

Jeff & Juliet



We love the
outdoors!



Rhu



Mikey



Sita

Nice to Meet You

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us through the following pages. We believe you are in the midst of making a very challenging choice that requires an immense amount of courage. We have a deep respect for your bravery and look forward to telling your child how much love you have for them. We will raise your child with lots of love and strive to fulfill all your hopes and dreams that you have for him or her.

Please know we are wishing you strength and peace in your journey ahead.



Who We Are



We love outdoor activities. We live near an amazing network of trails that we can access right from our front door! Sometimes when we hike with our dogs we decide to venture off the trail and explore. One time, we discovered a secret trail that led to a little mountain lake gem surrounded by colorful wildflowers. We found a large rock to picnic, sit in the sun, and enjoy the quiet spot. Your child will get lots of time connecting with nature and taking time to slow down.

We love our pets, but **we hold absolute amazement for animals and wildlife.** We even planned our honeymoon based on seeing African wildlife! We were lucky enough to see a momma cheetah trying to teach her adolescent cubs how to hunt. The cubs didn't have the patience that the momma had, and kept running after the prey way too early and messing everything up! We love how animals live in the moment and don't judge the way humans often do.



We love campfires! Even if we aren't actually camping, we love sitting around the fire in our backyard, conversing with friends. Our friend recently taught us about "banana boats". This is where you peel one section of a banana peel off, sprinkle chocolate chips and mini marshmallows on top, wrap the whole thing in foil, and place it in the coals of the fire. When they are ready, you eat the warm gooiness with a spoon. They certainly won't replace good old S'mores for us, but will be in our campfire dessert rotation.



About Juliet

(written by Jeff)



Juliet loves to craft. Her mom taught her to knit when she was 8 years old and she has continued her whole life. One of her favorite ways to use her skills is to create costumes.

In college she worked in the costume creating section of the drama department.

Since hedgehogs are her niece's favorite animal, Juliet recently sewed a costume for her. It even got used twice when her little sister was big enough to wear it. For her, making costumes is almost more fun than wearing them!

Hiking amongst the wildflowers is Juliet's happy place. Walking in the colorful fields with friends, family, and our dogs is definitely her happy place. She can identify well over one hundred names of flowers and even knows what plants are edible. One time she found bittercress and suggested we put it on our sandwiches. It was delicious, like a spicy mustard! Your child will be brought up not only to appreciate the beauty and magic of our world, but also to be curious, ask questions, research and learn.



Although she only started a few years ago **Juliet loves playing tennis!** She always thought it looked like fun, but never played when she was younger. One summer, she decided to join the town clinics and has made some great friends that way. On the morning that we got married, she got a group of friends together to play. She wanted a distraction from any nervous anticipation and didn't want to feel like that whole morning had to be dedicated to "getting ready". She told me she was really glad that she planned it that way, even though she did end up feeling a little rushed to be ready in time for the ceremony.

About Jeff

(written by Juliet)

Jeff learned to ski at a very young age when his family took him on ski trips. Back in Indiana, when he was in junior high, he joined the ski club. Not only did it help further develop his love and skills of skiing, but he also met a lifelong friend, Janna. Janna and her family now live close to us and we love getting together and skiing. Last time we skied together, Jeff showed the family some of the secret spots on the mountain, off the main trail. Some of the group was a bit hesitant to follow him into the unknown, **but we all new we could trust him.** The skiing was fun and easy and it was great to feel like we were the only ones on the mountain.



Jeff is a great teacher. He has a knack for seeing and understanding what advice to give someone to help get them reach the next level. Recently, he showed great patience and understanding when he helped get me comfortable in the ocean. I had always had a fear of the crashing waves, but Jeff showed me techniques such as how to dive through an oncoming wave, rather than get clobbered by it. He encouraged me with baby steps, never pushing too hard. After a few days I was not only confident enough to go boogie boarding, but even tried standing on a surf board! Your child will be patiently encouraged to explore whatever they might show interest in.



Jeff likes to build and fix things. Part of our garage is dedicated to this passion of his. He is often in there working on fixing his bike or building a new project. When we had leak in our bathroom that damaged the floor and shower, he did the entire remodel. He ripped up and demolished the flooring and all the tile in the shower and around the tub. He then rebuilt the floor, added a bench in the shower, and re-tiled the whole bathroom. It turned out beautiful.



How We Met



We were set up by a mutual friend. First she arranged for a small get together, where we met, but we didn't know we were being set up. However, after the party Jeff asked for Juliet's number and bravely called her for a first date. As we got to talking we discovered that **we had lived across the street from each other a few years prior!** Our town is pretty small, so this wasn't too crazy coincidental.. but still pretty cool! Jeff remembered seeing Juliet and what was known as "the dog car" (it had logo of her then doggy daycare on the side and often was full of multiple 4 legged friends).

We moved smoothly from first dates to being in a committed relationship. We connected on so many levels, such as how we like to spend our time and what we think is important. One time this was made especially clear was when we were watching a documentary about a couple who started a regenerative farm. As they reminisced about how they chose that path, one of them said "**we both felt the importance of living a life of purpose**". We both strongly feel this too. Our core values align. We have a deep respect for one another and are there for mutual support as well.



The path of adoption has always felt right to us. We know our capacity to love is boundless and we resonate with the idea of raising a child who needs an adoptive family. We have accepted our circumstance of being infertile, but want nothing more than to be parents and the adoptive path feels like the right way for us to follow this dream. **We look forward to making a connection with you,** and keeping you updated on your child's path and experiences.

Furry Friends

Neither of us grew up with dogs, but now can't imagine life without one. We especially love the breed Vizsla because of their affection. They love to cuddle and are referred to as **Velcro dogs**, meaning they love to be touching you. In fact affection is a very big part of who we are. We both grew up in families who hug often and easily say I love you.



All our pets are amazing with people. When Juliet owned a shop in town selling dog collars she designs and makes, Sita would come and be such a good girl, lying quietly on her bed. **People would ask if she was a therapy dog.** In a way, she is. Our friend's 7 year old daughter always had a fear of dogs and would cower behind her dad's legs. We showed her how Sita would just stay calm and let her pet her with no reaction. After many different meetings, Ophelia got brave enough to pet her and even play with her. Now her family has rescued their own dog and they attribute this success to Sita.

Mikey and Rhu are good friends. Mikey has a lot of self confidence and is not easily rattled. We often refer to him as **king of the jungle**. When Rhu was a puppy she would try to get him to play and he would have nothing to do with it. He'd either ignore her or just calmly walk away. Now that Rhu is a little calmer, Mikey is happy to engage with her. In fact they often have a little play session followed by a snuggle.



Fun Times!

We love camping! The last time we went camping it was a beautiful moonless clear night. The stars were amazing! **We could even see the Milky Way!** We lay down, snuggling to keep warm and just stared at the sky. And then we saw the brightest, longest shooting star that both of us had ever seen. We both yelled "whoaaaa" as it streaked across the sky.



Halloween is one of our favorite holidays and we build a campfire in our driveway every year. We sit and invite chilly **trick or treaters** to warm up, **roast a marshmallow**, and chat. One year, we misjudged how many people would come by and ran out of candy! It didn't matter though, the real treat was connecting with our neighbors and their families.

Music is a big part of our lives. All of our pets have their own silly song that we have made up and sing just for them. When Rhu was a challenging puppy, we made up her song to celebrate her progress:
"Our little Rhu Boo, she's a cutie poo, who don't belong in a zoo, cause she's getting a clue, and she knows what do, cause she's smarter than you".
Whether it's singing, dancing, playing, or listening, your child's life will be filled with songs.



Giving Back

Juliet is on the Board of the **local animal sanctuary**, and is patient with the fosters who are not quite ready to transition into a home due to behavioral or health issues. A dog named Lika was one of her favorite examples of this. She was so difficult to walk at first, constantly lunging after every car that went by, if you weren't careful she could pull you off your feet! But, Juliet patiently worked with her. Starting on a quiet street, if she saw a car coming she would lead Lika a little further off the road, have her make eye contact and then give her a treat. As things progressed, she could just sit on the side of the road and ignore the cars!



Jeff volunteers on a **local organic farm**. He loves working in the soil and growing good food.

Harvesting potatoes is his favorite. It's like a treasure hunt in the dirt! All summer he sees this plant growing on the surface and have no idea what is being produced underneath. But when it's time to dig, it can be amazing how many potatoes one plant can produce. One time Jeff got 12 big potatoes from just one plant. Jackpot! He was so happy to help in growing such a bountiful harvest.



Juliet also volunteers with the **local mentorship foundation**. She was paired with Ellie, when Ellie was in kindergarten. One time they decided to go horseback riding. Neither had much experience so were given very slow, gentle horses. Ellie's was more interested in what there was to eat on the side of the trail than actually walking. They laughed a lot that day, realizing that they could have walked faster than the horses did, but of course that wasn't the point. Your child will understand the importance of giving back.

Family Fun

If you choose us, your child would have 3 grandparents, 10 aunts and uncles and **11 cousins**.

We can be very silly and loud when we get together. Recently we met Jeff's parents and brother's family in Washington and rented a house on a lake. There were all sorts of different boats and boards available to us to try, so we raced them across the lake, switching up partners and boats. It didn't matter who was racing in the pedal boat, it always came in last! It was so hard to keep it steered in a straight line, we just laughed as we went around in circles. Your child will grow up with a family that loves to have silly adventures.



Our family loves playing games. Juliet remembers playing cards with her grandma at a very young age and Jeff grew up with a standing family game night. Recently we played a game that combines pictionary with telephone. Jeff's dad isn't necessarily the best artist, and while he was trying to draw the clue "majestic bald eagle", the best anyone could guess was a penguin. It's still a running joke in our family.

We always make time for a **Pickleball match** when we get together with family. One year we weren't able to make it to the courts, but instead set up a net in the driveway. It worked pretty well and we had a lot of fun, however the driveway was slanted toward the street, so we ended up chasing the ball a lot.



Diversity

Although Juliet was raised Jewish, it has always been more of a cultural identity rather than religious. For Hanukkah, we have people over to light the candles and exchange small gifts, but the focus is really on the food.

She loves to share the tastes of her grandparents; making potato pancakes, matzah ball soup, cheese blintzes, and bagels with cream cheese and lox. One time we were having a friend over for Passover who didn't eat any grains. Juliet found a recipe to make matzoh balls with almond flour and tried it out. They turned out delicious. It was so nice to find **a solution that included everyone** at the table that night. We are excited to learn about your traditions so we can incorporate them for your child into our future gatherings.

Our sister in-law, Patti, is Korean. For her and Jeff's brother wedding she had friends and family cook all the food. It was an amazing spread of homemade Korean food:

dumplings, short ribs, stews, noodles, and kimchi! It was a fun and delicious taste adventure, with the distinct awareness of the love and care put into every dish. Our family loves learning about our differences in culture.



Juliet's mom lives in the Caribbean and we love visiting, experiencing a new culture, and of course a warm tropical climate. One time we were there for **Carnival, a fabulous community celebration**. There are elaborate costumes, delicious local foods, and dancing in the street. We didn't stay up all night as is the tradition, but had a great time.



Traditions



At Christmas time we head into the woods and **cut down our own tree**. The very fresh scent of pine fills our home for many weeks. When our nephew was here last for Christmas, the whole family went together. After some debate on which tree was the one for us, Jeff guided him in sawing the trunk. We then told him he was in charge of carrying the tree back! He thought we were joking, but soon discovered that the tree was actually pretty light and easy to drag behind him. He was pretty proud of himself and felt a deeper appreciation for this particular Christmas tree.

On our second date Jeff suggested we go for a full moon ski. We get so much snow here that the white blanket covering everything reflects the light of the moon brilliantly. When the moon is full you don't even need a flashlight! We now have a winter **full moon walk or ski tradition every year**. We honor the passed down traditions of our families, but also love to create our own.

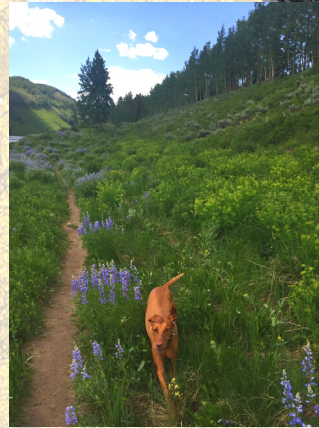


Jeff, his brother, and dad all go on an **annual fishing trip**. One of the most memorable was when they went to Alaska to fish king salmon. It was chilly and damp, and they slept in tents at night. At first Jeff was in a tent with his brother, but after the first night he joined his dad instead, turns out his brother is a pretty loud snorer. They had great success fishing and were able to freeze and bring back salmon dinners that lasted for a year.

Our Home

We are the last house on a cul de sac, nestled in some trees. There is an amazing trail system that we can access from across the street. Almost every day **we take a walk with the dogs on that trail.**

One time we came across two young male deer practicing sparring with wracks. We stood there as quietly as we could watching them engage in this beautiful dance.



From the window in your child's room, you can **see cycle of the seasons** through the changing of the leaves. Although much of our yard is treed, we still have plenty of open space to play catch and put up a swing set. Your child will be able to use the outdoors as a springboard for his/her imagination and curiosity .

There are lots of birds around our house. In fact the previous owners put up a dozen or so bird houses and had a few bird feeders.

We just got a new birdhouse to add to the collection, it has a tiny little camera to go in it, made for **spying on the bird nest inside.**

When we moved in, one of our neighbors asked us to do him a favor. He and his wife leave for the winter and he was worried about the two old gray jays that he feeds everyday. Would we mind taking over the job? We were so happy to! Gray Jays are very friendly birds and we are able to get quite close to them.



Our Town



Our community is **small and close**. Most kids walk or bike to school. It's hard to run errands like going to the post office or grocery store without running into a friend and stopping to chat. We love attending the various community potlucks and suppers throughout the year, taking the time to share meals and connect. In fact we used one of these events as our rehearsal dinner for our wedding. It turned out to be a pretty chilly evening to eat outside, it even began to snow! But we all bundled up and had a great time.

Your child will grow up in an **active, outdoorsy town**. One day in the spring, when the days were getting a little warmer we were able to both ski and bike in the same day! The trails down in town were clear and dry, but there was still a lot of snow up on the mountain. Both of us grew up with families that prioritized outdoor activities. As adults, we both agree that this was one of the best gifts our parents gave to us. Your child will spend lots of time outdoors.



There is a small **lake within walking distance** to our house. In the summer we love to paddle board or kayak on it. Rhu loves to swim and one time we wanted to see if she would get on the board with us. She was a little unstable at first and there were a few times where we all ended up swimming from her attempts!

Weekdays

Jeff recently retired from being a ski and bike patroller for the last 14 years. This job required Jeff to have an incredibly strong skill in both sports so he could safely get himself to anybody who needs help. His team was the the first **medical responder** for anyone who got hurt on the mountain. He now plans on building and managing a mountain bike racing team comprised of adults and youth. This means he has a very **flexible schedule** with **a lot of free time**. He will be a very involved dad.



Juliet is a yoga and meditation teacher. She teaches a combination of private and public classes, some in person and some on line. She is blessed with a **flexible schedule** and a lot of open space. She will be a hands-on mom, sharing in the big and small moments with your child .

We cook and eat together every night. We take turns cooking and both like to experiment. Recently, we have been trying some Morroccan tagine recipes that have been delicious. This style of cooking is characterized by warm, bold spices and a rainbow of colors. We like to make it for friends since despite being easy to make, people are usually impressed. One time we added a little too much spice. Some of our friends had no problem and ate it without issue, but others of us were adding in extra rice and taking lots of sips of water in between. Sharing meals and moments will be a constant thread throughout your child's life..



Thank You

We really appreciate you taking the time to get to know us a bit. It is an honor to be considered as potential adoptive parents for your child. We recognize what a challenging time this must be for you. If you choose us, we will make sure that your child will understand the love that you have for them. We will consistently show the respect that we have for you for the selfless decision you made.

We cannot wait for our dream to be parents become a reality. We hope to establish an authentic trusting relationship with you, that grows naturally. If it feels right to you, **we look forward to maintaining contact** with you so you can see your child's growth over the years. From our overflowing hearts, again, thank you. We send you strength and love.



Jeff & Juliet