

Hello,

Our names are Brandi and Joe, and we are a couple that moved to Kaukauna in 2020. When we first met each other 17 years ago, we always talked about having a family together some day. After 10 years of marriage, many doctors visits, and a lot of heartache, we found out that we are unable to become pregnant; we have chosen to open our hearts up to adoption as the means to start our family.

The adoption process is quite lengthy, and extremely pricey. We recently had our home study approved, and are labeled as “fit to adopt”, but we still need to save up or come up with a large sum of money. The average totals that we have been told to expect to spend range between \$40,000-\$65,000, plus the expenses for traveling to and from Texas where our chosen agency is located. So far, we have saved up and with the help of many friends and family, we have somehow been able to come up with just under \$31,000 – we are so close and so excited! We have been told by our adoption agency that many times couples reach out to their communities for support in their adoption journeys, which we have not done up until our recent letter.

Recently, one of our family members offered to help us reach our goal by throwing us an “Adoption Potluck”, where we ask our friends and family to each bring a dish to pass, and pay a \$5 fee to “purchase” a plate. She would like to help us by also doing a 50/50 raffle, raffle off gift baskets, sell t—shirts, set up games “carnival style”, like balloon darts, and have a face painting area for children. Her inspiration has been other benefits that she has helped throw in the past for other friends and family. She instructed us to “find a location”, and she will do the rest. We even have a friend who offered to volunteer his services as a DJ for us for entertainment. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for our loved ones.

In light of COVID, we would prefer for us to do something of this magnitude outdoors, so we had chosen to reach out to Kaukauna Park and Rec. We were informed that something like that would probably be best at Riverside Park. I was informed that the park rental list had few remaining dates, and encouraged to reserve it right away; I reserved it for July 8th. I was also told that I would need to get approval from the Health and Rec Committee to be able to raise money for a personal need. I had submitted a letter at the end of February, and having not heard back yet, reached out to Jake at Park and Rec. He has been helpful in speeding along the process by directly communicating with us that we should revise our letter. We respectfully ask that the committee reconsider our request. We know our friends and family want to help, we have been waiting for so long to become parents, and we truly want to keep our loved ones safe by hosting it outdoors. We are happy to adjust our request for compliance reasons if need be in order to get approval, and ask if it is denied that we have an opportunity to adjust our request as needed. We have made the decision to not serve alcohol at this function to ensure it is a safe and family friendly event. We also have decided that this will be a private event that we will invite specific people to, not open to the public.

With the event date only 3 months away, we appreciate your prompt consideration, as well as a timely response. In the event that our request is denied, we would like to inquire if our fee for reserving the park could be refunded and our reservation be canceled, so that we can try to find a different location as soon as possible, without having to spend more of our savings.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Brandi and Joseph Bruley

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