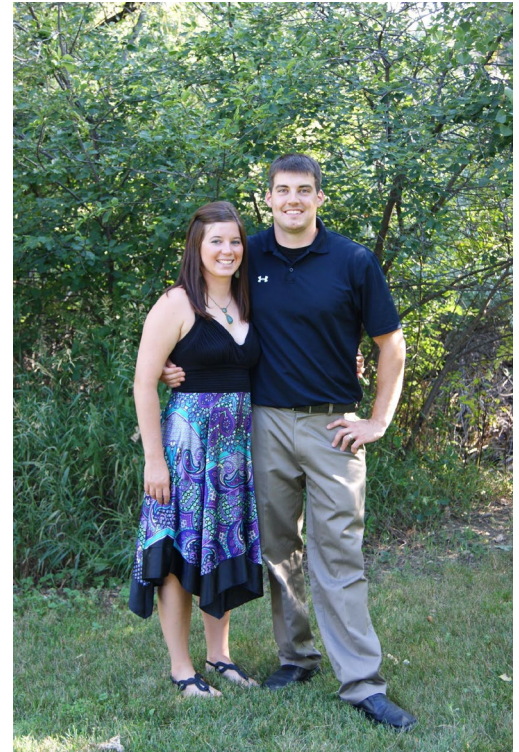


Dear Expectant Parent

Our names are Greg and Renzi, and we are very excited to introduce ourselves to you. The two of us met as freshmen in college, and while Renzi shot down Greg's first attempt to date her, we formed an instant friendship that blossomed into a relationship by our second year in college. While attending college in North Dakota, Renzi purchased tickets to watch Greg's favorite football team, The Minnesota Vikings, for a birthday gift. From that point onward we knew we were right for each other and that we wanted to spend our lives together. After graduating, Greg made the big decision that impacted both of our lives. He joined the United States Air Force as a reservist, leaving Renzi in North Dakota to finish her degree while he went off to basic training. After Greg's training and Renzi's graduation, we moved back to Montana, bought our first house and got married. Today it is crazy to think that ten years and so many things have passed since then.



From the beginning, sports connected us, and our home is one of coaches. Both of us love helping and coaching kids, and for over ten years, we have been so thankful to be part of so many kids' lives. From football and girls' basketball to track and field, we spend most of our time at practices and events all over Montana, and it truly defines the dynamic of our home. In the fall Greg coaches football while Renzi makes dinner and eagerly awaits attending Grizzly football home games with friends and family, and then in the winter, Greg puts on the apron and provides gourmet meals and laundry service as Renzi travels the wintry roads of Montana coaching the sport we think she loves as much as Greg - girls' basketball. In the spring we get to ease into summer by coaching track and field, and once that is over, we get to spend the summer doing something else we love, which is exploring Montana. After our tent camping days came to an abrupt end in a massive rain and hail storm, Renzi campaigned that a camper was for us, and after reluctant agreement, a purchase was made, but it has been worth it. We love traveling around and camping with friends and family, and while Renzi sits outside the camper reading a book and playing with our one-year old dog Clover, Greg spends his time fishing and enjoying the solitude of the amazing places we visit throughout Montana.

We are appreciative and thankful for the amazing friends and family we get to spend time with and all the kids we have taught and coached. However, we also have a very strong desire to start a family and open our home to a child. At this point in our lives, we thought we would have children of our own, but we unfortunately had a battle with infertility that made us live by those qualities and beliefs we always preach to the kids we coach - perseverance and courage. When going through the unknown, the flurry of emotions and insecurity people can experience are crazy, and we were no different. Fortunately for us, our time coaching helped us

understand that family is more than blood and adoption is the best way to make our busy and happy home a great place to have a family.

Initially, we had no idea what open adoption was, but as Catholics we reached out to Catholic Social Services and began this new, emotional, and exciting journey. As coaches we have seen kids with so many different situations, good and bad in their lives, and we have also come to know that the team is stronger than the individual and it takes a village to help a child grow and have a chance at success. There have been so many times as coaches where we would reach out to parents to help kids through hard times in their lives, and as we explored open adoption it took us a while to see the correlation. As a couple we want a family more than anything in the world, and as coaches we know that the more support and love you surround a child with the better. Thus, while uncertain at first, we now know and believe that an open adoption is the greatest start to a family we could ask for.

We cannot wait to welcome a child into our coaching-driven and loving home, as well as spend time exploring the great outdoors with them. Moreover, we want to welcome a child into our home who will share these experiences with their birth parents and assure them that the choice of adoption, while tough, was right. We want a child to come into our home and know that they are incredibly loved because they have this amazing community or 'village' of parents surrounding and helping them. In closing, while we are anxious to start our family through open adoption, it is an exciting feeling knowing how many amazing memories and experiences await a child in our home.

Greg & Renzi