



# MARK & AMANDA

*Dear Expectant Mother,*

**HI THERE! WE'RE MARK AND AMANDA, REALLY JUST A COUPLE OF BIG KIDS AT HEART.** As a military family we have been blessed with being able to travel and live around the world. Creating a family has been our dream for many years and becoming parents through the adoption of our son, Elijah, has been the biggest joy of our lives. We are eager to grow our family through adoption again. We don't know your situation, but we know you have great courage and love for your child to be considering adoption. We thank you for considering us for potential parents for your child and we are praying for you and your child, no matter what you choose!

*Mark and Amanda*

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

# about US

Our adventures together began in 2012 when we met in Kansas City through a mutual friend. We made an instant connection and started dating almost immediately. After an epic proposal by Mark, we got married in 2014.

Adoption has been on our hearts for a long time. It's something we discussed while we were dating.

AMANDA AND HER OLDER SISTER WERE ADOPTED BY THEIR DAD AND SHE GREW UP WITH ADOPTED COUSINS, SO ADOPTION WAS ALWAYS DEAR TO HER.

She then had some serious medical issues as a teenager so while having biological children may have been possible; we knew it was unlikely. When we decided it was time to start a family, we prayed about our options, and knew adoption was what was right for us.



OUR HAPPY FAMILY



HIKING WITH OUR FRIEND'S ADOPTED KIDS



OUR LITTLE SOUS CHEF

## WHAT WE LOVE TO DO FOR FUN!

We are lucky to live in Europe and have the opportunity to travel and we make the most of it! At 18 months Elijah has already visited 9 countries!

When we're not busy traveling we love to do anything outdoors, whether it's hiking, going to our local zoo or many parks, simply playing in our backyard or going on walks through our neighborhood. We love cooking dinner together. (Elijah is convinced we're just his sous chefs.) We also love to read, workout, and have game nights with friends.



PICKING APPLES WITH MOMMY



KAYAKING OUT TO FLAT ISLAND



ELIJAH WITH OUR BEST FRIEND'S DAUGHTER



DISNEYLAND IN PARIS



FUN SPLASHES WITH DADDY!

## meet ELIJAH

Elijah is the biggest joy of our lives. He is 18 months old and a ball of energy. He is extremely adventurous and active, but mild mannered and friendly with everyone he meets. *His favorite word is "happy" and he's not afraid to shout it at everyone we pass while enthusiastically waving at them.* He loves playing outside but also loves snuggling, hide and seek, singing songs, playing basketball, anything with wheels, and reading books.

*We have a wonderful relationship with Elijah's birth family. We are blessed to have them be an extended part of our family.*



ELIJAH'S FAVORITE SWING



THE REWARD AT THE END OF A HIKE!

## AMANDA (BY MARK)

Amanda is truly selfless and caring to everyone around her. *I have never met someone who is willing to give so much of herself to help others.* When I was deployed she made these amazing themed, decorated care packages every week for a year for my unit and me; she was determined that we have something special from home every week!

Amanda loves being a Mom. *She resigned from her job to be a stay-at-home mom and she is wonderful at it.* I love watching her teach Elijah new things and my favorite part of the day is coming home to hear about the great adventures they had while I was at work.

## MARK (BY AMANDA)

Mark is known as the "biggest kid" in our group. Recently at a friend's house after dinner the kids were watching a movie while the adults sat outside talking. Mark went inside and after a while I found him on the couch with kids piled around him. They know "Uncle Mark" can usually be convinced to drop what he's doing to join in on their fun.

Mark's also extremely caring; he's always making sure everyone around him is taken care of, whether it's me, Elijah, his mom, or his staff at work. *Elijah races to meet him at the door every night and they both light up once they see each other.*

# OUR FRIENDS & family

Our large family will play a huge role in your child's life! *Even though we live far away, they visit us every few months or we visit them.* We also video chat every week with Grandparents and our nephews. Elijah is a bit spoiled as the youngest grandchild and the entire family can't wait to welcome another child into the family!

We have a great group of friends who we are exceptionally close to. *They include two couples that have adopted multiple times and are an outstanding support network for us.*



MARK PLAYING AT THE BEACH WITH OUR NEPHEW AND FRIENDS' CHILDREN

**WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR CONSIDERING US AS PARENTS FOR YOUR PRECIOUS CHILD.**



HOME SWEET HOME IN BELGIUM



AMANDA WITH OUR NEPHEWS



AMANDA LOVES PLAYING WITH THE KIDS



MARK FISHING WITH FAMILY IN HAWAII

## our HOME & COMMUNITY

Moving around with the military, *we have learned that home isn't a building. It's our family, the three of us, our family that visits often and our "family" that we have created from our friends where we live.* But since you might be curious...*right now our physical home is a large two story house in a diverse, family oriented neighborhood in Belgium.*



### in CLOSING

*We can't promise to be perfect parents or promise our child a perfect life, but we can promise a home filled with love, fun, and laughter.* We will teach them to work hard to achieve their dreams and we will move mountains for them to achieve those dreams. Our faith is extremely important to us and our child will be raised knowing God's love for them. *We will lovingly share their adoption story early and often, and we promise to share your great love for them in choosing adoption.* We have a wonderful open adoption with Elijah's birth family and we hope for the same with you. We hope to share their life with you in pictures, letters, emails, phone calls, and visits, or any way most comfortable with you.

*Mark and Amanda*

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