

Chris & Holly



Dear Birth Parents,

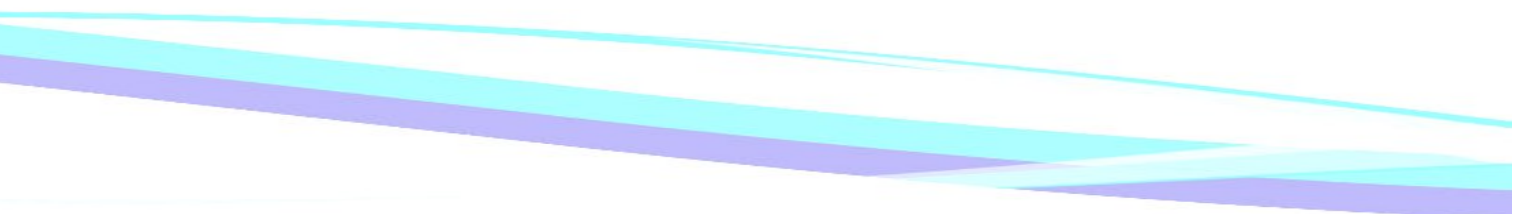
We want to thank you for taking the time to consider us as the adoptive parents for your baby. We know it is no small decision and we truly appreciate the strength and courage you are showing through this process. We are deeply honored that you are reading our story and hope you find that we are the right family to adopt your baby.

Thank you!
Chris & Holly



It all began with...

Our families had known each other for over twenty years before we began dating. On St. Patrick's Day Holly's uncle took Chris to Holly's parents house for a "small" family gathering. By "small" we mean every aunt, uncle, and cousin in her family! We ended up going out on our first date shortly after this gathering, and have been together ever since.



Our first date...

was dinner and a movie. Traditionally, Holly's father would question anyone interested in dating his only daughter, but he liked Chris immediately, and there were no questions asked.

We dated for three years, realized we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together, and got engaged. Our wedding day sums up a lot about life, as you can plan many things but some things you can not control. Family and friends traveled from all points of the United States, from Florida to California. Just a "small" 250 person gathering of our closest family and friends!



Chris & Holly, along with Chris' college roommates and their wives

The rehearsal went longer than expected. It was not without its setbacks. First, half of the bridal party walked in at the end, having been delayed because the interstate had been shut down in two states. The next day we woke up to the biggest storm of the year. Later at the church, we realized that Holly's family forgot the rings at their house. All we could do was laugh. During the ceremony, we noticed the church was filled with expected guests as well as people who were not on the invitation list. Being so involved in our communities, many others showed up to support us. After the ceremony, chartered buses took everyone on what was supposed to be a 20 minute ride to the reception, but it took 2 hours to get there. However, it was all worth it!



Holly shares a dance with her youngest brother

These are memories that no one will ever forget, and that is how we try to go through life. Every negative has been part of the process. And without these things occurring we would not be here today, sharing our story with you.



Family

When the phrase “a tribe raises a child” was created, they definitely had our families in mind. Chris is the youngest of seven children (3 brothers and 3 sisters). He has 16 nieces and nephews, plus 8 grand nieces and nephews. Chris’ father is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army and his mother had the full-time job of raising seven children.

Chris’ parents make sure everyone is treated the same and is always remembered. They make sure they know everything about their grandchildren and great-grandchildren’s lives. It is not an easy task considering that all of Chris’ siblings are spread across America, in six different states. They are really excited about our adoption plans and cannot wait to become new grandparents again! Chris has always been close to his brothers and sisters. Each year we take a summer vacation with his oldest brother and his family.



Chris’ brothers and sisters visiting their parents



Chris’ family visits Busch Gardens in Virginia

Holly is the oldest of three children. She and her two brothers have always enjoyed a close relationship. She was very involved in everything they did, going to every sporting event in which they participated. They now live with their families only a few minutes away.

We always make sure we have time for each other, and get together for dinner or socialize at least once a week.

Holly's 17 cousins are like brothers and sisters to her, immediately accepting Chris as one of their own. Now Chris might be on the phone with Holly's brothers and cousins more than she is. On many of our vacations to California or Massachusetts, Holly's cousins have joined us.



Holly with her two brothers and cousins



Holly with her 8 cousins and grandmother

We have tried...

every possible way to have a child on our own. After the first miscarriage, I had surgery for endometriosis. After the next miscarriage, we tried IVF. After that miscarriage, I had more surgeries.



Chris and Holly at dinner in Ireland

We tried 2 more IVFs with no success and had additional surgeries. The emotional toll this took could have stopped us, but instead we realized how much we long to become parents and feel adoption is the answer to our prayers.

Holly with her mom,
aunt and cousin



I consider myself a hard working woman who cares more about children than anyone can imagine. I am a Teacher's Aid at one of the best public schools. I worked my way through college. No matter how long it took I was determined to get my degree and work with young children. I also babysit two children during the week after school and love being around children of any age.



Chris poses with his students at their Senior Prom

Chris is an Athletic Director and Business Manager at an all-boys Catholic school. When people ask how many children he has, Chris responds 500! All of the boys are treated like his own.

Chris makes sure, through good times and bad, he is there for his students because for many he is the only father figure they have in their lives.

Before working at the school, Chris was a college basketball coach. A great lesson he learned from recruiting college athletes was the importance of communication and trust. A family was going to let their child go across the country because Chris was going to be responsible for the child's safety.



Chris working with an NBC sports celebrity

Our Nieces & Nephews are very special to us...

On Holly's side of the family, we have four nieces and one nephew. They are the image of "family". They are the best of friends and are constantly looking to get together.



The girls hanging out!

Our relationship with our nieces and nephews is the best. The children especially enjoy Christmas season because they know we are going to spoil them! Every opportunity we get to spend quality time with them, we do. Our nephews go on vacations or weekend getaways with us often. We can't wait to travel with your baby and see the world through their eyes.



Holly with her niece



Christmas with Chris' family in Ft. Monmouth



Holly and her niece Avery

We have five nieces and nephews on Chris' side that were adopted. We have never seen a more loving group together. The unconditional love we have witnessed between parents and child is what solidified our desire to adopt.



Chris being the lifeguard for his niece and nephew



Chris is spending quality time with his niece Peyton



Christmas Eve with Holly's family

We are thrilled to have the support of our family and friends, including Patrick and Maggie, our niece and nephew, who also joined the family through adoption.

Curly...

Curly was Chris' gift to Holly for Christmas. Curly Ray, our seven year old Yellow Labrador, was born on our wedding anniversary and is definitely a member of the family. If the bags are getting packed for a trip he goes to the closet door to make sure his bag is packed as well. When we say he goes everywhere with us, we mean everywhere! He has even gone to a New York Mets game. Curly is an old soul who happily lets the children pile their toys and climb on him!



Chris & Curly cheer on the Mets at Citi Field



Curly imitates "Touchdown Jesus" at the University of Notre Dame



Chris & Curly visit Baltimore's Inner Harbor



Holly, Chris & Curly pose outside the White House in Washington, D.C.

Sports...

Sports have always been a major part of both our lives. Chris grew up playing and coaching. Holly, through supporting her brothers and Chris, has probably attended more games than the average person.

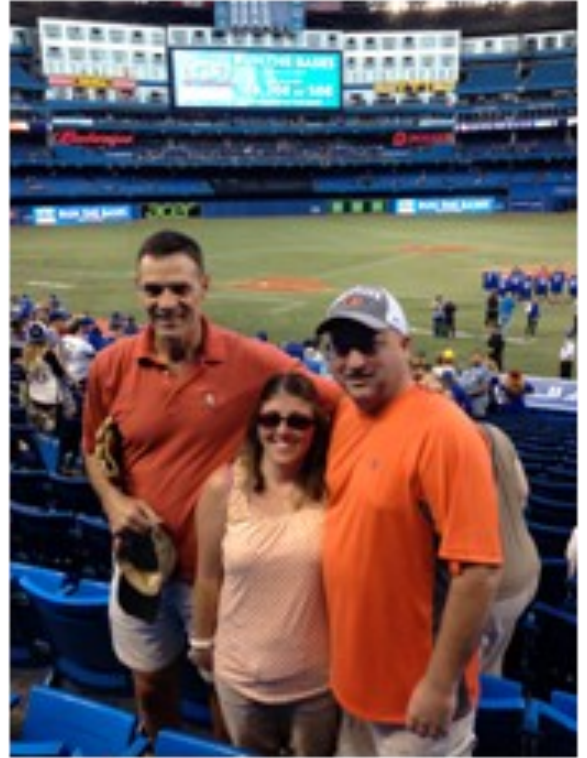
We travel a lot during the summer and will coordinate Major League Baseball games along the way. Our goal is to go to every MLB stadium (so far we have been to 12 out



Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs

of 30). It is more than just going to the game for us. It is about enjoying the local culture and history. Every town has something unique, the cuisine, architecture, history and people. We get to experience this by going to the ballpark. We

become friendly with the people sitting around us. You learn unique things about where you visit, and trying the local food is always a plus!



Chris & Holly visit friends in Toronto

We don't agree on much when it comes to sports. Holly likes the Yankees and Chris likes the Orioles and Mets. She likes the New York



The Winter Classic hockey game at Yankee Stadium

Rangers, he likes the New Jersey Devils. The few things we do agree upon are the New York Giants, Notre Dame and Army Football...and becoming parents through adoption!



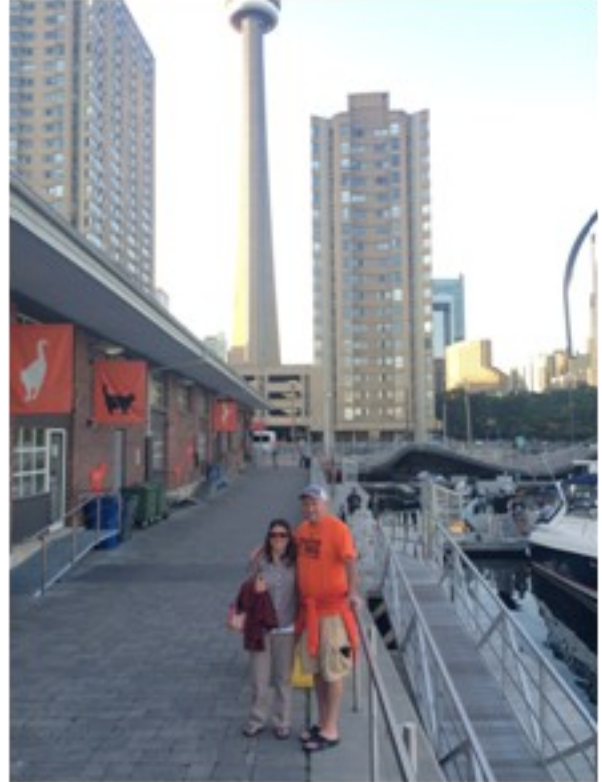
Holly's cousin & Chris visit Fenway Park in Boston

Travel...

We love to travel and see the world. It is our goal to visit all 50 States. So far we have done a pretty good job, even bringing Curly on most of the trips. Last year we visited New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Canada. This year we will visit Michigan, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia with Chris' brother and sister-in-law.



Holly & Chris's adventure in Ireland



Checking out the Space Needle in Toronto



On the river in Cincinnati

During the summer we try to get away every weekend, whether it is to Holly's family Beach House, or to visit Chris' family on the Shore. We also enjoy our trips to Baltimore, visiting friends and seeing the Orioles play.



Holly's father and cousin outside their Long Island beach house

We have always loved to get in the car and experience the country on our vacations. It is very educational, and we look forward to sharing our love of travelling with your child. It gives us an appreciation for how beautiful our country is and how amazing the people are. In our opinion, there is no better way to vacation than family bonding time in the car.



Holly & Curly continue their tour of Washington D.C.



Downtown Los Angeles

Home...

We are lucky enough to own our home in one of the best towns in the country. It is a great place to raise a family. When looking to buy a home we knew we wanted it to have a fireplace to sit around as a family during the winter, a yard big enough for children to run and play, and a big family room to have people over for the holidays.



Our home



Curly helps to shovel snow

Our 3 story home has a bedroom ready for your child, and a separate play room for indoor fun with friends. Every New Years Day we invite all of our family and friends over for a gathering, which usually ends up being quite a large crowd throughout the day. Everyone leaves just saying how “homey” the place feels. We agree, but hope to fill it with smiles, laughter and the pitter patter of a little one!

Family Traditions & Holidays...



Christmas Eve with Holly's family

For Christmas we spend the days leading up and Christmas Eve with Chris' family, finishing the night off with dinner and giving presents to all of the nieces and nephews. Then we head back from New Jersey to be with Holly's parents and brothers. We gather the next day to spend Christmas Day with Holly's aunts, uncles and cousins. For Thanksgiving the torch

was passed this year for us to host for the day. Since Chris loves to cook, it was a great addition to our household history.



New York City Thanksgiving Day Parade



Christmas Eve in New Jersey

Child care plan

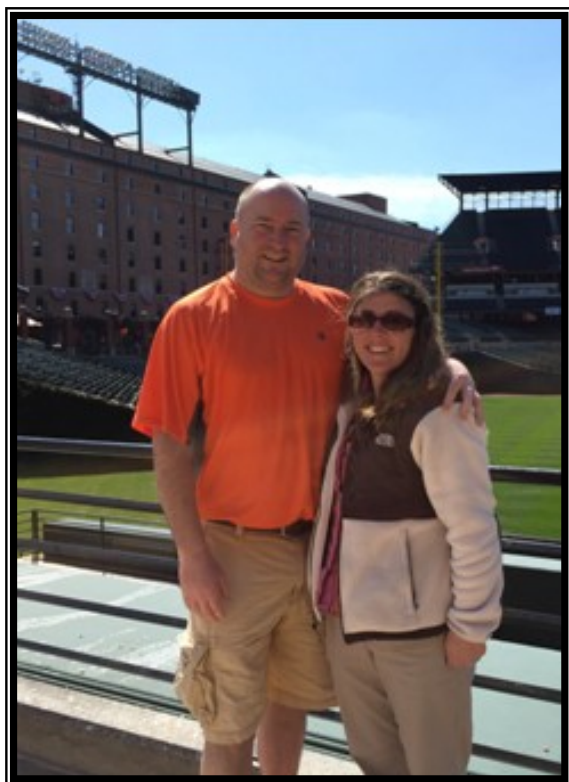
After we adopt Holly will return to work only part time as a Teachers' Aid, in order to spend as much time with the baby as possible. Holly's mother will happily take care of the baby while she is at work for those few hours a week.



Holly, along with her mom and her best friend



Holly joins the kids and her dad for a birthday celebration



Chris & Holly visit Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles



Curly is being chaperoned by Chris & Holly

Communication, reason and kindness are the keys to our child care plan. We can't wait to love and cherish your child...



Chris attends the graduation of his former basketball players



Our travels have taken them across the Atlantic to England



Chris poses with his mom for a Christmas photo



Our niece celebrates her birthday with the family





Family vacation at the beach house



Chris & Holly with Chris' brother and sister-in-law



Chris and his brothers on the porch at their parent's beach house



Cousins playing ball



Holly's brother and nephew playing golf



Cousins go for a ride in their wagon



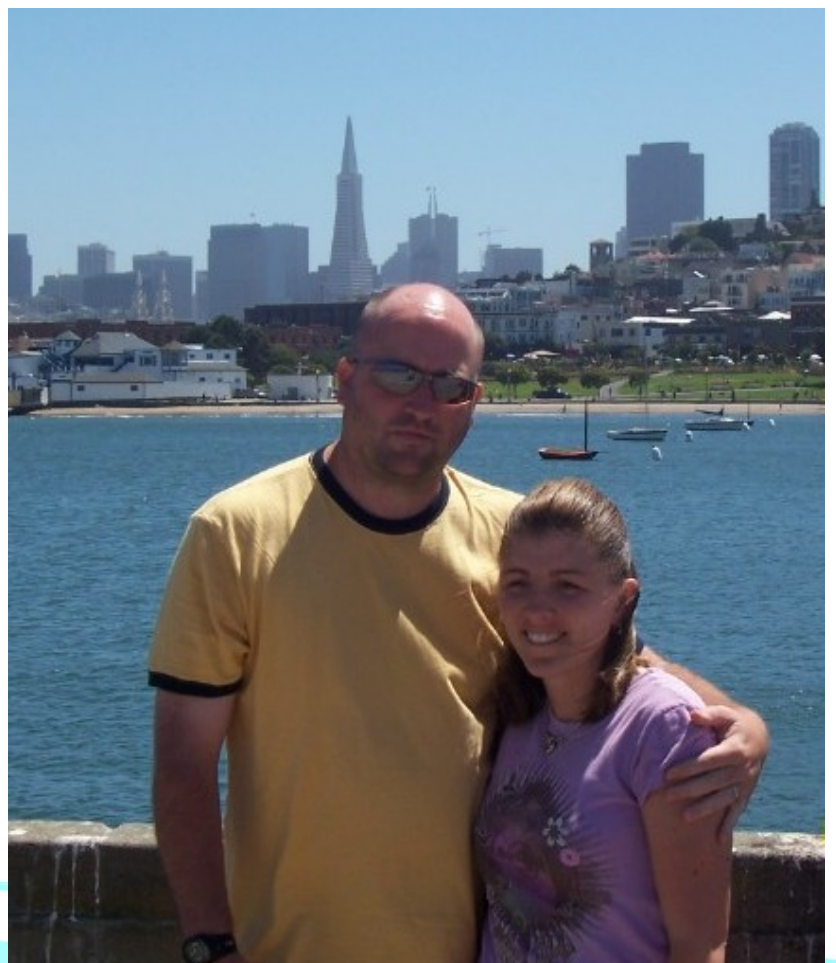
Family vacation at the beach house



Chris driving the family boat



Family Easter Egg hunt



Our trip to San Francisco

We want to thank you for taking the time to learn about our family. We know this this is a difficult decision and want to assure you that we will love, teach, encourage, and nurture your baby. We are happy to share photos and updates if you would like throughout the years. We are looking forward to becoming adoptive parents and will truly be forever grateful for the gift of parenthood you are giving us. If you would like to know more about us, you may contact our adoption agency, Forever Families Through Adoption, at 866-922-3678.



Thanks!

Chris & Holly