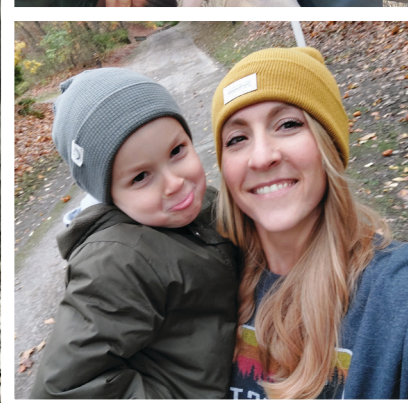




*Erica*



hello

MY NAME IS ERICA, AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT ME AND MY FAMILY! I AM A SINGLE MOM TO AN AMAZING KID WHO IS SO SWEET, SENSITIVE, SMART, AND HILARIOUS. HE WOULD BE SO EXCITED TO HAVE A LITTLE SISTER OR BROTHER TO PROTECT, PLAY WITH, AND TEACH. AND I WOULD BE INCREDIBLY HONORED AND HUMBLLED TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH CARING FOR YOUR SWEET LITTLE ONE.



## *free time:* HOW I SPEND MY TIME

I live in Northeast Ohio and plan to stay in the area for the foreseeable future. And while I love Northeast Ohio, my heart has remained in Michigan—at least when it comes to football. I kind of love the antagonism of football rivalries, so I lean into my love of the Wolverines pretty hard. (Go Blue!!)

My son and I live in a four-bedroom house, with a big front and back yard, so there is plenty of room for your little one to play outside, draw with chalk, and learn to ride a bike. We spend a lot of time outside. Our tradition is to spend Saturday mornings getting coffee (well, I'm the only one who drinks the coffee) and then hiking at one of the many local trails. He loves to help me make pancakes, serenade me with silly songs he made up, play with trucks and dinos, and color tons of pictures that get displayed all over our house.

I work full time, and I'm blessed that my job provides significant flexibility and plenty of days off. My free time is mostly centered around spending time with my son, friends, and family. I also love exercising, listening to podcasts, singing, watching cult documentaries, and reading books on politics, philosophy, theology, and fiction. To my own surprise, I have also grown to love running, even long distances, and I participate in races when I get the chance. I hope to pass on a love of maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle to my child/ren.

I also have a weird gift (or curse! haha) to function really well on very little sleep, so I don't mind getting up in the middle of the night to rock, feed, and cuddle a little one. And trust me, I had a lot of practice with this when my son was a baby. I'll always treasure those moments when I got to hold him during quiet moments where it seemed that we were the only ones awake.

## FAITH AT THE CENTER

Hands down, the most important aspect of my life is my Christian faith, and it informs everything that I do. My life is shaped around serving God and stewarding the gifts and opportunities He has given me to the best of my ability. And that's a big reason I decided to pursue adoption, which has been on my heart for several years.

I feel honored that you may consider me becoming a part of your and your child's journey. I have always loved children, and I have a heart for pregnant mommas. I hope you know that you and your baby are loved by the God of the universe, and there are people who want to come alongside you during a time filled with lots of complex emotions.

I have a young son who would make an incredible older sibling. He is so eager to shower a baby with affection, teach them things, sing to them, wrestle with them, and make them laugh. My biggest desire as a parent is for my child(ren) to know how much God loves them and to provide a safe, supportive home where they can grow in bravery, kindness, and independence. To facilitate this, I believe being connected to faith communities is important. I'm very involved in my church, where I sing on the worship team. Between my church and my amazing circle of friends and family, my son and I are supported by a kind and encouraging community, and we would be blessed to open our home to another little one.



## *family life:* HOW I GREW UP + HOW I PARENT

I have an amazingly supportive family and community, so I can assure you that any little one who joins my family will grow up surrounded by people who will pour into them and want the best for them. We will help them be brave, respect where they came from, love them unconditionally, and foster their creativity. Plus, there are lots of cousins and little kids to provide them plenty of friends their own age.

I grew up in a Christian home where faith was the central component of our home life and served as the basis for how we discussed big issues as a family. I am grateful for this and am trying to emulate this in my own approach to parenting.

My own parenting journey didn't turn out exactly how I envisioned, but now I wouldn't trade it for the world. Though I didn't expect to become a single parent, God has met me in my insecurities and provided at every step of the way. Being a single parent has helped to cultivate patience and empathy that I believe will be conducive to providing an understanding and supportive environment for a child. It has also helped me see how God uses difficult situations for his glory—and that's a lesson I hope to pass along.

As I've grown in my own walk with Christ, my view of parenting has also evolved. I want to love my child(ren) the way

God loves me—with compassion, empathy, understanding, grace, and patience. I know I will never be a perfect parent, though I do take the responsibility very seriously. Parents need to have an appropriate view of children as children—meaning that we should not project our own insecurities or failures onto our kids. I want to provide guidance to my child(ren) and provide a foundation rooted in truth and faith, while still giving space to ask questions and to grow in their own knowledge.

I can't promise your little one a life free of difficulties, but I can promise that he or she will be surrounded by unwavering love and support. I can't promise that I can shield them from all of life's challenges, but I can promise that I will walk alongside them no matter what they face. I can't promise that I'll have perfect answers to every question, but I can promise that I will give it my all.

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW US A LITTLE, AND I PRAY THAT YOU WILL FEEL GOD'S PRESENCE WITH YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE JOURNEY.** No matter how this journey unfolds for you, you are already in my prayers. I will always seek to honor the decision you've made and give your little one all the love and support they deserve. ❤️



### WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU

If you have any questions for us or would like to speak with us about adopting your child, please contact your case worker at Open Arms Adoptions by calling 330-697-4751 or 614-349-1510.