

Sandy & Eric



We have been married for sixteen years. Throughout our marriage we discussed adoption as a way of forming our family, and in 2005 we adopted our daughter Nicole at birth with the full support of both sides of our family. We have only the greatest love and respect for Nicole's birth mother. Since both of us were raised by stay-at-home moms and strongly believe in its benefits, Sandy has stayed at home since Nicole arrived. By no means do we stay at home though. We believe in including children in our activities, educating through experience, and socializing with all age groups. We have been very active in a local moms' group for the last four years giving us a network of friends and a wide range of activities including park days, play groups, field trips, crafts, picnics, and much more. Your child would be welcomed with open arms by a group of new friends.

We would be honored to parent your child. Like Nicole, your child will know his or her adoption story, not only our desire to have him or her in our lives, but your great love and unselfishness in placing him or her in our family. We will love and treasure, nurture and protect, teach and provide for this child. Thank you for helping our dreams of expanding our family come true.

Sandy



Sandy was raised in a small Maine town near grandparents, aunts, and uncles. She has two older brothers and an older sister who were already grown when she was a child. She is closer in age to her two nieces and nephews. She is close to her parents and many in her large extended family. Highlights of trips back to Maine include visiting with relatives, hiking and skiing in the nearby mountains, swimming, and attending a huge week-long fair. She enjoys scrapbooking, music, nature, animals, and reading.

Sandy graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English and education and a minor in Spanish. She used to teach middle school English and encourages a love of books with daily reading and weekly library visits. Other interests include cooking, baseball, volleyball, and community service.

She loves being a mom. Becoming a mom has really brought out her qualities of patience, generosity, compassion, creativity, ingenuity, and kindness. She can't wait to share her love of people, travel, and education with another little one.

Eric

Eric graduated with a Bachelor's degree in business and history and a minor in Latin American studies. He loves to learn and has continued his schooling completing two master's degree programs.

In addition to his regular job at an investment management company, Eric is a Lt. Colonel in the Army Reserve. His current duty assignment allows him to work from home. Eric provides well for our family. He is excellent at time management and allows plenty of time for family, church, and hobbies. Eric enjoys playing golf, board games, and basketball, watching sports, reading, and traveling.



Eric grew up in Alabama and is happy to be living there again. Eric is the middle of three boys. His older brother has two sons whom Eric helped raise for several years. This brother and Eric's parents live ten minutes away. Eric's immediate family is very close; in fact, he works in the same office with his brother and father. Eric currently coaches a chess team with players ranging in age from 8-18 years old. He has patience, enthusiasm, energy, an adventurous spirit, and a terrific sense of humor. Sandy observed early on in their dating years that Eric would be a wonderful father, and that has proven to be true. Since Nicole was born, Eric has made a point of spending time with her each day. They love to play outside, read books, dance, and invent new games. He is definitely an involved dad!

Nicole



Nicole is a spunky, happy, confident, loving, creative, helpful little girl. She loves dance and gymnastics, books, Disney movies, animals, crafts, playing outside, music, cooking, tea parties, and playing with her friends. In fact, we haven't really found anything that she doesn't like to do. She is a wonderful traveler and is always up for adventure. From hiking and swimming to riding water slides and roller coasters, she revels in it all. Nicole just completed preschool and is looking forward to Kindergarten in the fall. She enjoys her weekly gymnastics class. She is very excited about having a baby brother or sister and has already picked out toys and clothes for the baby and told us about all of the ways she will help. Nicole is very outgoing and affectionate. We're sure she will shower this new baby with love.

Our Home

We have lived in our community for ten years and purchased our home seven years ago. The yard, sunroom, loft, and living room provide lots of space to play and we have a bedroom ready for your little one. Our house is on a quiet street in a safe, friendly neighborhood filled with young families. In addition, the house backs up to a golf course giving us a huge extended back yard where we love to take walks and play with several friendly neighborhood dogs. Our neighbors are wonderful, and our next-door neighbors adopted their children as well.

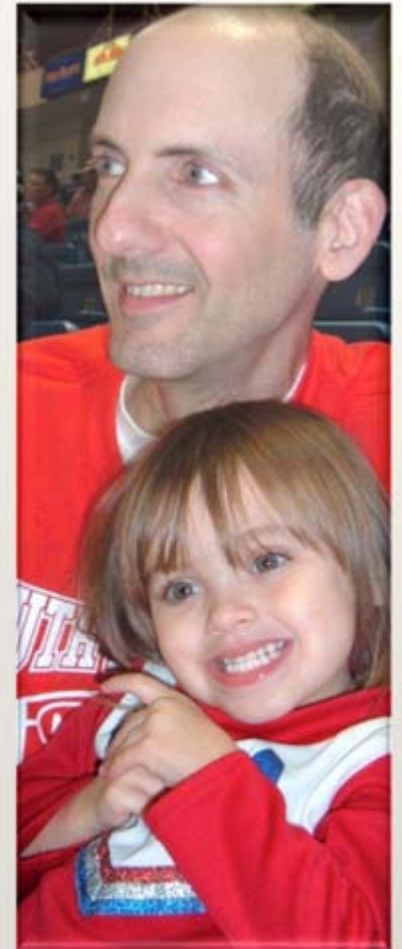




Celtic Music Concert

Family Life

We have a very active family life. During the week we enjoy family time in the evenings when we eat dinner together, walk on the golf course behind the house, and play games or read books inside. We also spend lots of time together as a family on the weekends. Some of our favorite things to do are go to the beach, eat out, attend local festivals, concerts, and sporting events, cook out with friends, or spend some quiet time in the hammock. Weekends are also when we pursue our individual interests, which gives each of us precious one-on-one time with Nicole. We plan to continue this lifestyle with the addition of another child, making sure that each child has special time alone with each parent as well as doing activities together as a family.



College Basketball Game

Our Families



**Grandmother & Nicole
July 4th 2009**

**Nonnie & Granddad's
New House in Maine 2009**



**Nicole & Cousin Chris
July 4th 2007**

Eric's parents live nearby. We see Grandpa and Grandmother several times each week. Sandy's parents live in Maine. Nonnie and Granddad visit every year and we travel to Maine each year also. They recently moved into a new house which we stayed in for the first time last October. It has a large upstairs area (two bedrooms, a bath, and playroom) perfect for our extended visits. Doting aunts and uncles, a number of cousins, and a large extended family are eager to welcome another family member.

Our Pets

Sweet Tea



Sandy has had cats all of her life. Moxie is a very affectionate eleven-year-old Maine Coon who and loves to snuggle, eat, and sleep. Sweet Tea came to us when we first moved to Alabama ten years ago. She and Moxie get along well and she loves to have her head scratched. We refer to her as the “assistant head mommy” because she has always enjoyed being around Nicole. Our fish and frogs are fun to watch, and we even have names for some of them. Eric had dogs as pets so some day we would like to get a lab or golden retriever. Pets were important in our childhood, and we are glad that our children will grow up with pets.



Moxie



Copper



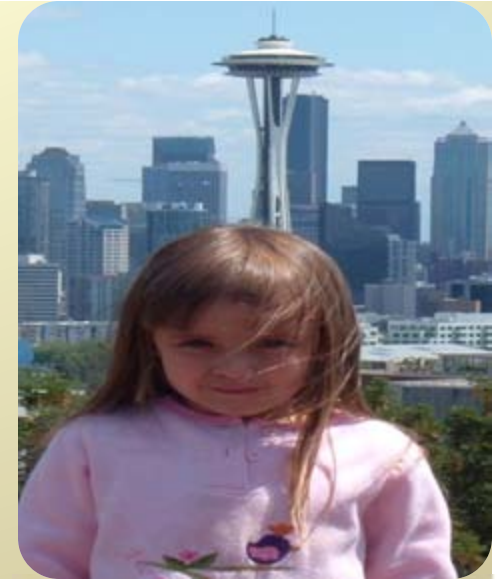
Pineapple Whip

Seattle Space Needle

Our Vacations



On the Beach



We believe that travel creates wonderful family memories and is a spectacular educational experience. We love sharing the beauty and diversity of our country and the world with our family. Nicole has been a great traveler and loves to fly. We have been on road trips to Orlando and St. Louis, and she has flown to Maine, Seattle, and Hawaii. We love to pack up for adventure and believe even the little ones enjoy it and get a lot out of traveling.



Hiking in Maine

We have been blessed with opportunities to travel in the US and in other countries. This has given us a respect for other cultures, an appreciation for learning other languages, and an interest in world events. During college, both Sandy and Eric studied in Spanish-speaking countries, Spain and Argentina respectively. Eric's military service has taken him to many places including Germany and Korea. Together we have traveled in many parts of the US and to Mexico, Canada, South America, and Europe.

Our Parenting Style



As we prepare to welcome another child into our home, we find ourselves discussing all aspects of parenting with renewed enthusiasm, from the most important facets like values and education, to the day-to-day details like decorating the new baby's room and coordinating the schedule of daily activities. We are excited about embarking on this new adventure and having the opportunity to share our unconditional love with another little one.

We've learned so much from parenting Nicole. Our parenting style includes open communication with our children and each other, consistency, involvement in their activities, and expectancy of good. We aim to provide our children with every positive opportunity available while keeping them grounded in basic values of respect for other people and the world in which we live. Again, thank you for the opportunity to fulfill our dream of expanding our family by providing your child a loving family where he or she will be cherished and given the best possible foundation for happiness and success.