

Jake, Whitney, & Elliot

Our adoption story begins with our desire to grow our family and to create a fun and loving home for a child. Many say it is the journey that counts and not the destination. For us, while the journey helped us grow as a couple, the destination has been the most precious part of this experience—and well worth the effort.

When starting out with adoption no one tells you that each step of the process will have its own emotional challenge, but we were fortunate to be able to have each other to work through the adoption process together. It was over a year and a half from the time that we started with the homestudy to the time we were chosen by a birthmother. Many have to wait much longer, and the waiting period to be chosen was a difficult time. It seemed to have no end in sight, but our primary caseworker always said that when it is meant to be it will be and the right baby will come into your arms.

When you least expect something is when it is bound to happen, and that is exactly how Elliot came into our lives. Due to the time difference between Germany, where we currently live, and our agency in Utah we received the surprise of our lives at 2 AM in a one-sentence email with the subject line “Great News!!” The body of the email read: “Birthmom and her mother want to place baby with you all!!!”

Throughout the Adoption process we often wondered if we would feel a connection with baby right away or if we would feel as though he wasn't ours, but those worries quickly dissipated as we were guided into the nursery to where Elliot was laying under the warming lights. The door opened and we saw him across the room and we instantly knew he was our son. We truly believe that God intended him to be in our family. As we drew closer to him we saw how cute and small he was at 6 pounds, 4 ounces and 19 inches long. Meeting Elliot for the first time was the most surreal moment of our lives. We couldn't have been happier to bring our new precious baby home with us.

We spent the next three weeks in Utah staying with our families as we prepared to take Elliot back home to Germany with us. After Elliot joined our family we were amazed at the outpouring of love and generosity from family and friends. It has been remarkable to see the power that a newborn baby has to bring people together.

Each day is an exciting adventure and a learning experience as well as a blessing now that Elliot is home with us. He is growing by the second and we are having the best time with him. We are humbled to be his parents and the titles of mom and dad are still novel to us. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who helped to bring this joy into our lives. Our goal is to ensure that Elliot will grow up learning that the Lord loves him and that he has a birthmother that loves him and has made the sacrifice to place him a forever family that wants the best for him. As Elliot's parents we will always strive to do what we can to ensure his happiness and to provide him with every opportunity in our power for him to grow and progress in this life.

