

Hi! We're the Leps Family!

We are a loving, compassionate Christian couple interested in opening our hearts and home to a little girl. There are no other children in our home and we enjoy the company of our two very spoiled Siamese cats, Lilly Jade and Jolie. We are looking forward to an addition to our family and dinner table! We have been married for over two years and are in our early 40's. We are financially stable and live in a suburban neighborhood. We are an affectionate couple who love to spend time together dining out, taking walks at the local parks, attending family events, and going to the beach.

A little bit about Heather: Heather currently works at home as a Clinical Team Lead for a pharmaceutical contract research organization and manages clinical drug trials. She has some work flexibility. Heather holds a Master of Science degree in Psychology and in her previous career has worked with children, adolescents, and adults in various counseling positions in numerous psychiatric settings. She has worked with children in residential facilities, inpatient psychiatric units, and as a TSS for seven years. She is experienced with behavior modification techniques, reward systems, and de-escalation. She is familiar with community mental health services and local therapists that specialize in attachment and adoption.

A little bit about Richard: Richard works as Senior Business Developer at an insurance carrier generating new organic business and is able to be home every day at 5: 00 PM. Richard holds a Master of Arts Degree in Communication Studies. Richard is no stranger to adoption and its related issues and joys. His mother was adopted (kinship) from Catania, Sicily by her Aunt when she was 9 years old. Additionally, his Aunt and Uncle were foster care parents with two older children when he was growing up, with one of them being formally adopted. Richard loves having two felines and spends extra time doting on them.

Our experience with abused and neglected children: During the summer of 2009, we hosted a 10 year old girl who resided in an orphanage in Russia thru New Horizons for Children hosting program. She lived with us for 6 weeks. We shared our unconditional love, home and care to this little girl with moderate behavioral needs who had experienced neglect and severe physical abuse. Richard and I learned many behavioral techniques and were presented with new challenges on a daily basis. The rewards were tremendous and we continue to love and mentor this child. She will always be in our hearts.

We would like to open our home to a Caucasian girl age 11-17 yrs old with mild to moderate behavioral and/or learning & developmental needs. We feel that we have the love, patience, resources, and support to adequately parent a child that has suffered from abuse and neglect. Open to legal risk and travel.

Please contact our Bethanna Adoption Matching Specialist Joyce Jopio at (800) 394-6500 or jjopio@bethanna.org