

## Kramer meets birth family after 26 years

Written by Darci Tomky

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“Being adopted never defined me—it was just a part of me.”

26-year-old Katie Kramer grew up with great parents, a life she loves and a world that she wouldn't change for anything.

That's why meeting her birth mom, a brother she knew she had and siblings she had never heard of has been “a little weird” for Katie the last few months.

Katie and her husband Chad Kramer, who live in rural Holyoke, began thinking about starting a family of their own, raising questions in Katie's mind about medical history in her biological family.

Katie was adopted at birth in California by Mike and Patty Lewine, and although she always knew she was adopted, she had never met her birth mom or the older brother she had heard about.

She had questions about medical history only her biological family could answer. “You just have to do what's best for you,” Katie advised others who have been adopted. “You have to have real questions” before going in search of birth parents, she said.

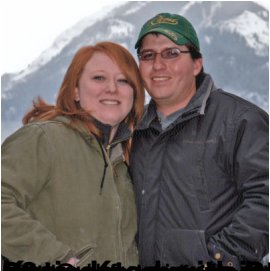
Earlier this year in late August/early September, Katie visited her parents for 10 days. Patty lives in Jackson, Calif., and Mike and Katie's stepmom Karen Hunt live in Napa, Calif.

They were supportive of Katie's desire to find her birth mom, and Patty began helping Katie look for her on the Internet, which Katie wasn't expecting.

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