



HEIDI & JOHN

Our Story



MEET OUR FAMILY

John + Heidi + Stella + Nadia + Matthew



hello
brave mama,

Thank you for taking the time to read through this book to get to know us! We are an adventurous family and look forward to sharing our family with another child. We can only imagine that this is a very difficult time you're walking through and we pray God will guide and comfort you.

We've been married for twelve years and have three biological children. We've also had three miscarriages and one daughter who passed away during birth due to a fatal birth defect. We were blessed to have the time God gave us with our daughter. Unfortunately, after her birth due to complications, Heidi had to undergo an emergent hysterectomy. Although we can no longer have more biological children, we still strongly desire to grow our family through adoption.

You will be in our prayers throughout this journey and we support you during this time, regardless of your decision.



We have enjoyed our twelve years of living our lives together and raising our family. From a very early age, Heidi has always wanted to adopt and care for children who needed a family. Coming from a large family, Heidi loved having siblings and wanted to give that to another child. Having the love and support of a family was so instrumental in forming Heidi into the person she is today. We also have a first-hand connection with adoption as John's mother was adopted. She was adopted from an orphanage in Italy by her adoptive parents here in the States. Her birth mother had died and her father couldn't take care of her and her sisters so they were placed in an orphanage. However, her adoptive parents were able to find her biological family in her teen years, and she reconnected with her siblings. We are blessed to have her in our lives because of adoption. Seeing the effects of an adoption and how it affected her early life has helped us see how important open adoption is. We both have friends and relatives who were adopted as well!

When we started this journey of adoption, our major goal was to open our family to welcome another child. Along the way we have learned more about open adoption and it has shown us how very positive and important it is for you as a birth mother and for our future child to have an ongoing relationship.



We believe it is an honor to be parents, especially adoptive parents, and we are committed to treating you and your child with great love and respect.

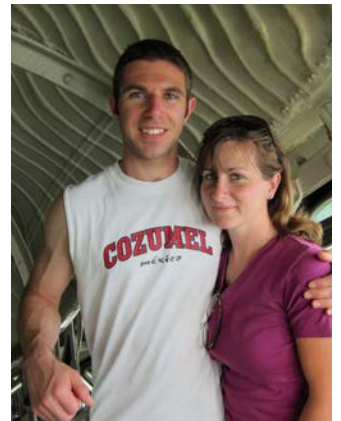
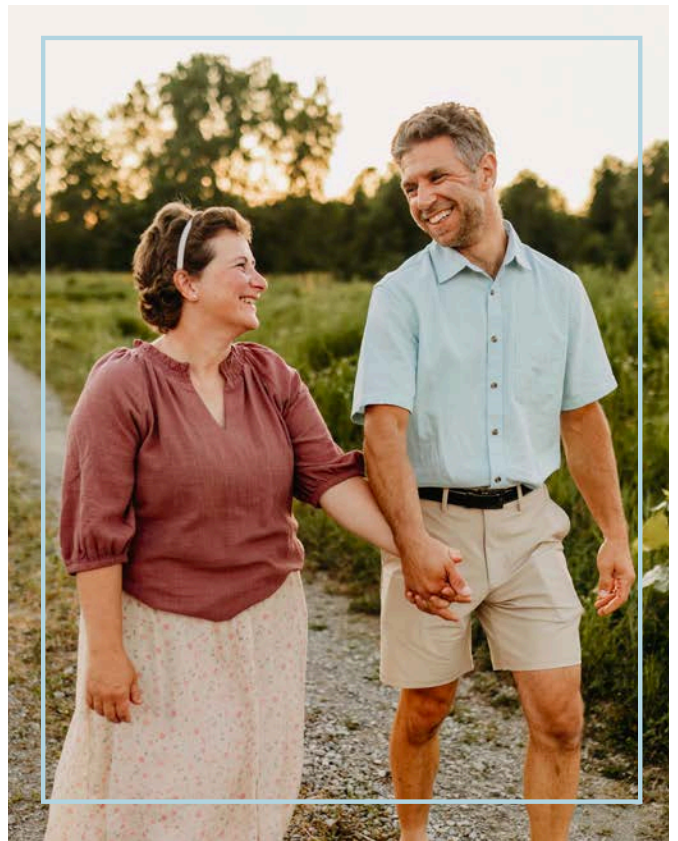
OUR *Love* STORY

WE MET ON A BLIND DATE!

We met through Heidi's sister who set us up on a blind date. At the time we didn't know each other, even though we were working at the same hospital and attending the same church! Our first date lasted several hours talking about our faith, family, and values. We found out we enjoyed each other's company and realized we both had a lot of hobbies in common. Despite our busy work schedules, we would find time to meet up at church, museums, or coffee shops to spend time together. We worked on projects together such as landscaping at John's house and repairing house projects while visiting our parents.

FALLING IN LOVE WAS EASY...

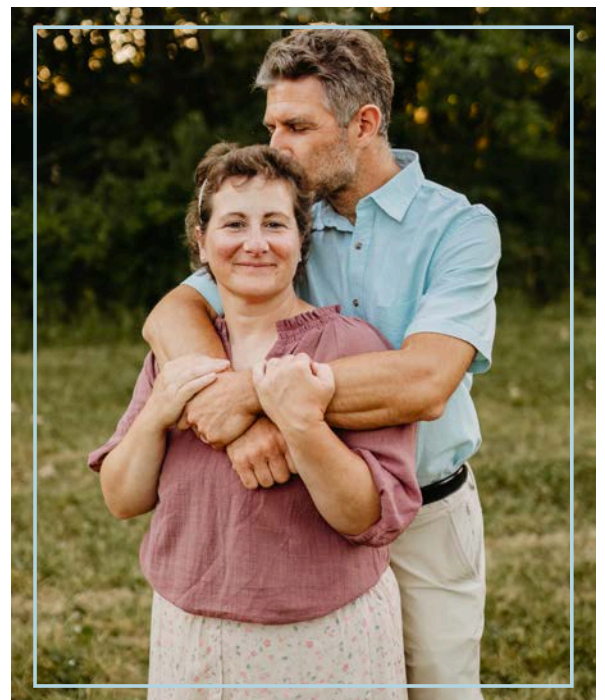
Over the next year we developed a relationship we knew we didn't want to end. John proposed while visiting San Xavier Mission in Arizona and we were married six months later at the church we both attended. It was a perfect, sunny day, with a beautiful ceremony, and concluded with John taking Heidi away in his Mustang. Over the next week, we spent our honeymoon in Boston visiting sites and having fun doing what we love to do together most: visiting museums and historical sites!





12 YEARS LATER & WE'RE STILL GOING STRONG

We have been through so much together: moving to different states, working new jobs, and even losing a child. Through it all, we have supported and comforted each other through challenges and difficulties and grown closer and stronger as a couple. We work well together: we value communication, work to listen to each other, and seek each other's thoughts and advice on issues. We always try to be caring and thoughtful towards each other doing simple things like leaving little "I love you" post-it notes to each other and helping the other with chores around the house. One of the ways we like to spend time together is by enjoying time together even a simple walk or bike riding to a date night. We love working on different projects in our workshop together. We enjoy building things together and during our time it gives us a chance to work together as a team.



meet

JOHN



John is an amazing and caring husband and father. One of the first things that attracted me to him was his thoughtfulness and care for others. He will come home after a busy day and is always willing to help with dishes or laundry. One of the many things I love about him is that he takes his faith seriously. He will pray with us as a family but will also take time to pray on his own. He is very ambitious and will try his best at whatever he has set before him.

Although he has a demanding job as a physician, he always prioritizes time with our family. He loves to take the kids to the library, on bike rides, or play on our swing set that he built for them. He also takes each of our kids on special one-to-one times with Daddy. Whether it's going roller skating or library time or taking them to their favorite restaurant, he always makes sure to think of a special place or activity specifically for that child to spend time with them individually. John knows his role as a parent and father is very important. He will read parenting books and is always willing to help with homework and takes time to teach the kids new things. He loves reading them bedtime stories and having tea parties with our girls. His favorite time of the day is coming home from work and being greeted by our children who run to the door to see daddy. Despite his many accomplishments he always says his greatest accomplishment is being a dad.



meet

HEIDI



One of the first things that attracted me to Heidi was her unending kindness and care for others. Our second date was on my birthday, and she invited me out to dinner. Despite us only having just met, she remembered that I like aircraft, and surprised me with a book for a gift. It meant a lot to me that she listened enough to be able to find such a personalized gift for me. I also appreciate her determination. She likes to do woodworking and also repair and fix things herself. She is also very determined to care for and protect her children and family. In a world where many others are self-centered, Heidi truly has a heart for her family.

Heidi always puts our children first before her own needs. I can't think of a time when she wasn't looking out for them over herself. She does this in many ways, ranging from activities that she plans weekly to homeschooling even when she's not feeling well. On off times, she is constantly making time to create projects for them, teaching them to cook, draw, and build things. We often play games and she is always finding some way to keep the children active. This extends not only to our children but also to our many nieces and nephews; she treats them as if they were her own. There is not a child out there that she would not immediately take care of or do the same with. As for adopting, I know that her main goal is to be able to give another child the same upbringing and caring, loving environment that she provides for our current children.



meet our kids



STELLA

Stella is our ten-year-old loving and artistic daughter. Her favorite activities are drawing, painting, and reading. While trying to find an easier way for her brother to learn to read, she made him an illustrated book, complete with simple sentences to assist him. If we can't find her around the house, we know to look for a chair with her and a book curled up in it. The passion she shares with her siblings is to care for her chickens and ducks.

Nadia is our nine-year-old daughter and the younger sister that happens to be taller! She is extremely loving and caring. She is fascinated by science and animals and never misses a chance to see a spider, snake, or shark. Taking care of her chickens is just as important to her as taking care of her dolls. If there is ever any scrap material around, Nadia will find a way to build it into something to play with.



NADIA



MATTHEW

The youngest, our five-year-old, Matthew, is our funny little boy. He spends his days setting up his toy soldiers and tanks, making sure the "good guys" beat the "bad guys." One of his true joys is playing games such as Connect Four, Sorry, and Nok-Hockey. He loves to be outside, riding his bike, and playing in his sandbox. Most of all, he wants to do all of this every day with his sisters and parents, whom he loves dearly.





MORE ABOUT HEIDI

MY GREATEST WISH FOR MY CHILDREN IS THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS FEEL LOVED AND KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE.

I am blessed to be a stay-at-home mom. Before I had our eldest, I worked as a pediatric nurse. Although I enjoyed nursing, John and I decided it was important for me to be home, raising our children. I love being able to be home spending time with our children, teaching them, and being available for all their physical and emotional needs.

In my free time, I enjoy gardening, especially teaching my children about plants and watching their excitement as the plants grow. I like to sew and I enjoy making blankets for each of our kids. One of my many hobbies is restoring wooden furniture. Now as a mom, my favorite part about my hobbies is including my children in them.

I am very excited about adding to our family. I can't wait to share our family with another child. I love being a mom and I can't wait to have another child to love and to share life with.



MORE ABOUT JOHN

I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING A FATHER YET AGAIN! I TAKE SO MUCH JOY IN LOVING AND RAISING MY CHILDREN.

I work as a physician and I'm trained as an anesthesiologist. Some of the most satisfying aspects of my profession are being able to get patients through surgery and caring for them completely from start to finish. Most importantly, I specifically took a job that allowed me a flexible schedule to be able to put my family first and I'm home every night with my family.

I have a wide range of hobbies and interests, including the repair of old computers, carpentry, reading about WWII, model building, and currently the restoration of a classic car. Whenever possible, I try to involve the children in my hobbies. Many times, Heidi and I work on projects together around the house. We just finished building an outpost/fort that will serve as the launching point of our zip line! We also enjoy history and like to take the children with us to visit museums and other historical sites.



OUR TIME AS A FAMILY

As a family, we enjoy our Friday night games or movie nights. Our children love picking out a board game or a movie and John uses his movie theater popcorn maker as a snack! During the Summer months, we enjoy outside movies on the projector. Our kids enjoy being outside and playing in our large yard. We also love making frequent trips to the zoo. In the evenings in the warmer months, we do lots of biking and walks. We enjoy reading stories before bedtime and especially on rainy days we enjoy time doing projects and reading. Our kids love Legos, and they have come up with many



amazing creations. Our family has vacationed on the beach and we look forward to many more trips to see museums and parks.

We have a rescue dog Sally, who is a seven-year-old black lab and retriever mix. She has been a wonderful family dog. We had gotten her as a puppy and she loves to be around us all the time. She loves everyone including the UPS and delivery people! We also have chickens and ducks that the children help raise. The kids have named all 30 of them and love to care for them.

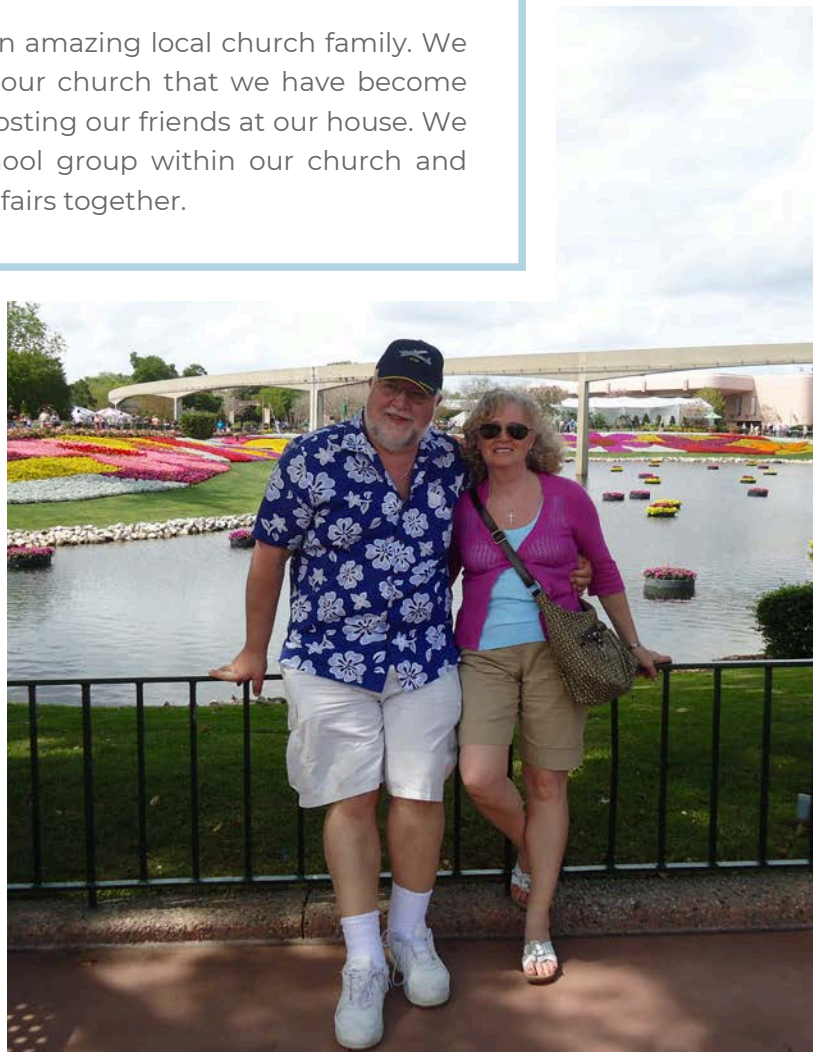
**We LOVE
being a family!**



OUR FAMILY

Our extended family is excited to see us add a child to our family through adoption. They are praying for us and our adoptive child throughout this journey.

We also are very blessed to have an amazing local church family. We have many young families within our church that we have become very close friends with. We enjoy hosting our friends at our house. We are also involved with a homeschool group within our church and often attend field trips and science fairs together.





JOHN'S FAMILY

John has a small family: his parents, Doretta and Robert, and his brother David. He also has many extended family in Italy! When we visit with our family, it's always a wonderful time. Although we live far away, we make it a priority to visit each other several times a year and connect via FaceTime several times a week. Our children are always excited to make the road trip and they like to bring little gifts for their cousins.



HEIDI'S FAMILY

Heidi has eight siblings with 29 nieces and nephews! Our children are very close with their cousins. Although we live in different states, we do visit several times a year and the cousins often write to each other.

OUR VALUES

Our Christian faith is central to our family. We attend church together and are blessed with a church community to support each member of our family and the faith we want to share with our children.

Time Together

We value spending time together: whether it's playing outside, reading books, or building puzzles or Legos.

love & kindness

We strive to treat each other and those around us with love, kindness, and fairness.





helping others

Our entire family always helps each other out, from cleaning the kitchen table to yard work; everyone pitches in!



honesty

We teach our children how important it is to be honest with each other and with us. We reassure them that no matter what they did we will not be upset with them if they come to us and tell us the truth. We never want them to be afraid or upset with telling us the truth.

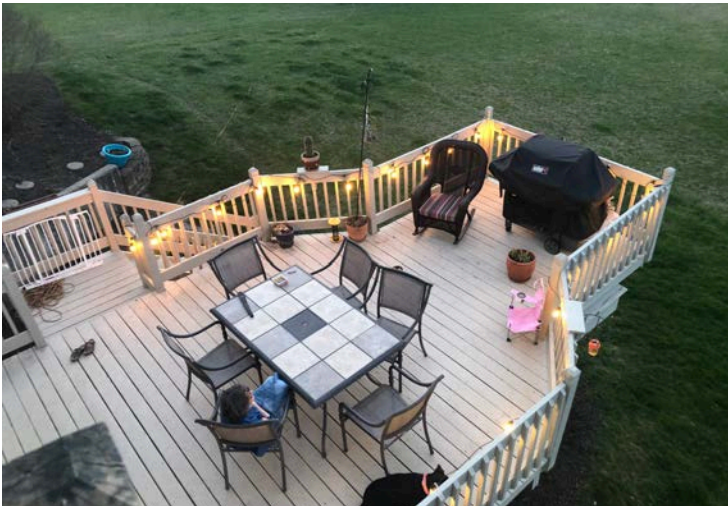


gratitude

We try to instill in ourselves as well as our children to be thankful for all that we have been given from God. We try to show appreciation to our family members and share that with our children.



HOME
sweet Midwestern
HOME



We live in a newer colonial-style house with five bedrooms and five bathrooms. We have a full basement that serves as our family hang-out area with a pinball machine and old computers along with a TV where we watch family movies. Our favorite part about our home that we all love is our large yard. The kids have over six acres of area to run and play in. Our property is bordered by other homes and also by working farms. Many of our neighbors also keep animals, including one with an entire flock of peacocks!

Our home is not only where our family resides, but where we live our lives, teach the children, and pursue our interests and hobbies. Outside Heidi has a large garden, and the children have their chickens and other animals. Our workshop in the backyard is where we work on our woodworking projects, and where John is in the process of restoring a classic car. We have much room to grow our family, in both space and love!

Our town in Indiana is one of those Midwestern, quaint, rural towns just outside of a larger city. Every year, there are numerous festivals, farmers markets, car shows, and other family activities that we attend. Small stores, an ice cream shop, and even a homemade pie shop are all part of the charm. Although we live in the country, we are only minutes away from the city. Our city has a wonderful library, zoo, science museum, and botanical garden. We have a membership to the local YMCA and our children enjoy using the indoor and outdoor pools throughout the year. They will continue their swim lessons there and Matthew has expressed his desire to learn karate so he will be taking lessons on that as well. Living close to a large city also gives us the opportunity of exposure to many different diversities. In our city every year we have German, Indian, Mexican, and Greek festivals. Our children love to experience different cultures and ethnic food. It's a great place to raise a family!

EDUCATION



For now, we have chosen to homeschool our kids. We want to ensure our kids have a good foundation with an individualized education for each of them. We believe knowledge and education is never wasted and we would love our kids to go to college. That being said, pursuing something that they have a true interest and talent in is important. If that takes the form of skills outside of a strict college degree, such as a trade, we support them wholeheartedly. We love the benefit of also being a part of a homeschool group where our kids get plenty of time with other kids their age and make sure to take advantage of classes that support their interests at the local YMCA.

PARENTING

As parents, we believe that children are precious gifts from God and they are here for us to guide with love and support so that they will grow to be healthy, both physically and mentally. We teach them values and morals according to our Christian beliefs. We love being parents because our children bring such joy to our lives. We enjoy spending time with them and sharing our lives with them. They make us want to be better individuals. We want to be good examples and role models for them.

Our philosophy for parenting is that we want our children to feel loved and know they are in a stable environment. We want to provide structure, love, compassion, and understanding that each child is a unique individual. We believe in positive reinforcement and encouragement.



OUR FUTURE



We love our community and the home we're raising our children in! We plan to stay here for a long time - perhaps our kids will even want to live close, have a home on an adjacent property, or even raise their family in the home they grew up in! We're also eager to travel more as a family together so our kids can see as much of the world as possible: from taking road trips for car shows, to farther excursions to Europe and other historical sites.

We want to support you through this and let you know
how much God loves you.





THANK YOU

Thank you so much for taking the time to get to know our family! We look forward to sharing our love and our family with another child and are excited to add another child to our home.

We can only imagine this is a very difficult time for you, but we promise you that we will love this child and strive to be the best parents we can be if you choose us. We will also always let them know how much you love them and tell them how incredibly brave you are for making this decision. We promise to include you in their lives to the degree that you wish.

We will continue to pray for you during this time as well as in the future in our daily prayers. We feel honored and appreciate you for considering us to parent your child.

*John, Heidi,
Stella, Nadia and Matthew*



our promises to you

WE PROMISE TO SURROUND YOUR CHILD WITH THE
LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OUR FAMILY.

WE PROMISE TO RAISE THEM IN GOD'S LOVE AND
TEACH THEM ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

WE PROMISE TO SUPPORT AND GIVE THEM THE TOOLS
THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN WHATEVER THEY DO.

WE PROMISE TO ENSURE THEY HAVE A GOOD
EDUCATION TO ENRICH THEIR LIFE IN WHATEVER THEY
CHOOSE TO DO.

WE PROMISE TO MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD KNOWS HOW
VERY MUCH YOU LOVE THEM AND WILL ALWAYS
SUPPORT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.

