



Our Road to Adoption

Our road to adoption started in 2014 when we became licensed foster parents with the hope to adopt an infant from foster care. Unfortunately, on the last day of the class, we were informed that the agency we went with did not receive infants for placement as they often remained with CFSA. After being licensed with them for a year, we decided to try foster-to-adopt through our county's Department of Social Services in 2015. We received one child in the summer of 2016, a two-month-old infant boy. It was explained to us that he would be with us for a few months; however, a few days later, the social worker called and told us that they found a group home for him and his mother and would be returning to get him. This phone call hit us hard and hurt more than anyone could imagine because we were beginning to bond and expected to have him for a few months. Deciding that we could not go through this emotion again, we felt that private adoption would be best for us.

We started our Home Study process in November 2016. The Home Study was complete in February 2017 and we signed with our adoption agency at the end of February 2017. After signing, we went through the difficult part of waiting to be matched and constantly checking our phones to make sure we did not miss a call. The afternoon of Thursday, July 6, 2017, we got a call for a potential match and after talking it over, we decided to move forward. The next day, we were asked to come to New Jersey to meet the birth parents on Sunday. Driving up, we were nervous and did not know what to expect. When we got to CHS of NJ, we met Valerie and she told us that the birth parents were nervous as well. Once we walked into the room and met them, we had a conversation that was not forced and flowed naturally. After talking to them for almost two hours, we said that we really liked them (and had some things in common) and hoped that they picked us...and they did! Our son was born on July 26, 2017!!

We have a semi-open adoption and send pictures and videos to his birth parents regularly. We have also started a tradition of video calling them on our son's birthday. Our adoption is open because we want him to know his birth family and not go through life wondering why they entered into an adoption plan. We were lucky to have been matched with not only them but with Valerie and Janine at CHS of NJ who continue to offer support for us and the birth family.



To learn more about The Children's Home Society of New Jersey's Adoption Program please call

609-695-6274

www.chsofnj.org/adoption

