

Chad & Becky



and Brayden



Hello

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about our family. We can only imagine how difficult this time may be for you, but we hope that in reading through these pages you will get to know us. We also hope you will find comfort in knowing your child would be deeply loved and cared for. Your child will know their special story of adoption and you will always be a special part of our family. We would be thrilled to have a relationship develop with you, should you desire. Above all, please know you will always be honored and respected in our home and in our hearts. Thank you for considering us as adoptive parents for your child. We wish you peace and comfort in the journey ahead.



This is Us

We take every opportunity to recreate special memories. Years ago we took a picture on top of the Willis Tower in Chicago. Recently our family went back to that very same spot and celebrated the memory by taking a similar picture. This time we were able to convince Becky to go out on the glass lookout. She's not a big fan of heights and was very nervous, but she did it!



We love **exploring new cities** in creative ways! A few years ago, we took a trip to New York City to attend the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade! We had to get up at 4am to get a parade spot on the streets of NYC. We thought we were crazy sitting there in the dark, but once the gigantic Snoopy balloon came down the street to kick off the parade, we were glad we camped out early in the dark to get our spot!



Our family was built by adoption. Chad is close with his 3 cousins who were adopted from Columbia. Becky's cousin is a Birth Mother who placed her child for adoption 20 years ago. Becky's cousin reconnected with her child's adoptive parents and her daughter, and they have since joined our families in our annual Thanksgiving gatherings, including the Thanksgiving football game we play before dinner! You and your child will always be embraced and celebrated in our family.



Meet Becky (by Chad)

Becky loves to host Book Clubs to bring people together through her love of reading. She recently hosted a virtual Book Club from one of her favorite authors, Brene Brown. When the topic of embarrassing moments came up, Becky shared how she introduced a man by the wrong name and then seconds later proceeded to introduce his wife's name incorrectly as well. Becky had everyone laughing so hard they were crying!



Growing up, Becky was a dancer, and she loved the feeling of strength and flexibility that came with dancing. She's found that same feeling through **outdoor yoga**. Last summer her instructor challenged her to try a handstand pose against a tree and she lasted 5 seconds before she fell! For her first time trying, Becky was proud of the 5 seconds but is working to stay up longer! Your child will grow up being encouraged to be active outdoors.



Becky is **passionate about advocating for social causes**. With adoption in her family, Becky recently saw a need in her workplace to support and advocate for adoptive families. While advocating for these families, she noticed the inequalities in the company's benefits; the adoption benefit was far lower than the infertility benefit. Becky proposed an increase to the adoption reimbursement benefit equal to that of the infertility benefits, and it was approved!



Meet Chad (by Becky)



He likes to say he's a tough guy, but **Chad is a sentimental softy**. For our wedding anniversary Chad worked with Brayden to come up with 10 special experiences that were important to us throughout our marriage. This included things like cooking meals and making snowflakes out of paper. They all went great except for the last one; Chad was trying to surprise me by decorating our maple tree outside with Christmas lights when I came home early. I found him on a ladder in the front yard, with a string of lights wrapped around the tree trunk but not yet on the branches. I was thrilled to see the lights, even if they were only on the trunk.

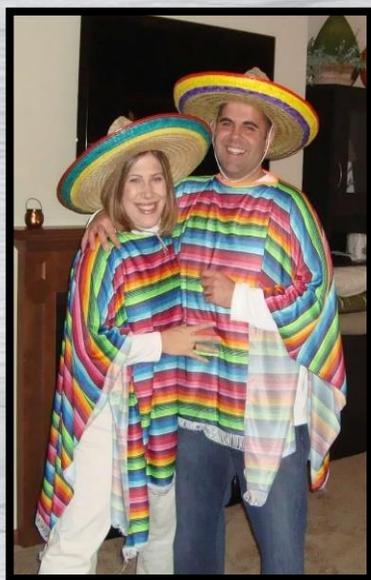
Chad's **love of fishing** started with trips to his grandpa's cabin every summer. This passion has continued, and he is on the water at local lakes whenever he is able. On a recent ice fishing trip with friends, he was trying to film a fish but dropped his phone down the hole. Everyone got a good laugh because it stayed lit in the water for about 5 minutes before it died!



Chad loves being involved in sports. At a Vikings/Packers playoff game, he was so excited when the Vikings won. He even was interviewed and featured on the front page of the major newspaper because of how excited he was from the win over the Vikings' longtime rivals. Your child will be encouraged to have fun in whatever activity they are interested in.

The Story of Us

We met at a wedding where Chad was an usher and Becky attended with a friend. Chad perked up when he saw Becky at his table. Although not too smooth, Chad's dance moves got Becky's attention and she could clearly see that Chad liked to have fun. He got her number at the end of the night and continued with his "smooth moves," calling her on the way home just to make sure he got the correct number.



We both are very social people, so we spent a lot of time getting to know each other's family and friends early on. While we were dating, Becky's friends and their husbands started a monthly supper club. Chad was the newcomer and had to make a good impression if he was going to stay in the club. He came in full costume for the Halloween supper night and **his sombrero knocked a picture off the wall.** Becky's friends asked him back to the next supper club night and Becky knew she found her match from his amazing sense of humor.

Early in our relationship we talked about our vision for our family; we always knew we wanted more than one child. After navigating the world of infertility, we felt a strong call to adoption. We believe with all our hearts that **there are many ways to grow a family** and we are eager to become adoptive parents. We know that adoption is a lifelong journey, and we look forward to walking that journey with you.



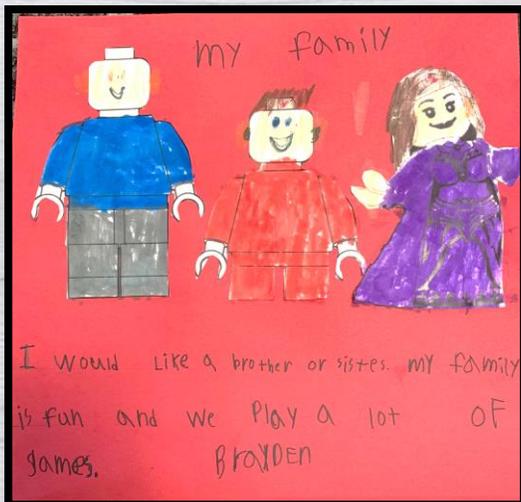
Meet Brayden



Brayden is nurturing and caring.

He recently attended his cousin's 3rd birthday party and she struggled opening her presents, so he jumped in to help her. After she opened up a princess costume, Brayden carefully walked her down the steps with her new princess heels so she wouldn't fall. Your child will have a big brother who will love and protect them.

Brayden loves Legos. From an early age, Brayden was enthralled with putting together Lego sets. Recently, we surprised him with a 1,000-piece Lego set of the Hogwarts castle from Harry Potter because Brayden is a huge Harry Potter fan. It was a tough task, and we helped him as needed but we were so proud of Brayden for completing such a big challenge! Your child will be supported in whatever interests them.



Brayden made a piece of Lego art to show you how much he looks forward to being a big brother for your baby.

For Fun

The highlight of our annual cabin weekend with friends is **playing Bingo on the beach**. Chad is always the Bingo caller and works for months to find creative prizes the kids will like. Last year, Chad had to keep the prizes locked in the car, because two years ago there was so much anticipation from the kids, they searched the entire cabin to see what the prizes were!



We love to celebrate with themes. For one of Becky's milestone birthdays, Chad threw an 80s surprise party for her. This party was complete with 80s clothing, an 80s band, and lots of memorabilia such as big buttons and boomboxes! The best costume winner went to our friend who dressed up like a heavy metal singer and headbanged out on the dance floor!



There is always music playing in our home coming from the piano, radio, or someone singing out loud to the latest Broadway soundtrack. Last Christmas, Brayden played Jingle Bells as he and his piano teacher had been practicing. The only way he agreed to play was if the family gathered around to sing along! Your child will grow up in a musical family.



And More Fun



We normally spend evening **time by the firepit** during the summer but some of our favorite memories take place by the firepit in the winter. We have a sliding hill in our backyard and last winter we had a sledding party that started in the late afternoon. While the kids sledded, the adults sat around the firepit. After the sun went down, the real fun began; the fire was roaring, and the kids were able to sit by the fire with hot chocolate and marshmallows while we reminisced about childhood sledding.

Because Chad grew up there, our family is often found walking on the rocks or **skipping rocks** on Lake Superior. One of our favorite competitions is seeing who can get the most skips from one rock. Whoever wins gets to be the first in line at the ice cream shop down the road. Last summer, Grandpa Bruce beat us all with seven rock skips, and you better believe he was first in line for his butterscotch sundae!



Camping is one of our favorite hobbies. Instead of a tent, we recently tried a new adventure with a pop-up camper. We learned the hard way that you must be very careful about what food is left out, even in a pop-up camper. We woke up one morning to some unexpected raccoon guests for breakfast. We were scared at first, but then laughed about it!



Family

If you choose us, your child will grow up with a large tightknit family of 4 grandparents, 9 aunts & uncles and **10 cousins**, in addition to a **big brother**.

Our family lives close by. A couple summers ago, Brayden got a new baseball glove and wanted to break it in so our family came over for an impromptu baseball game. Brayden got a lot of use out of his glove that day and the highlight of the game was Becky hitting the game winning run despite almost being out at home plate!



Our family **loves outdoor games** and appreciates a little friendly competition. During our recent Christmas gathering, we hosted a sledding competition. Whoever could go the farthest would win a warm mug of hot chocolate immediately after the race! Chad, Becky, and Brayden all got on the sled to make it go the farthest and made it all the way to the bottom of the hill. Luckily, we stopped right before the stream at the bottom of the hill and were crowned the winners of the contest!

We celebrate our family heritage. Every year we attend Becky's hometown festival celebrating her Czech and German heritage with authentic meals of pork, sauerkraut, and dumplings. Prior to meeting Becky, Chad had never eaten sauerkraut, so she challenged him to try it and he was pleasantly surprised by the taste! Now he's the first one in line every year to get it before the parade begins!



Family Traditions



We display a scarecrow for each family member in the fall. This year the scarecrows didn't seem to want to stay stuck in the ground so we had fun at the dinner table guessing what family member's scarecrow would fall on their face from the wind each night. Once, Chad's scarecrow lost his hair, making him look exactly like Chad!

Cutting down our own Christmas tree is one of our favorite traditions. Last year, we walked over 1½ hours to find the perfect tree. We finally found "our" tree and when Chad went to cut it down, a man offered to cut it with a chainsaw. Chad declined the man's offer and after 30 minutes of cutting with the hand saw, we were all sorry. We eventually cut the tree down with the manual saw and it was all worth it when we had a beautiful tree at home to decorate. We look forward to adding your favorite traditions to our gatherings for your child.



Our family looks forward to our **annual Superbowl party**. While the food is always a hit, the highlight of the night is when we turn the lights off and the kids have a dance-off during the half time show. Last year, two of our cousins surprised us with a dance routine they had choreographed to the half time show performer! It was unbelievable and they won the competition!



This is Our Home

The center of our neighborhood is a cul-de-sac where **kids are constantly riding their bikes and playing games**. Brayden and his friends love setting up lemonade stands. At a recent lemonade sale, they were able get a whole lawn crew to stop by making a ton of noise. They made over \$20 in one day!



Our **wooded backyard** is our favorite place to hang out. Last summer Chad and his dad scoped out some trees and built a **tree fort** just like Chad had as a kid. What was supposed to be a weeklong project turned into a month-long endeavor as Chad and his dad took half a dozen trips to the hardware store for supplies they didn't plan for. All the hard work was worth it when it was done as it's a popular spot for play. Your child will have many opportunities for outdoor fun.

Our home has open doors. A few years ago, we opened our home for an extended stay to a friend who is like a sister. In college, Becky met her as a 6-year-old Bosnian refugee. After she graduated from college, she participated in a yearlong work study program and lived with us. One of our favorite memories of our time together was our fondue night. We dipped strawberries, crackers, and marshmallows in chocolate!



This is Our Community



We like to ride our bikes on the trails by our house. One night after dinner we planned to take a bike ride to our favorite park. On our way there we heard a popping sound and all of sudden Chad, who was leading the pack, couldn't pedal any further. He had a flat tire! We couldn't help but laugh as our family bike ride turned into a family walk home.

We have three large lakes within 10 miles of our home, and **we love any activity on the water.** Paddle boarding is new to us as a family but recently we were all able to stay up on our paddleboard together for a short time before Chad fell in the water. Our friends commented that when Chad falls his paddleboard shoots out like a rocket!



Giving back to our global community is important to us. At Feed My Starving Children, we put on our hair nets and pack food for hungry children in third-world countries. Last year's volunteer event was the best yet as we unexpectedly met up with our close friends who also volunteered. We were all able to pray together for a safe arrival of the packed meals for kids in Haiti. Your child will take part in volunteer activities that teach the importance of giving back to others.

Weekdays

Chad works in Sales. He has a **flexible** schedule and gets to **work from home** which allows him to attend several school events during the work week. He would be available for your child at a moment's notice. This flexibility is especially important to our family, and we would love to be able to share this gift with your child.



Becky works for a local company in Human Resources. Her job allows her to **work from home** often and her company provides generous vacation time and other family focused benefits. She's always home in plenty of time for after school activities and dinner together.

During dinner we ask for each other's "highs and lows" of the day. It gives us all an opportunity to share the best part of our day, as well as something that might have been hard. The other night, Brayden had a hard time picking a low and then responded, "I'm sorry mom, but this new meal we're trying is my low. I just don't like it!" Apparently, he only likes green peppers on pizza, not stuffed green peppers. We all had a good laugh. Your child will grow up in a family that encourages open conversations.



Thank You

We are so grateful that you have taken the time to learn about us. We would be deeply honored if you choose us to take this journey with you. Please know that it is very important to us that your child know their story. We believe adoption to be the ultimate sacrifice a mother can make, and you will always be loved and cherished in our home. We have witnessed the power of openness in adoption in our families and if you desire, we would cherish an **ongoing relationship** with you. We would like nothing more than to join you in your journey.

With love and gratitude,

Chad Becky BRAYDEN

