to finish a puzzle in 24 hours. We let our nieces put in the last piece.

Our nieces, Penelope (age 11) and Sophia (age 8), will do their best to stay up late and see Santa, but they inevitably fall asleep by 11pm. Of course, we put out cookies and milk for Santa. Waking up on Christmas morning all together is great. There is typically about 8 family members together on Christmas. For Christmas eve, we make lots of appetizers to eat like shrimp cocktail, pigs in a blanket and chips and dip. Julie's dad (aka Papa) will always make a big pancake and eggs breakfast on Christmas morning. Occasionally he will pull out the waffle maker and surprise us. He is always our short-order cook for holidays and vacations. For Christmas dinner, we all cook together. We typically have roast beef or turkey. Plus, lots of sides dishes. Most years we go to church on Christmas as a family.

We love seeing my nieces joy with the piles of gifts under the Christmas tree. We cannot wait for our child to participate in this some day. And we know Penelope and Sophia will help make it magical for them too.



Our nieces on Xmas morning



Family photo at Xmas (Julie and Cory not in this pic)

What do we do for the Holidays continued...

While we described Christmas upstate, Cory and Julie also celebrate Christmas in their NYC home. So we like to have a live tree there – who doesn't want 2 trees?! The day after Thanksgiving, we have a tradition of going out to Broadway and picking out a live tree. It is fun to find the tallest, widest tree for the best price. We carry it home and then decorate it. We look forward to continuing this tradition with our child.

Besides **Christmas**, **Easter** and **Thanksgiving** are just as fun. For Thanksgiving, we alternate locations. If we do not host in our NYC home, then Julie's parents or sister will. Julie's sister, Kerry, is the expert with the turkey, and Julie's mom is known for her mashed potatoes. No matter who cooks, we always have a huge meal and start with a prayer. Throughout the day we will play board games, watch movies, and watch the Thanksgiving Day parade (you can see it from our window). If we do spend the holidays in our upstate home, we will go in the pool. It is open year-round and is heated. So even in the Fall and Spring, we can go for a swim – my nieces are "fish" and love the water.

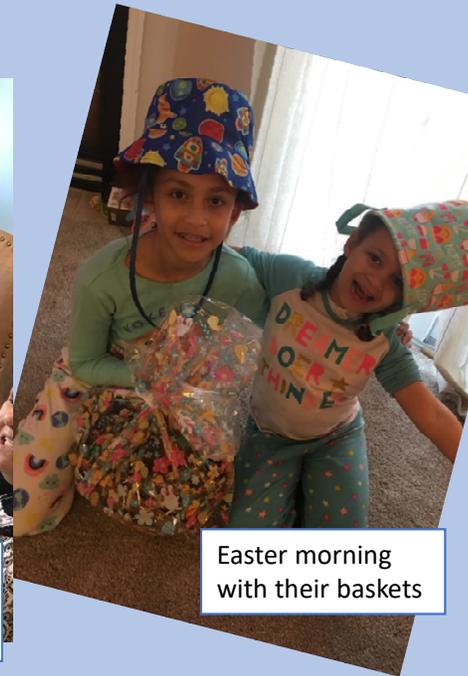
For Easter, we will hide the eggs at night so that our nieces can look for them in the morning – the Easter Bunny visit is a must. Our nieces always find baskets filled with chocolate on Easter morning and we would do the same for our child. Like we said, most holidays we have 8 of us there – Cory, Julie, her sister, husband, 2 nieces and Julie's parents. But once a year we also have my sister, Megan (from Seattle), and her husband and daughter, Sarah, join us for a holiday. So that makes 11 of us.

If Christmas or Easter has snow on the ground, we make sure to go tubing or skiing. We love the snow.

Our family tradition of playing board games on the holidays



Thanksgiving celebration at my sister, Kerry's house



Easter morning with their baskets

Building a gingerbread house on Christmas morning



More pics of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Halloween, July 4, Easter, St. Patrick's



Halloween with our nieces



Celebrating St Patrick's Day



Julie's sister, Megan, and our niece Sarah at Halloween Pumpkin picking



Xmas morning, loving all the gifts



July 4 festivities at our pool



2017, Our best Xmas tree yet!

What do we do for Vacations?

Each year, we go on an annual beach vacation with Julie's family. This includes surfing the waves, miniature golf, fishing, water parks and more.

We rent a large house either on the New Jersey Shore or the Hamptons in Long Island. This year, our family vacation will include 11 adults and 6 kids. This beach house has a tennis court, basketball court, pool and hot tub. All of us are looking forward to it.

Pics of Cory and Julie, plus the family at our Annual Summer Vacation



Julie and her sister, Kerry



Fun pool time with Julie, her sister, cousin and nieces

What do we do for Vacations continued...

Other vacations have included visiting Seattle where Julie's other sister lives. Megan, her husband, Dan, and our niece, Sarah, 5 years old, have a beautiful home with a large backyard for them and their dog, Connor. Megan is a stay-at-home Mom and loves cooking the food we grew up with, since we are Ukrainian, Polish and Irish. So lots of perogies, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, corned beef and other traditional foods. Her husband has worked for Microsoft for 20 years and is a real computer-guru. We go to him with any question we have. We know our niece Sarah would love to have another cousin.

Cory's sister, Katie, has 4 kids under the age of 9. We are so excited to eventually introduce our child to them. Katie and her family visit us every summer since they are both teachers. So every July, they drive from Michigan to New York to spend a week with us. Each year is different. Sometimes we go to our home in Upstate New York, and swim and hike, sometimes we go to the beaches in Long Island, or a family resort in upstate New York.

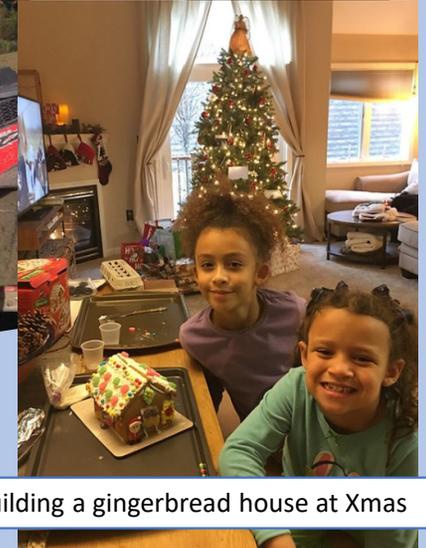
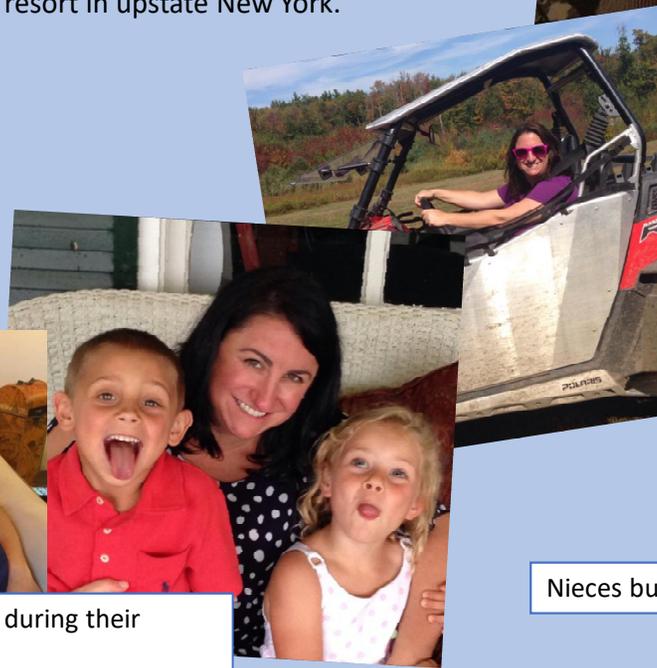
With Julie's sister, Megan, in Seattle and her family



Swimming in our pool



Our niece and nephews during their annual trip to New York



Nieces building a gingerbread house at Xmas

More about our vacations...(as you see, we love vacation!)

We tend to visit Cory's family during graduations and other life events. We are ready to head to Michigan for his brother's high school graduation. Nathan is 18 years younger than Cory. Nathan is thoughtful and compassionate, it must be due to being the youngest of 5 and always babysitting the many nieces and nephews. He is going to the same college that Cory went to and is receiving multiple academic scholarships.

Cory's sister, Emily, has 2 kids, Devyn and Mily. Her and her husband, Dayne, are farmers in Michigan. It is fun to visit the farm and go on the tractors. Finally, Cory's other sibling is Andrea and her husband, Garrett. Andrea is a stay-at-home mom to their 2 kids, Cole and Mack, and Garrett is an optometrist. We are lucky to have him as our personal eye doctor.

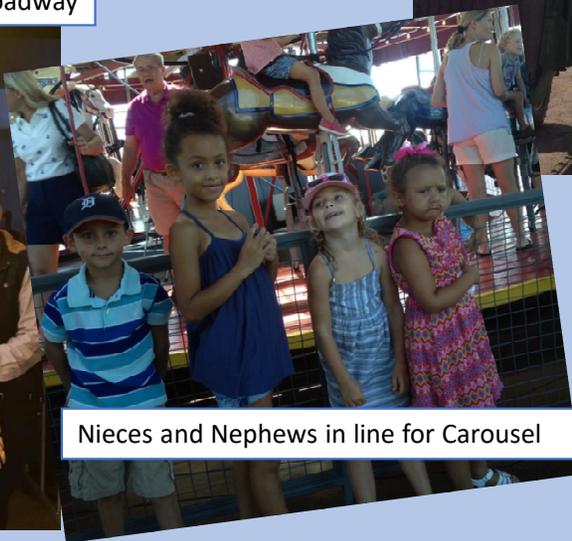


Cory's family during a Michigan visit

At Cory's sister's farm in Michigan



Family trip to see The Lion King on Broadway



Nieces and Nephews in line for Carousel



Niece and Nephew at Summer Festival



Why we want a child...



We really had to think hard when our only way to create a family was through adoption, so we asked ourselves – are we ready to spend the time? The money? The effort? The possible disappointment? The challenge to make sure our child is adjusted well to being adopted? To ensure that no matter what ethnicity, we create a supportive environment and teach them about their personal history and culture?

And the answer is YES, YES, YES. Thinking about all of this, we are not only wanting this, we are excited by it, and passionate about it! We can't wait to go on this journey. We are looking for a child of any gender or ethnicity. We know that our love for each other, combined with our family and friends, would create such a wonderful childhood and life for someone special. We want to share our life and good times.

How do we plan to raise a child?

We have discussed this a lot. We want to make sure we agree on parenting styles. We both know that strong role models are important for a child, so we know we need to exhibit strong values and morals every day, and being supportive and loving is just as important. To start, Julie gets 4 months maternity leave to bond with our new child. And if needed, Julie can take more time off from work. Cory gets at least 1 month paternity leave. Besides us, Julie's parents are close by and always available as they are now retired. And Julie's sister lives nearby and she has every summer off, so she can be a resource too. So we know that we will have many resources to create a loving environment.

As our child gets older, we look forward to supporting their interests. We both loved playing sports growing up, so we would like to support that interest, but we would also support our child if they had musical or artistic interests. I know these type of activities help create a nurturing environment that helps them grow up to be caring and responsible adults. And as the birth mother, we would love to learn what is important to you.

We look forward to meeting YOU! If you are kind enough to give us this gift, we want to know you and do our best to pass on the traditions that you find important. We look forward to learning about your life and your aspirations for your child. We promise to try our best to make that happen.

Creating a family is the most important thing in our life – and we want to make sure that you get to know us, share your ideas and opinions, and tell us what is important to YOU.



We are hoping you reach out to us so that we can meet you and be considered. We are so thankful for your time and attention. We have so much love to give a baby and want to offer them a full, loving, and rewarding life.

To reach Julie and Cory – please call 1-800-482-5667

If you have any questions about us or the legal process, please call our attorney, Suzanne Nichols. Her number is 1-800-255-1415.

With love,
Julie and Cory

