

TOM & ANNIE



HELLO! WE ARE

TOM & ANNIE

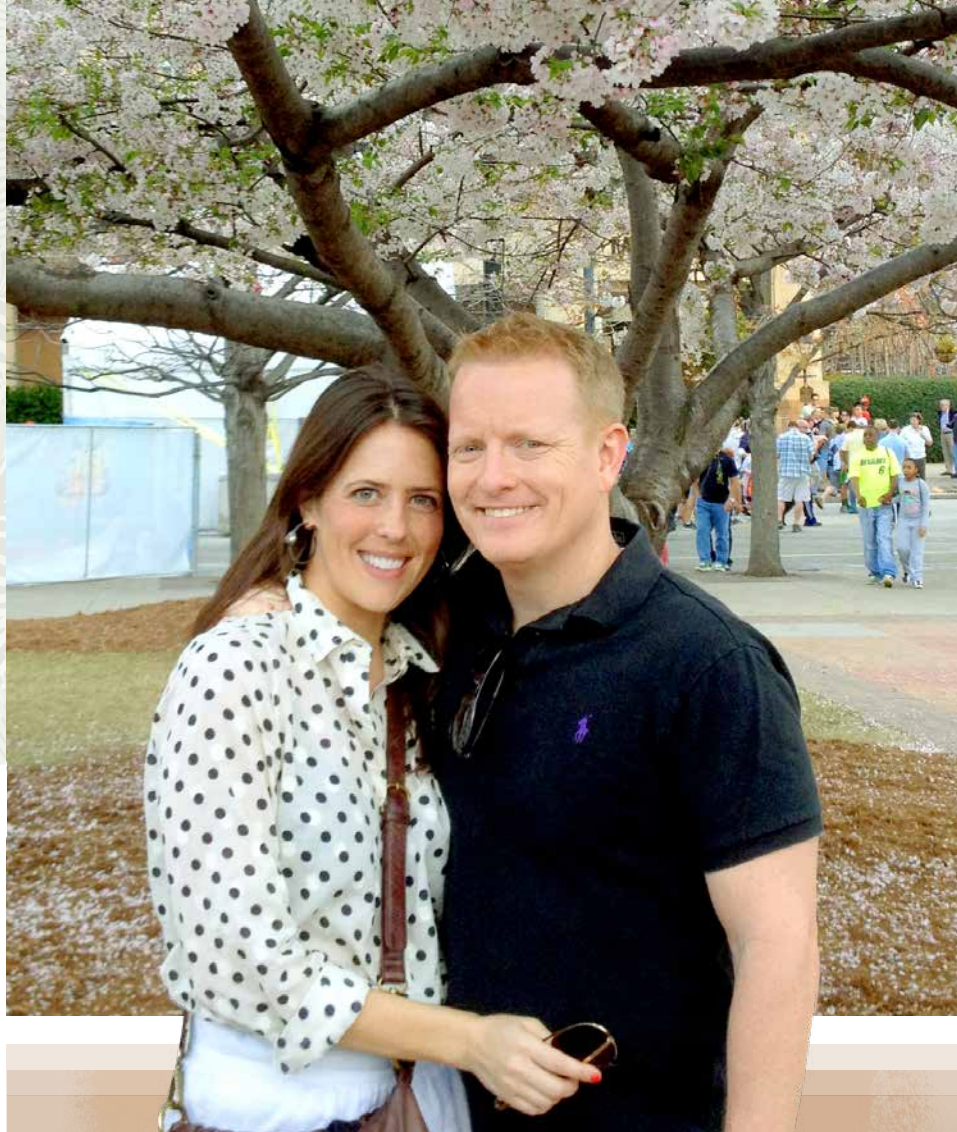


Thank you so much for
reading our profile!

*We are so hopeful and excited
to be on this journey.*

We met in 2012; Tom proposed to Annie on a vacation almost a year to the day after our first date, and we were married that same weekend the following year. *Before we met, we individually always envisioned having children. That vision only grew stronger once we found "our person" in one another. We learned after years of trying to grow our family that Annie is unable to have children. **Immediately, we started the adoption process. This was an easy decision. Our hearts just took us to this, and we knew that it was meant to be all along. It just took us a little while to figure that out!***

*As a couple, we strongly value unconditional love, communication, our faith, and a fun-loving approach to life. Beyond a loving and safe environment, we long to provide your child with education, play, friendships, adventure, and travel. **We both had very loving and supportive families growing up and believe we have been given tremendous examples with which to raise our children.***



Our first Final Four Tournament together



We think you are
incredibly **brave**
and **loving** to be
making this choice.



*We send you all our heartfelt
best wishes in your journey.*



Hiking on our honeymoon - it was intense but we made it!

✦ Knowing how body language and tone can indicate that the other person is feeling anxious or frustrated and **offering to listen to what's on their mind.**

✦ **We help one another.** Whether it's with something big like a family crisis or something small like household chores, we show love through physical and emotional acts of helping.

✦ **We make our Christmas gifts for one another!** We started this when we were dating, and it's continued. We love the level of thought and care that goes into this and moving away from something super materialistic.

✦ **We make a consistent effort to understand the other person's perspective** on an issue before we make an attempt to be understood about how we feel.

✦ **We have small, personal gestures that we do for each other every day.** Little demonstrations of our love and intimacy. For example, Tom will put one of Annie's blankets in the dryer and take it out and wrap her in it when we settle in to watch a movie.

FIVE WAYS WE SHOW
OUR LOVE



On vacation in London

A weekend in Mackinac Island



Our journey to grow our family was not an easy one, but it's one we're grateful for.

It was filled with disappointments, frustrations, and mental, physical, and emotional expense. *It challenged us personally and as a couple, but we came out stronger in our faith and stronger in our marriage.* We know we've been blessed with a wonderful life, and we know that we'll also face additional challenges in the future. **Above all, we know that our love, commitment, and faith will guide us through whatever challenges may come.**



FOUR THINGS WE WILL TEACH YOUR CHILD



✦ **Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care.** As long as you always try to do these 3 things, you're doing ok.

✦ **Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.** This is the cornerstone of our faith, and we think it is a good grounding for going through life.

✦ **You'll never regret being kind, working hard, or listening more than you speak.**

✦ **Self-confidence.** Have faith in your decisions, your creativity, and resourcefulness.



Doyle loved all the really big dogs (aka horses) on Mackinac Island!

GET TO KNOW



ANNIE

BY TOM

Literally every child we meet is drawn to Annie – running into a neighbor on the street, seeing old friends, or just waiting in line at the grocery store. As far as the effect she has on the people around her, I can tell you that I struggled a great deal in school, and when I completed my bachelor's degree, I couldn't wait to start my career and say goodbye to my textbooks, lectures, and exams. However, watching Annie put in the time, resourcefulness, and creativity required to earn her PhD and seeing how rewarding that work has been for her has fundamentally changed my opinion of adult education. I plan on going back to school part-time in 2023, and for the first time, I'm excited about the idea of returning to a classroom. When I think about the academic head start Annie's parenting will give any child, I'm almost envious of the opportunities that are going to open up for your child.



At a Cubs game with our nieces



Cheering on the Cubs!



Celebrating with my close friends

Annie is everything a mother should be.



Smart, intuitive, fun, empathetic, comical, alert, diligent, modest, faithful, and makes you want to be the best version of yourself and I'm not the only one to think so.

A FEW OF ANNIE'S

FAVORITES

Favorite Actor

‡ Diane Keaton! I met her a few years ago and talked with her for a while - she's exactly what you'd expect from watching her movies. And, she told me I was funny, so that was pretty awesome!

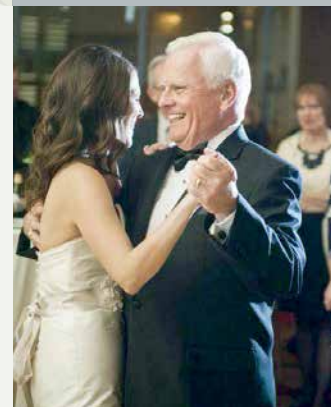
Favorite Hobby

‡ I love to cook. I also enjoy sailing and running, and I'm trying to get into crafts, but it's kind of slow-going. I'm doing some latchwork crafts right now.

Favorite Place To Take A Child

‡ I want to expose your child to so much - playtime (parks, zoos), the arts (theatre and museums), nature (hiking, apple picking), the beach, the mountains, sporting events. The thing that is so amazing is how open children are to new experiences.

Father-daughter dance at our wedding



A FEW OF TOM'S
FAVS

Favorite Actor

‡ **Clint Eastwood.** Beyond his obvious talent he has shown a remarkable ability to adapt and improve his ability to contribute as the film industry has changed. He did his first film 55 years ago and he is still directing and acting in some of the best movies ever made.

Favorite Hobby

‡ **Running.** I've run over 20 marathons and have run one on every continent!

I Look Forward To

‡ **Traveling** with your child and showing them all that the world has to offer!



GET TO KNOW



TOM

BY ANNIE

Tom was born to be a father.



The instinct to protect and nurture is in his DNA. I see this when he interacts with our nieces, his friends' children, and our 13 year old pup, Doyle. It's in his interactions with me as well.

Our first race together at Soldier Field



A man's best friend!



Tom is an avid runner. When we met, I enjoyed running, but seeing his passion for it just ignited my own. We decided to both run the Chicago marathon the year before we were married. Our run times are very different (Tom is way faster than I am!!), so we made a plan to meet at the finish line. Well, Tom surprised me and met me at mile 25 and ran the rest of my race with me. He was tired and sore from running his own race, but he knew that I needed that extra boost to make it across my own finish line.

This is just one example of how, on a daily basis, Tom looks to help fulfill the needs of others. I can't imagine a better quality in a father. Selfless, loving, FUN, adventurous, disciplined, devoted, faith-filled, caring, supportive. These are the qualities your child will have in a father.



Braving the cold to see the Bears play!



A beautiful day out on the water



FUN FACTS ABOUT ANNIE

- ‡ The first time I ever left the country, I **MOVED** to the Netherlands. I was spending 6 months studying there as a graduate student.
- ‡ I was the first girl in my hometown to start playing soccer for our local league. I was only four years old, and I was the only girl in the whole league that year.



FUN FACTS ABOUT TOM

- ‡ I've run marathons in Chicago, New York, and Dallas as well as Auckland/New Zealand, Beijing/China, Buenos Aires/Argentina, Dublin/Ireland and Nairobi/Kenya.
- ‡ I've met Quentin Tarantino, Sting, Shania Twain, Nicholas Cage and Kid Rock all at random, public places.

We both are blessed to have fulfilling careers that provide for us and that we enjoy but also are flexible.

Tom is in software sales and works exclusively from home, allowing him flexible hours.

Annie is a research scientist.

While she typically goes into an

office (although quarantine has changed that!), her employer provides family-friendly options to allow for work-from-home and shortened work weeks.



We host Christmas every year at our house with Tom's family

WHY WE LOVE OUR CITY & HOME

- ‡ Our housing complex. All day long, kids are riding scooters and playing catch and doing sidewalk chalk art. It's a family-focused environment, and we've made such good friends with our neighbors. It truly is an oasis in the city.
- ‡ We're blessed to have nearly a dozen parks within a few blocks of our home, they have become a real refuge for us after a particularly long day or when the weather cooperates.
- ‡ Our neighborhood offers a slew of locally owned restaurants that offer much more than food. They all have a unique personality and have been a great source for meeting people from our local community.
- ‡ Chicago's riverfront is one the many reasons we love this city, it's cool breezes and beautiful views of the city's skyline offer a wonderful destination to unwind from a rough day or celebrate a great week.



Nothing better than hanging out with friends on a Chicago rooftop!

The courtyard in our gated community





Tom's dad celebrating
Annie's graduation with us



Annie with her brother and sister

Celebrating Mother's Day with Tom's mom



Annie's parents visiting Chicago



MEET OUR

FAMILY & FRIENDS



Your child will have a very devoted and involved extended family.

Two sets of grandparents - Mimi and Papa (Annie's parents), Grandma and Grandpa Jack (Tom's parents) and aunts and uncles on both sides are anxiously anticipating the arrival of another baby to love and spoil. Three cousins - Emma, Libby, and Maggie, are already looking forward to babysitting, showing your little one where Mimi and Papa "hide" all the candy, and teaching him or her where all the best sledding hills are. **And while everyone is so excited, probably no one is more excited than Grandpa Jack.** He already has gifts set aside - including a special piggy bank that's been in the family for years.

HOLIDAYS ARE VERY SPECIAL TO BOTH OF

OUR FAMILIES

Every year, we drive to South Bend, IN (just 90 miles away), the day before Christmas Eve. Annie's whole family gathers at Mimi and Papa's house. Christmas Eve is a big deal for Annie's family. We get dressed up to go to 5pm mass at the Basilica at Notre Dame for the most beautiful Christmas mass you could imagine. We then have a big home cooked meal that Mimi makes, open presents, and watch A Christmas Story. On Christmas day, we go back to Chicago and host Christmas at our place for Tom's family. Another big meal cooked by Tom and Annie and more gifts. It's a few days that are focused entirely on family. It seems to go by so quickly, but

we're so grateful to be able to spend the time with everyone important to us.



We get a real tree every Christmas!

Thank you so much
for reading our profile



and considering us!

We would love and appreciate the chance to answer any questions you may have. If our paths happen to align, we will meet you on your comfort level and hopefully get to know you a little bit as well. We will never be able to understand how difficult this decision must be for you, or really what you're going through in any way, but please know that we are keeping you in our thoughts as you go through this process.

To learn more, please visit ourchosenchild.com/annie-tom-adopt

