

Tom & Carolyn



Hi!

We are Tom and Carolyn and we are so glad to be able to tell you about our lives. We hope these few pages will give you a sense of who we are as people and as a family. We hope as you decide on a family for your baby that you will feel comfortable and gain a sense of peace with your decision.

You are a courageous and loving person to create an adoption plan for your baby. We are so excited about bringing another child into our home and will welcome your baby with open arms.



About Us

We met on July 4th when a friend introduced us at a cookout at Tom's apartment. We dated during that summer and in the fall Carolyn left for graduate school 12 hours away. We started writing letters to one another and talking on the phone and when she graduated from school we were married. We have been married ever since.





We were excited to start a family and have been blessed with two wonderful boys. The pregnancies were difficult with months of bed rest and health scares, but all turned out well in the end. We have always dreamed of having a large family. After our second son was born, we tried for eight years for a third child, but were unsuccessful. During those years we endured three miscarriages and finally a stillborn.

Our desire to have more children has never gone away. We are thankful for the opportunity of adoption and have thought about it for many years. Now the time seems right for us to adopt a child. My brother and sister in law have adopted four children so we have seen the many blessings that adoption brings.

Part of our motivation is that we love being parents, and feel we still have a lot of parenting left in us. We have had so much fun learning, laughing and teaching our children and want to continue with another child. Every child is different and we can't wait to experience all the new things another child will bring into our lives.

About Carolyn

Let me tell you a little about Carolyn. She is both a great mom and wife. Carolyn grew up in Pennsylvania, the youngest of three, with two older brothers. There is a special place in her heart for the third child. She was raised in a loving Christian family who are still very close and her parents are still happily married. Her family liked to travel a lot, including annual trips to the Jersey shore.

She is very adventuresome and when she was 15 she was an exchange student to Cartagena, Colombia for a semester. After her very active high school years in which she was in the band and many sports, she attended college to earn a degree in Interior Design. She later earned a Masters of Architecture. When Andrew was born she decided to become a stay at home Mom. That was a wonderful decision as our boys have had a great childhood.

Carolyn is the perfect blend of intelligence, cuteness and fun. She likes adventure and loves to travel. She likes to snow ski, hike and take photos. Carolyn is also a very creative person. She still loves design and has been having fun with the 100's of ideas for our new house. Home design is her favorite hobby. She likes music and can play the piano and the violin. She is also semi-famous in the family for awesome cake decorating and desserts.





Carolyn skiing with her Dad

She has been very active in the boys' lives. She has volunteered many hours at their schools. She helped first graders learn to read and taught a math program called Math Superstars. She loved being a part of their schools and was homeroom mom almost every year.

Carolyn is the glue to our family. She keeps us all heading in the right direction and makes it fun as well. She is a wonderful listener and very patient and kind. Like I mentioned at the start, she is a great wife and mom and I know she will be awesome with a new child.



About Tom



Tom grew up in Florida as an only child and lived there his entire life until we moved a year ago. He grew up in a good home and his parents are still married. He went to college and earned both Finance and Accounting degrees. He now has a good job as a Finance Manager for a worldwide company. He works hard but at the end of the day he spends all his time with us. His good job has enabled me to be a stay at home Mom.

Tom has a really good sense of humor which makes our home a lot of fun. He has the greatest ability to remember a joke about whatever is going on at the time. I've learned that laughter is so important and Tom always keeps me laughing. He has a great memory for music and can name almost any song by any artist.





College football is his favorite sport to watch and he is a big Florida State fan. Living now in the Carolinas we are around a lot of college teams which is really fun for him.

He is a wonderful and very dedicated Dad. He is always active in the kids' activities. He has been a coach for several of our boys' baseball teams, Cub Scout leader and always attends all of their games and events. Having kids has been his greatest joy.



About Andrew

Andrew is our oldest son and is in high school. He loves to talk and is very fun and interesting. He has always played sports growing up, mostly baseball and basketball. In high school he has run cross country and been on the basketball team. He also spent five years playing in the band which was a great experience. He always enjoyed scouts and earned his Eagle Scout award.

Andrew does well in school and is looking forward to college. He likes living on the lake - he loves boats and is always talking about the yacht he's going to have some day. This past summer he was the lifeguard at our neighborhood pool and taught swim lessons to little kids. The parents told him he did a great job. The pool is near our house so it was nice that he could walk to work. He will teach his new brother or sister so many new things.



About Matthew



Matthew is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years younger than Andrew. The two boys are best friends. They have all of the same interests so they are usually always together.

Matt is also in high school. He does really well in school and is playing on the basketball team. He grew up playing lots of sports - soccer, basketball, football, baseball and tennis. Now that we have a basement we have a pool table and he's becoming quite good! Of course he loves video games and his favorite is NBA basketball. He makes friends easily and loves living on the lake too.

Matthew is a very caring person. He is so nice and helpful with younger kids. He will be an awesome big brother and can't wait to have a new brother or sister.



Our Family

We live in a very fun and loving household. We have had a wonderful time raising our sons Andrew and Matthew. Both boys have always been very active in sports and many other activities. We love going to all of their games or concerts and other events.

We like to do many different things. We really enjoy traveling together as a family. Most of our vacations are active. Each year we go skiing out west and our summer vacations include trips to National Parks and hiking or boating. We've traveled all around the U.S. and Canada as well as Europe and the Bahamas. We have wonderful memories of all our trips and hope to make many more. The boys have seen and experienced so many things in their life which has really made them well rounded kids. We can't wait to go exploring with our new child.

At home we like to do projects around the house or just hang out. We always have dinner together. Watching football is very popular in our house. We also make a big deal of holidays and birthdays. We do lots of decorating, and at Christmas we always try to do as many holiday activities as we can. We like to make the boys' birthdays special so they always have a party doing some kind of activity that they choose. Being boys it was always something like rock climbing, ropes course, golf, go carts, waterslides just to name a few. Baking birthday cakes is also one of my favorite things to do.



Both boys do very well in school. Their education is very important to us and teaching the boys to read and reading to them every night was one of our favorite parts of parenting. We are so looking forward to reading to our new child every day.

A little over a year ago we moved from Florida to a new home in the Carolinas. We love it here. It is a wonderful place for a family and we are so excited about raising a child in our new home and neighborhood. Living so long in Orlando we got to partake in all the tourist attractions. Since we still have family there, we will be heading to Florida a lot in the future.

Our family is very important to us. Their grandparents have had very big roles in their lives and will be super excited to have another grandchild. They are the most attentive grandparents. They are very active and participate in all our boys' activities. We have nine nieces and nephews that we usually see during the summer and holidays.





Family is very important



Our Home



We live in a four bedroom house on about an acre of land. Our house is casual and comfortable. Our backyard slopes down to a lake where we have a dock and a boat. We just love our new home. We have plenty of room for exploring plus a fenced in play area perfect for small children. Being on the lake is so much fun. We have loved learning to wakeboard and go tubing. It is so special to wake up every day and look out and see the water.

We chose the neighborhood because of the excellent schools and the waterfront. Our town is adjacent to a large city so we have all the advantages of the city but it feels like a small town. Our town has tons of kids. Our boys have even said this is such a great place to be a kid. Our neighborhood has outdoor concerts in the summer, 4th of July land and boat parades, fireworks, festivals, and holiday events. There are all kinds of sports teams, parks, playgrounds, tennis, volleyball and a community pool.

We are both pretty laid back people and our family has a lot of fun together. We always treat our kids with a lot of love and affection. We always stressed when they were good and now are able to talk through any problems. We have learned that when you give respect you get respect in return. The greatest feeling is when people tell us what nice and friendly kids we have.

We have done a lot of reading about raising children who are adopted. We are also familiar with adoption because Carolyn's brother has four children who were adopted. We are very excited for this new adventure. We are fine with different levels of openness with you and we will be open and honest with your child about their adoption.



We are fortunate to be able to have had many wonderful experiences especially through our travels, but also appreciate all the everyday things in life. We are all very healthy and try to eat right and keep in shape. We try to always be positive and treat one another with kindness. We can provide a stable loving home for your baby. We try to do our best as individuals and as a family. We have a lot of love to give and are hoping to give that love to another child.

We are so grateful for you taking the time to read about our family. We wish you all the best in your decision about adoption and choosing a family for your baby.

All the best.

Carolyn and Tom

