

# STEVE & HALEY



*Our family story*



# ALL OF THIS BEGINS WITH YOU...

We can only imagine the courage it took for you to sit down with this book today, considering adoption for your baby. While we are so excited to welcome a child with love into our family, we recognize this is an extraordinarily hard walk for you. Thank you for the courage and love it took to get this far. We are here to support you and walk with you for as long as you choose, starting now and for years into the future.

Adoption is already part of our family story: Haley's mother was adopted as an infant and raised with two other adopted siblings. This means we've talked about the possibility of adopting since before we were even married. We are blessed with two beautiful children, Andrew and Clare, but complications during delivery make having more children dangerous for Haley. We feel called back to adoption, and we are so grateful that you are considering our family for your child.

We are an energetic bunch! Andrew and Clare love babies and are super excited to welcome a little brother or sister into our family. We can promise if you choose our family, your child will be cherished and encouraged to grow into the best version of themselves.



WE HOPE THIS PROFILE GIVES YOU A GLIMPSE  
INTO THE LIFE WE COULD OFFER — A JOYFUL  
HOME FILLED WITH UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.



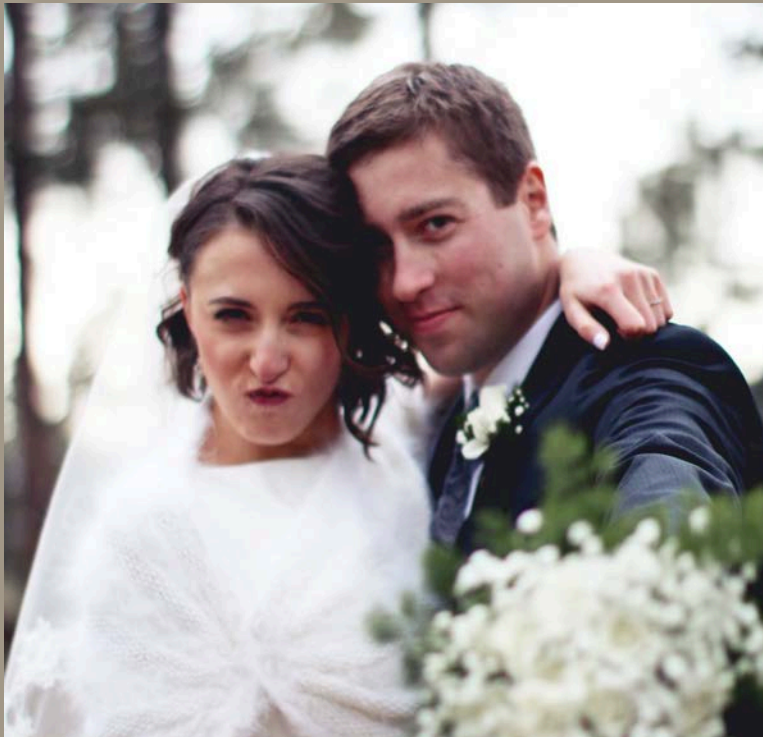
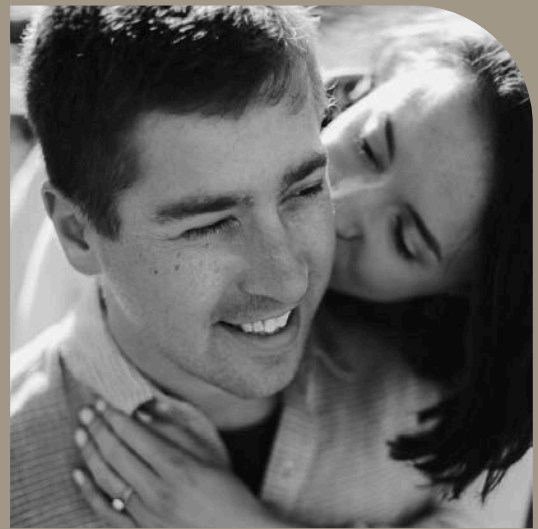
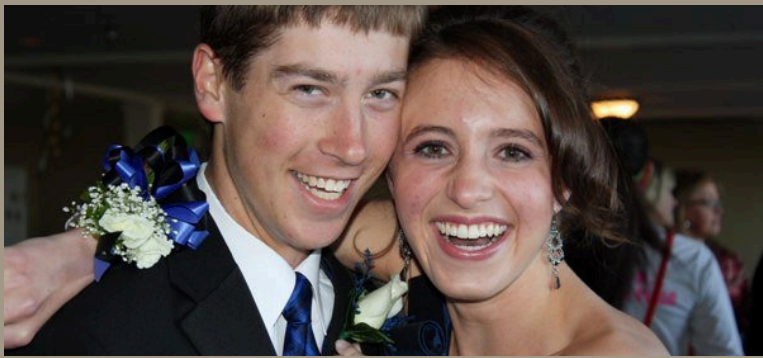
# OUR LOVE STORY



We met in high school! Steve first noticed Haley as the cute girl singing at church. Our “friendship” (Haley thought he was a friend; Steve knew better) took a turn for the romantic when Steve asked Haley out to the junior prom using green sparkly roses. Haley was pleasantly surprised that he was a great dancer and a fun date, so they kept going out. We saw bad movies, Steve taught Haley a LOT about football and the Green Bay Packers, and we narrowly avoided breaking the local midnight curfew when hanging out at each other’s houses until 11:57 pm. We dated for two years before going our separate ways in college when Steve went to Texas while Haley stayed in Colorado. Four years later, Steve texted Haley’s sister to ask if she was single. Not long after, he flew to Colorado from Minnesota, where he was living at the time, to take Haley on a date. The rest, as they say, is history. It didn’t take long after that for us to fall in love (again) and begin our future together.



Our marriage  
is centered on  
knowing we  
are on the  
same team



We've been married now for six years. We prioritize communication, having fun together, and parenting in ways that work for us. Even when we disagree, we work hard to remember that we are both working towards the same goals as a family. A married couple who are on the same team, we've been told by a wise advisor, is a force to be reckoned with. As silly as this sounded to Haley before we were married, we also have a habit of "family meetings." Most weeks, we sit down and talk about the week, things we're struggling with, things we're grateful for, and our needs. This has really helped us to grow in our communication and deepen our relationship. We're both very supportive of

each other's professional and personal goals. Since we both work from home, we are around each other a lot, which we love!

When we get the chance to be on our own, we have fun together no matter what we're doing. Steve has a special love for sports, and Haley loves the outdoors, so we do our best to mix it up and do both. One of our favorite dates last year was a pajama dodgeball tournament - we enjoy all sorts of random things, as long as we're together! We have gone to exactly one movie in theaters a year for the last three years, which has become a fun tradition.

# MY HUSBAND, STEVE

*easy going*

*dedicated*

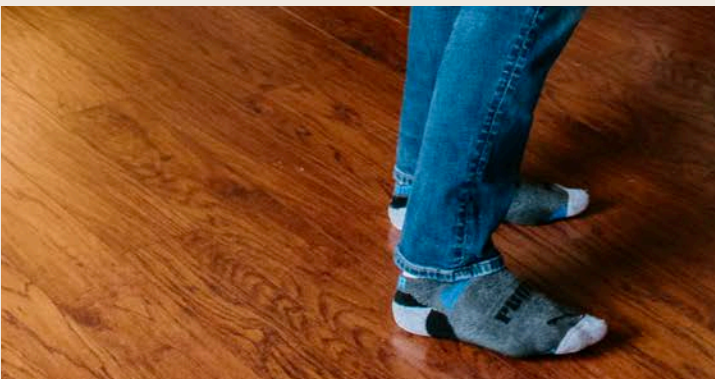
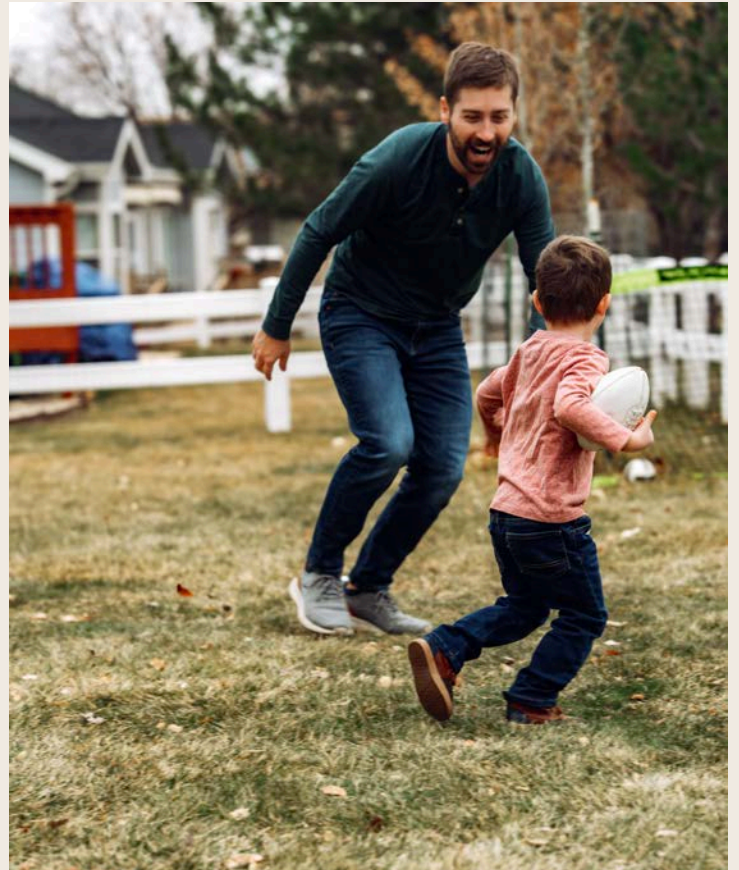
*fun*



One of the best parts of being married to Steve has been watching him as a dad. I've known for a very long time that he would be a good one, and it's one of the reasons I married him! He has always talked about wanting to be a dad, especially through adoption - something I took for granted until we learned more about how some people have a hard time with the idea of adopting. Steve has a huge, welcoming heart, but he is also a man of conviction. He believes strongly that caring for our family is his most important role in life, and he lives that every day. As a husband, Steve is my biggest supporter, my safe place, and a source of steadiness when I need it. He has taught me so much about how to take things as they come, how to slow down and relax, and how to take things less seriously. It's cliché but true: he is my best friend!

As a dad, Steve loves to play with our kids and is very attentive to them throughout the day. Steve is the "master egg-maker" for breakfast and is Drew's favorite person to buckle him into his car seat. He's especially patient with them when they're misbehaving or just being a little bit ridiculous! And not just with our kids, but with our friends' kids, too - they are big fans of "Mr. Steve". Drew and Clare love to "help" their dad with chores like raking leaves (and jumping into the piles), shoveling snow, putting up Christmas lights, and fixing toys. Steve only raises his voice if he's cheering for his favorite sports team. He is a very thoughtful father and a great teammate in raising our kids. We make decisions about our family, from what activities to do, spending time with extended family, and big life changes, together. Steve will be a great father to every child in our family and is so excited to grow our family through adoption. To him, each child is unique and loved, no matter how they come into our family.





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My greatest prayer or wish for my children is that they grow up to love God, to love their neighbor, and to become parents themselves.

# MY WIFE, HALEY

*energetic*

*thoughtful*

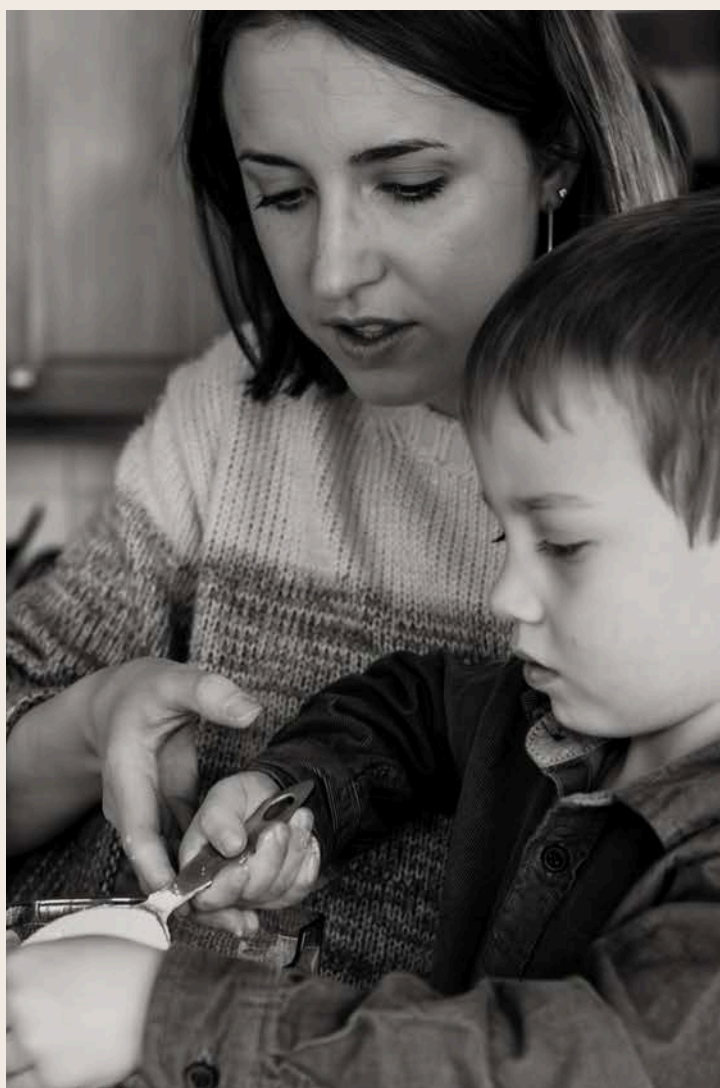
*adventurous*



Haley is a very strong woman! Her experience as a kidney transplant patient molded her in a unique way. Her emotional and mental strength make her special and manifest in all aspects of her life. She is brilliant at her job and brings a high standard to everything she does, both with work and our family. She is extraordinarily caring at the same time, tending to our family in such a beautiful way. She works hard to keep us organized, feeds us with her amazing cooking, and makes sure we are prepared for day-to-day life. She has a deep faith that underpins her approach to life – and it makes me a better man and our family better people. But my favorite trait of my wife is her sense of humor. We love to laugh together and we try not to take ourselves too seriously. We get a lot of joy out of small jokes that we share.

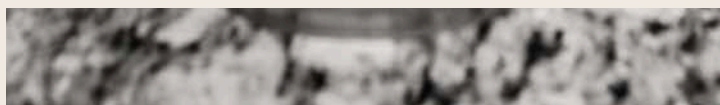
Haley is a wonderful mom to Drew and Clare. She comes up with fun activities, matches their energy, plays all sorts of fun games with them, and cooks delicious food! She loves to get on the floor and play with them, whether that's building forts or playing pretend games of sharks and dinosaurs! Adoption will be a new mothering experience for her, which I think she will thoroughly enjoy. My mother once said that children multiply love; they do not divide it. And I think that is what Haley is most looking forward to – the love that compounds with a new baby. Haley will love this child with all of her heart! She will also be supported and moved greatly by the love the rest of our family will share with this new baby, too.





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My greatest accomplishment is something I can't really take credit for, which is having an amazing family, both the one I've built with Steve and the one I was born into.





# MORE ABOUT HALEY

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I work as a director at a non-profit that helps people with kidney disease. I'm passionate about my job and how my work helps others who are going through health challenges as I have. I also love that my job is fully remote and very flexible. I am planning to take several months off with our adopted child, just like I did with my two biological children. That time is so precious, and I don't want to miss it! When I do go back to work, we have a great daycare for our other two children that will welcome a new sibling with open arms. They are caring, diligent, and just a few minutes from our house.

My favorite activities are eating and being outside - bonus points for doing so at the same time. I cook and bake a lot for my family since I love eating good food, from baking our bread from scratch to homemade chicken and dumplings to a quick chili in the slow cooker. Once fed, I love to hike, camp, ski, and even run if it's a beautiful Colorado day. Moving my body and getting exercise makes me feel good, physically and mentally, so it's something I try to prioritize and do with my kids so they feel good, too! I also love music, including singing and playing instruments, so as all our kids grow, I'm looking forward to sharing that with them.



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My greatest prayer for my children is that they pursue God's will for them and get to heaven. Their joy and happiness in that pursuit is what I hope for!

# MORE ABOUT STEVE

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I like to have fun and am willing to jump in on any adventure. I am a very positive person who finds the good things in most situations.



I work as a business director for a healthcare services company. I am passionate about helping people, especially older folks, get good healthcare. My dad was a doctor, so I grew up wandering the back halls of an office that served older patients. I got to meet and know many of them which is the source of my passion for healthcare. My job is corporate in nature, and I work from home. I love this as I get to spend more time with my kids than I ever imagined. I love picking them up from daycare, playing at the park, going to after-school activities like soccer and swimming lessons, and eating dinner together. I get ample time off for vacations and other important events like the birth of our kids and the adoption of a baby into our family.

My favorite thing is watching our kids have fun! They take up most of our time, and I love it. I am a big sports fan and enjoy sharing the love of my favorite football, soccer, and college teams with Drew and Clare. I also like to get outside, whether it's for a round of golf or hiking with the family. I am a big history and law nerd, so I enjoy listening to podcasts and learning in depth about various nerdy topics I find interesting.



# OUR CHILDREN

*Andrew*

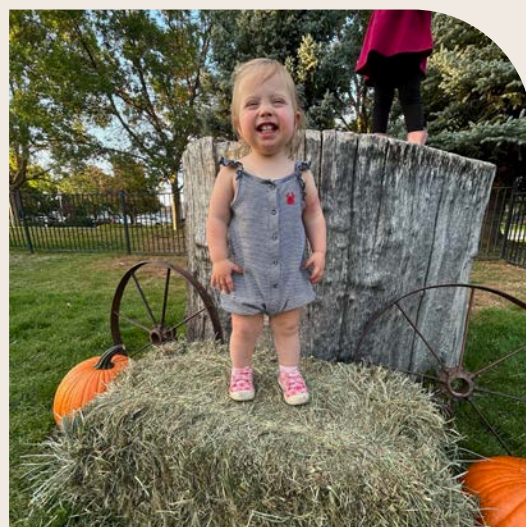


Our son Andrew, also called Drew, is four. He is full of energy! He loves to play football and soccer, ride his bike, play with friends and his little sister, and ask “why.” Andrew loves to help, especially with baking, emptying the dishwasher, and taking the trash cans down the driveway. Drew is in preschool, and he is just learning how to trace his name. Drew is excited about having another baby in the family, and we’re so proud of how great of a big brother he is. We can’t wait to see him care for another sibling.

*Clare*



Clare is almost two. She is spunky, smiley, and a little bit dramatic. Our “Clare Bear” loves her big brother and tries to do everything he does. Drew looks out for her and tries his best to be patient with her! Clare’s next favorite thing after Drew is her baby doll. Babydoll is very loved - she gets a lot of big hugs, and Clare has been teaching her how to turn the lights off at bedtime, telling her “good job” every time. We’re excited for her to be a big sister, and think she will be, too.



Our parenting style is focused on helping our kids be independent and learn for themselves. We are here to love and support them by creating boundaries that they can explore. For us, this can look like letting Drew try the monkey bars by himself, bike around the park, and be patient while he zips his own jacket. Clare picks her own silly outfits for school and goes down the slides that are “too big” for her. We’ve found that our kids surprise us, and sometimes themselves, with what they’re capable of. We hope our kids will be curious, respectful, loving, and also know how to have fun! Watching our kids discover the world and sharing those experiences has been amazing. Their firsts - trips to the zoo, watching Frozen, and trick-or-treating - have been joyful for them and for us. Seeing our kids with their grandparents is one of our favorite things, and we know any child that joins our family will be cherished just the same.



*family time*



## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Some of our favorite family activities are making waffles on Saturdays, watching sports on the weekends in the fall, and going hiking and camping in the summer. We have a big hill to hike up in our neighborhood, which is so cool and a great place to watch golfers on the nearby course where Steve likes to play sometimes. Drew is learning to swim at the community center in our town, and Clare loves to splash and play! We also like to go to the outdoor pool in the summer with a big water slide.

At home, we play catch in the backyard, dig in the rocks, and read lots and lots of books. Before bed in the summer, we like to sit on our front steps and wave to our neighbors. There are lots of dogs in our family, but not in our home - which as parents, we think is a pretty great set-up. Haley's parents, brother, and sister all have dogs that Clare and Drew have tons of fun with. The newest arrival is a young yellow lab puppy, who we met at Thanksgiving and were so impressed at how sweet and gentle she was with the kids!





Some of our favorite places to go are to Grandma and Grandpa's house in the mountains and to Wisconsin. Haley's parents and their dog, Gus, live in the beautiful mountain town where we grew up and met. Being so close by means we get to visit for weekends all year round! Haley's sister and her husband also just moved there, so we're excited to have so many loved ones in one place. Our other favorite place to visit is Wisconsin. Visiting Steve's family near Green Bay, visiting Lambeau Field, having breakfast

with Steve's story-loving grandfather, and going to the local zoo are highlights for our family. Haley's family is further north, and we stay in a small cottage across from Haley's grandma's home on a bay. We find bugs on the lane, go for canoe and kayak rides, play at the beach, and eat a LOT of ice cream and cherry pie. Each of us grew up going to Wisconsin every year, so going there with our kids and getting to spend time in both of our special places is such a huge gift that we're looking forward to continuing to share with our kids for years to come.

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## OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

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### *Haley's family*



Haley's family includes her parents, Bob and Kristine; her sister, Marie, and her husband, Tom; her brother Jimmy, and his fiancée, Anna; and her brother, Ben. Haley's family all live within two hours of our home. We see her family frequently, about once a month or so, for gatherings, parties, and just spending time at Haley's parents' home in the mountains. Haley's siblings all get along easily and enjoy being together as a family. They are very big planners. Steve's favorite thing about Haley's family is that they are consistent, extremely supportive of each other and of us, and they embrace people into their family as their own without reservation.



Even though our families are different, they are all very supportive and excited about welcoming another child to the family through adoption.

## *Steve's family*



Steve's family includes his parents, Jeff and Celia; his brothers, Danny and Joey; and his sister, Jenny; as well as Danny's son Krew. Steve's family are all farther away. His parents, Danny, and Krew, all live in Arizona. Jenny lives in Wisconsin, and Joey lives in Virginia. Steve's family is much more spontaneous and less likely to make big plans well in advance. Haley's favorite thing about Steve's family is that they are super loving with babies and children and never phased when kids are being kids - they love the chaos. Haley thinks she hit the jackpot with her mother-in-law, too!





## OUR HOME & COMMUNITY

We might be biased, but we think our home is beautiful and perfect for us. We have four bedrooms upstairs, where our whole family sleeps. Our main floor has a front room with a dining table, a kitchen, and a family room in the back that all flow together. We spend most of our time together on the main floor and eat almost all our meals here. Our backyard is right outside the kitchen! We have a big patio, a grill, and enough room to run and play catch. We have two baby aspen trees in one corner and two big leafy trees in the other where the kids like to pile rocks and dig holes. In the winter, Drew likes to shovel the patio and build snowmen out front for the neighbors to see. In the summer, it's very hot and sunny, which is perfect for the splash pad that Steve hooks up to the hose! Steve grills chicken, burgers, and amazing salmon on the grill that we use all the time. Ending a summer day sitting on the front steps waving to our neighbors is one of Haley's favorite things.



*we love Colorado!*

We live in a medium-sized town in Colorado that is nestled up close to the mountains. Our community has a lot of fun festivals and events downtown, including our favorite coffee shop that has homemade donuts. There are bike paths, parks, and a great community center. We live down the street from a park with swings, slides, and a basketball court.

We're lucky to have an excellent charter school just a few miles away where we plan to send our kids. There are a lot of schooling options here, so if one school isn't the right fit for our family or our kids, we can make a change. For ongoing education, we'd happily support our children if they decide to go to college, but we also believe that's not the path for everyone. We have family members who have pursued all kinds of different careers - firefighter, EMT, military, entrepreneur, scientist, lawyer, and even a professional pickleball player! Education is very important to us, but what our children choose to pursue can look a lot of different ways. We want to raise children who proudly and confidently stand on their own, but always know we'll be there for them, too.



## OUR FAMILY VALUES

Our marriage mission statement is to “guide each other and our family toward God by keeping faith at our core, having fun with each other, and practicing unconditional love and forgiveness.”

Our family pillars describe not just what we care about, but how we treat ourselves and others.

- 1 We respect all people’s inherent worth and dignity and always will their good
- 2 We do our best
- 3 We practice our faith and live it out every day
- 4 We respect and care for our bodies and minds
- 5 We are generous in spirit (assume others are doing their best) and with our time, talent, and treasure
- 6 We are open to new adventures and ways to find fun in whatever we do





## OUR FAITH

Our children will all be raised in our Christian faith, not just on Sundays, but in how we live every day. We go to mass every week and have loved making friends with other families at our parish. Our kids run and play after mass together, and we also have Bible studies, birthday parties, and outings with our church friends to build life-long relationships. We pray together at meals and bedtime, thanking God for things that happened during the day and praying for people in need. We speak a lot about how each one of us is loved and made by God for a purpose. We pray that all of our children, no matter how they came to our family, will know deeply that God loves them. We already get a lot of questions from Drew about why he was born, why he's older than his sister, etc., and we always tell him that it's because God knew that he was exactly what the world needed right then. We know that every child, and adult, is the same - beloved and created for this world at exactly the right time in exactly the right way.





# THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about our family. We know this book can only share a small piece of who we are, but we hope it gives you a sense of the love, care, and nurturing environment we would provide for your child - and that you are welcome, too.

If given the opportunity, we look forward to raising this child with the knowledge of where they come from. Your role in their story is so important, and we are committed to honoring that story and ensuring they know they became a part of our family from a place of deep love. We would love for you to remain a part of our lives if that is something you desire.

Above all, we support you in making the best decision for your child, whether that means choosing us or another loving family. We are grateful for the time you've spent getting to know us, and we are humbled by your strength and love in this process.





“And now these three remain:  
faith, hope, and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.”

— 1 Corinthians 13:13