

FATHER'S DAY

ALEX'S STORY



alpha center

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



Alpha Baby Oaklyn

This Father's Day, honor the special men in your life with a Father's Day card. Simply give a gift of \$150, \$100, \$50 or any amount in the enclosed remittance envelope. Fill in the name and address of each father you would like to honor, and we will send them a special Father's Day card. Your generous support allows Alpha Center to continue encouraging expecting fathers, like Alex, to lead and support their families.

For HIS Unborn,

Leslee Unruh, Founder

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Alex & Alexis

Alexis and I met while I was pursuing my social work degree and playing football at the University of Sioux Falls. It was after practice one day that I walked into her room and noticed she had been crying. She told me she was pregnant and immediately, I knew my life had changed. I began searching for help online and came across Alpha Center. We scheduled an appointment to go over information on all of our options: parenting, adoption and abortion. There was a lot to consider, and I felt responsible for helping Alexis make the right decision. My mom knew right away that something was up. After I told her that Alexis was pregnant, she asked me all the right, but hard, questions. By the time we came to Alpha Center for our ultrasound a few weeks later, we had come to the realization that we had made the choice that led to the

creation of this child and now we were going to choose to give her abundant life. But, oh boy, were we going to need a lot of help.

I stopped playing football so that I could concentrate full-time on finishing my college degree. I knew that an education was vital to getting a job that would help provide for my family. Each week, I went with Alexis to Alpha Center's *Life Skills Class* to get the education I knew was vital to becoming a good dad. One of the first things I learned from the classes was about how pregnancy was affecting Alexis, and it taught me to respect her in such a different way as the mother of my daughter. I also learned how to properly swaddle a baby, which proved beneficial after Oaklyn was born. It was comforting to look around class each week and see the other guys and just know that I wasn't alone in my feelings of insecurity. To this day, I still may not have all of the parenting tricks figured out, but I definitely have greater confidence knowing that I am being the best father I can be for Oaklyn.

There are times, though, when I've struggled. Since I had an absent father most of my childhood, words cannot even begin to describe how much I know that Oaklyn needs me in her life. And now that my father has passed away, I feel the added responsibility of loving her as I know he would have loved her as his granddaughter. Even in the hardest moments, I am grateful for Alexis reminding me that we have a God I can rely on for strength and love. Each day with Oaklyn in our lives is a tremendous blessing and it has been an exciting adventure. I love getting to teach her new words and things every day, and in turn, she gets to teach me how to be patient and have self-control. She has gotten to see Alexis and me graduate from college and will hopefully behave as the flower girl in our wedding this fall. Lord willing, she will get to see me graduate with my masters of social work and land a job helping people struggling with addictions. I want to be a person that others can come to for help, in the same way Alpha Center was there for support when we needed it.



Alex, Oaklyn & Alexis