

If you do not
hope

you will not find what is beyond your hopes.

St. Clement of Alexandra





Thank you so much for making the decision of life for your child and considering adoption! We are so happy that you have chosen to take a look at our life together, with friends and family.



Mark and Kim



Together, Kim's last year of college



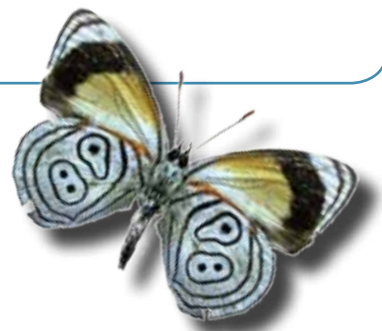
We met at a softball game one summer. Mark was playing that evening and we ran into each other several times over the next 2 weeks. Then a few of her friends invited Kim to an open house for a new business. Unaware that this was a ploy for us to get to know each other better, she happily accepted. Upon arrival, she realized the open house was for the business Mark owned with his father! We began to talk and that was all that it took. We spent time together the rest of the summer. At summer's end, Kim went back for her senior year of college and Mark often came to visit. A little over a year later, Mark proposed, only after nervously calling Kim's dad to ask for her hand in marriage! 10 months later, we were married at the Baptist church in our home town.

How We Met

On our honeymoon!



We have found throughout our 10 years together and almost 9 years of marriage, that we are a good balance for each other. Mark is the quieter one, but still has the ability to find common ground with just about anyone and comes out of his shell pretty shortly after meeting them. Kim has always been somewhat of a social butterfly and welcomes new people and experiences to share with them.



Horseback ride with Uncle Mark!



Kim says: I love that in his quiet way, Mark is so kind and caring toward me and those around him. He is always ready to drop what he is doing to help out family, friends, or neighbors when he is called! My favorite part about Mark is that he has a soft side. He is especially good with kids. I remember the neighborhood children, with dogs and pets in tow, coming for their daily dose of bubblegum at the shop where Mark worked with his dad.

Mark says: I am the manager of an electrical surplus wholesaler, which is a far cry from my beginnings as a mechanic and welder. This is why I love my job so much. It is completely out of the ordinary from what I am used to doing. There is so much to learn and not a day goes by that I'm not completely amazed at how widespread the electrical field is, industrial or residential. I have been interested in the electrical field for some time and my boss knows that I am very interested in learning more and more about it. I take my job to heart and do as I possibly can to help my customers.

About Mark

Mark says: The thing I love most about Kim is her personality. I have heard friends say that she is the sweetest person to talk with. I always tell them that that is what first attracted me. She is very outgoing, but also knows when she needs to be serious. She is very caring, especially towards our family and our nephews, Zach and Colin. Kim will be the greatest mom in the world. She is so caring and compassionate in all that she does. She is what keeps me going. Without her, my life would be incomplete.

Kim says: I am the business manager for a community cancer center in my hometown. After graduating with my masters in business administration, I knew that I wanted to go into health care. I was particularly interested in cancer care, due to the loss of Mark's father after a long battle with the disease. The people that I work with make everyone feel like family throughout their journey. I love my career and strive to put our patients first. I work 4 days per week and am looking forward to long weekends with our child!

About Kim

Kim's MBA graduation!



Kim and her team at work





We love to golf! We both play on golf league at our local country club and in several tournaments. We can't wait to teach our child the game of golf and Mark eyeballs children's clubs anytime we are in a sporting good store! We also like hunting for arrowheads, and have spent many a night in the creek beds near our home, searching for artifacts.

Kim enjoys photography, scrapbooking and the outdoors. Mark got her an awesome camera a couple of years ago for Christmas and she has taken photos for several families and friends to use for portraits in their homes. Our nephews' photos line the walls of our home.

Mark enjoys tinkering and fabricating "toys" for our nephews. Zach and Colin currently have a mini chopper, tonka tractor and a golf car, complete with red and blue flashing lights. He is an avid hunter. Mark used to go hunting with his dad every year, and he still has many "thirty point buck" tales about their adventures!

Our Hobbies

At Legoland with Kim's sister Tammy



Making s'mores during a blackout

We mainly vacation where our sisters live, since our parents and extended family are so close to us. Megan, Mark's sister, lives in New Mexico. Last summer we took a trip out to see her graduate from dental school and we took a few extra days to get in some golfing and to see the beauty of all the mountains and desert! We often find ourselves traveling to Minnesota as well. Kim's sister, Tammy, and her husband Dan, along with their sons Zachary and Colin, live there. There are lots of fun things to do while we are there, such as Legoland, the Oxbow Animal Sanctuary, and the local parks!

When taking a couple of days here and there, we like to go to St. Louis Cardinals baseball games. There's nothing like a good baseball game and a hotdog on a hot summer day in Missouri! We also like to take advantage of being near a lake. We often find ourselves camping, boating, and swimming with friends on the weekends.





Family together for Easter Sunday



Our extended families are both quite large and most of us live nearby. Mark's mother is one of 7, his father was one of 3. Kim's mother is one of 4 and her father was one of 6. We have lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins to keep us busy. We also each have a sister and 2 beautiful nephews that we love to spend time with any chance we get! Family reunions happen quite often, but usually in the form of just a dinner or barbecue turning into one!

Family

Kim with nephew Zach as a baby



Mark and his sister Megan

Mark with the nephews

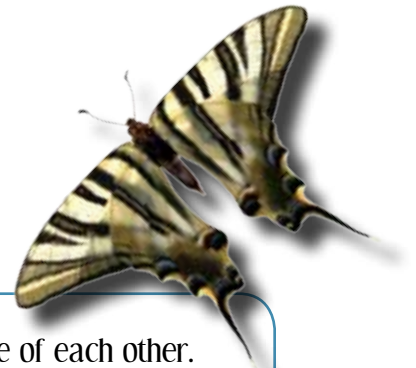


Both of our families have been very supportive of our decision to adopt. Mark's mom is ready for a grandchild to spoil as this will be her first! Kim's mom and dad are also ready to have another grandbaby gracing their lives. Our decision to adopt has been met with the anxious question of "when are you getting our grandbaby?" Our extended family, church family and friends have also been saying many prayers and keeping close tabs on our progress!

At the park



Our nursery all decorated for baby!



We live in a small town where everyone knows who you are and takes care of each other. We think that's what really brings us together. It's that sense of community that we both highly regard and intend to raise our child in the same manner. It is quiet and peaceful in our town. Children ride their bikes, take walks, swim at the local swim club, play baseball, go to the park, participate in 4-H, FFA and many other activities in our town. "Jonesy's" is our local diner on Main Street, where you will often see bikes parked outside and sticky-faced little ones licking away at their hand-dipped waffle cones. But we also like that we are close to several larger cities where we can go for shopping or activities.

We own a ranch style home. Inside our home are 3 bedrooms, one of which is now being transformed into our nursery! We have decided to go with neutral colors and a woodsy theme, matching our joy of being outdoors. We have 2 bathrooms as well. The baby's bathroom has recently been remodeled and the tub is ready for a little one! Perhaps the best part of our home is the spacious backyard and our front porch complete with a family sized rocker. We like to sit on the porch with neighbors, family and friends to eat, play games and just visit.



Mark takes a nap with Oscar and baby Danica



Kim cuddles with our vizsla, Oscar



Hutch as a puppy

We have two pets. Hutch is our fuzzy Alaskan Malamute. He is definitely an outdoor dog and loves to run and play and roll around in the grass! He is a big, furry softie. Oscar is our red headed, energetic Vizsla. Oscar is an indoor pet. We have had him since he was 6 weeks old and 6 pounds. His breed is often called "Velcro" dogs because they love to be near people! If you are anywhere in the house, you can be sure that Oscar is right next to your or not too far behind. Vizslas are also known for being affectionate and great with children. We have friends that we babysit for on many occasions and he has grown up with my best friend's daughter, Danica. Mark, Oscar and Danica have taken many a nap together over the last several years!

Our Pets



We want to take this time to thank you for considering us as potential parents for your child. It has been a dream of ours to have a child for over 5 years and just having the opportunity is a blessing all to itself. You have been so gracious and kind to consider adoption and we will be forever indebted to your sacrifice so that we may raise a child surrounded with love, compassion and the possibility to be anything they want in this world!

We plan on keeping in contact with you through letters, photos, and emails! We want you to be assured that your child will be raised in a loving environment that fosters creativity, adventure, friendships, and a close knit family. We plan to let our child know that they are adopted and that their parents loved them so much that they made the decision to allow us to raise them! We will let them know, always, that they are so special and loved by their birth parents and ourselves.

We plan to raise our child in a positive, nurturing environment. Our families are elated that God has provided us with this path and that you have chosen adoption for your child. Again, words cannot express our sincere gratitude toward your decision and we commend your sacrifice to offer the experience of a lifetime to us or another family awaiting a child through adoption!

Thank You!