

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family. We are Brian and Chavonne, a firefighter, a teacher, and the proud parent of Addison who is 10 years old.

Although Brian loves Addison as his daughter, she is actually his step-daughter. Due to infertility issues, we have been unable to conceive a child together. We are excited about beginning the journey to adopt a baby.

When we met, we both owned homes and lived in Indianapolis. After we were married, we chose to begin our family life together in a smaller town outside of Indianapolis. Our decision proved to be the right one. The neighborhood we live in is full of kids for Addison to run around and play with. The town park is a short walk or bike ride away. We love the pool.

We are both employed full-time, but have very flexible schedules which afford us the opportunity to spend lots of time with Addison, our extended family and friends, especially during the summer months. When we are fortunate to add another child to our family, Chavonne will become a stay-at-home mom. Brian's flexible schedule, as a firefighter, allows him to be home a lot, as well. He is very involved in Addison's activities and looks forward to being equally involved in those of your child. We believe that in



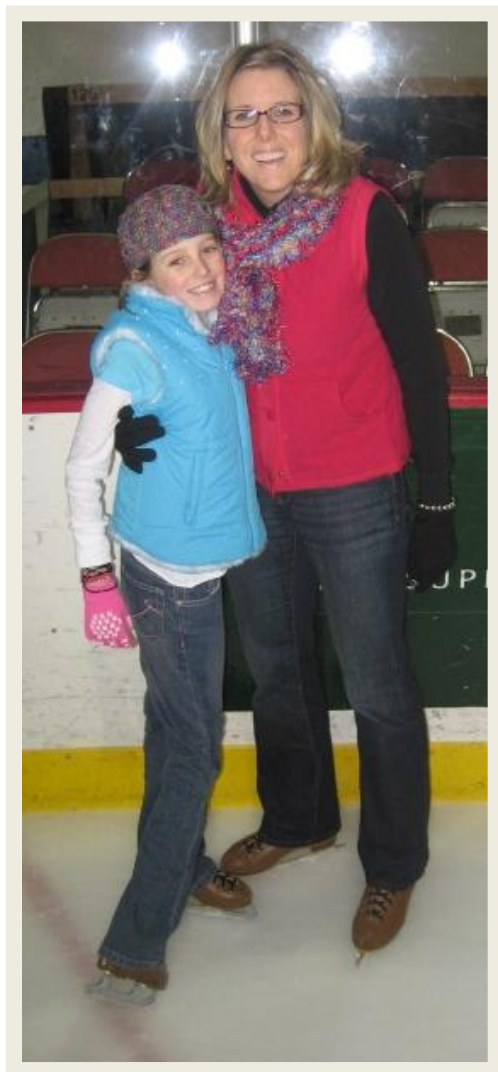
addition to the love a parent gives a child, the time a parent gives to a child is very important in raising confident, self-assured, and independent children. Your child will receive not only our love but our active involvement in their activities, whether it is helping with homework assignments, attending rock climbing and sporting events, or even just watching a movie at home with a bowl of popcorn on cold, snowy afternoons.

Brian: The oldest of three, with two younger sisters, I grew up in a wonderful family environment. My parents have been married 35 years. We lived in a house with a big yard and in a neighborhood with a lot of kids. My dad owned his own business and worked long hours, but despite his hard work, I don't ever remember him missing one ball game, band concert, science fair, or camping trip. My mom stayed at home and provided us with her unconditional, motherly love. My parents instilled in me the importance of an education, getting good grades and being well-rounded with extra-curricular activities. They always supported me in whatever interests I had from basketball to baseball, playing the saxophone, art classes, science experiments, and my desire, at the age of 14, to become a Cadet firefighter with our local volunteer fire department.



My sisters and I went to private school through the 12th grade. We went to church every Sunday and were raised with Christian morals and principles. Treating others as we wanted to be treated was instilled in us from an early age. Discipline was assigned by mom and implemented by dad when he got home from work. Time spent in my room, a stern lecture or taking away something I liked to do seemed to do the trick most of the time.

Chavonne: I grew up in a small rural town. My dad sold insurance, and my mom stayed at home with my younger brother and me until I started 7th grade. Like Brian's



parents, mine have been married for more than 35 years. I always remember running home from school, and as soon as I walked in, I could smell dinner cooking. Which was great unless it was salmon patty night, then I was trying to figure out which friend's house to eat at that day. My dad always coached our teams when we were younger. I remember T-ball, little league football, and later little league baseball/softball.

My parents always encouraged us to try new things to see if we liked them. I enjoyed volleyball, swimming, and band the most. My grandma had a house on a lake, and we spent many years going to the lakes for long weekends with cousins and friends. I loved water skiing and swimming all day long. All my memories are of being outdoors and playing wiffle ball, riding tractors, three wheelers, boating, bonfires, etc.

My parents were strict with us but loving. They expected us to work hard, do our best and make good choices. Now that I am a parent, I can

appreciate that they set limits and wanted to know where we were and what we were doing while away from the house. I wasn't always allowed to do things some of the other kids got to do, like festival seating concerts, but looking back, I see that they were trying to keep me safe. I hope I am half the parent they were to my brother and me.

We spend a lot of time with our extended families. We go to see them, and they make trips to see us. Addison calls her grandparents house "her vacation home" and likes to stay over for long weekends. Last summer, both of our parents and Brian's sisters went with us to Washington, D.C., for a week to see our nation's capital. A trip to

Holiday World to ride roller coasters and water slides has also become a family tradition each summer. We cherish the fact that both of our parents and our extended families enjoy each other's company. We also have a Zoo membership and enjoy going there a lot in the summer months. We also love to go to a Nature Park in our county and go exploring. Addison loves getting in the creek and bringing tons of rocks home to paint. Addison did some gardening there and learned about Astronomy.



Brian: Chavonne and I have divisions of responsibility in our household; I am responsible for, and enjoy taking care of, the outside of

the house: cutting the grass, painting, staining the deck. Last summer our big project was building a retaining wall in around the front of the house and planting new bushes. We have several trees in our back yard, which are wonderful in the spring and summer, the only thing I dislike is the huge amount of leaves that have to be raked in the fall. Addison would disagree, she enjoys helping me gather them with the blower, but I think it's just because she likes playing in the huge leaf pile.

Chavonne: I like to cook and try new recipes at home. I also like to sit and read when Addison is doing her daily reading. Addison and I enjoy going to the library to get books and look at the magazines. Addison likes the library programs and the cool science experiments they do.

We met in August of 2004 through a mutual friend that Brian works with at the fire department. Our wedding day was the most amazing day. We had so much joy and excitement that day. It was awesome to share it with all of our friends and family, and later, we got a good laugh about ALL of the alphabetized seating arrangement cards

blowing off the board while Brian was taking it into the reception. He put them all back on, in order, with pearl pins. What a guy!



Brian: When I first met Chavonne, I was knocked off my feet by her smile. It didn't take long to become enamored with her outgoing and funny personality. Chavonne is a great communicator. She can find a common thread with anyone for a conversation. She shows genuine interest in other's feeling, thoughts, likes and dislikes; everyone she comes across can't help but like her.

What really sealed the deal for me was seeing her as a mother to Addison. She is nurturing, caring, and passionate about life. Chavonne loves children; she works with them everyday at her elementary school and shows genuine caring and concern for each and every child.

Chavonne: Brian is an amazing person. He is so loyal, kind, honest, and patient. He doesn't let things get to him and stays calm in any situation. He makes Addison and me laugh. He isn't afraid to be goofy, and kids seem to gravitate towards him. I respect Brian, and I love that he loves Addison so much.

Being parents has been such a wonderful gift for us. Addison is such a great and fun kid to be around. Of course, we have our challenges some days too, but that is what

keeps life interesting. We want to share the life and love we have with another child. Addison is at the age she can help with a baby and looks forward to having a sibling. She is so nurturing with the all of our friends kids. She will make a fantastic bigger sister to your baby.

We know that God has a plan for our family and for our family to expand through adoption. We have a strong desire to adopt a biracial or African American child. The color of a child's skin has nothing to do with the love we would give your child. Our church is very diverse, and our family and friends are very supportive of our decision to adopt a child of color. We would be happy to send you letters and photographs, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.

If you would like to know more about us, talk with us, by telephone, or meet us, in person, please contact Joel or Steve Kirsh at 800-333-5736.

We hope to hear from you and wish you well.

Sincerely,

