

# Todd and Teresa











# Hello Dear One



We want you to know just how deeply you are loved and appreciated. While we may not fully grasp the emotions you're feeling right now, please know that we're here to walk beside you, pray for you, and admire the strength and courage you're showing in this moment.

This journey is uniquely yours, and every emotion you feel is valid. As you consider the road ahead, we hope you'll feel supported and encouraged every step of the way.

Adoption has been a part of our hearts for many years, and we've been so blessed to grow our family through it. Our son, Dutton, came into our lives through adoption, and he has been the greatest gift we could ever imagine. Now, we feel called to open our hearts once again and grow our family in this special way.

We're truly honored that you've taken time to read a little about us. Our hope is that you feel seen, valued, and uplifted as you make the choices that are best for you and your baby. No matter what, we pray for peace and clarity as you move forward, trusting that your story will unfold in the way that's right for you. Thank you for considering us as a part of that story.

We're praying for you both.

*Todd and Teresa*



# *Falling in love was simple*



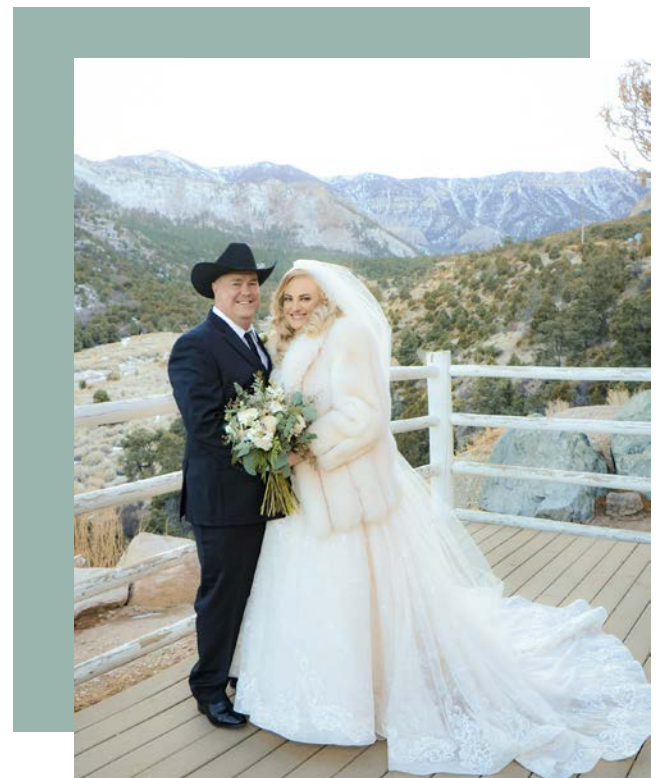
We owe our love story to a mutual friend turned matchmaker with an incredible knack for pairing people perfectly. I had taught 3rd grade alongside a woman who happened to be Todd's cousin's mother-in-law. She was convinced we'd be a great match and wasted no time playing Cupid.

Before we knew it, the wheels were in motion.

Our connection began simply, with conversations that quickly grew deeper as we got to know one another. It wasn't long before we decided to meet in person. Our first date was dinner, and it couldn't have gone better. We talked and laughed for hours, eventually closing the restaurant down!

For our second date, Todd proved to be the true gentleman he is. He showed up at my door with flowers and whisked me away to a cozy Italian restaurant for another unforgettable evening. From that point on, we were practically inseparable.

After a year of dating, Todd planned a romantic evening and proposed over an elegant steak dinner. Without hesitation, I said yes! Just three months later, we tied the knot—because when you know, you know. Now, four years into our marriage, we couldn't be happier and feel so grateful for the life we've built together.





Our relationship is rooted in love, trust, and faith, with God at the very center of our marriage. We live by the principles of the 5 Love Languages, striving daily to serve and support one another. As best friends, we feel incredibly blessed to share a life filled with joy and unwavering devotion.

Becoming a parent through adoption has been one of the greatest blessings of our lives. Our son has brought immeasurable love and joy into our hearts and home. Family means everything to us, and adoption has been a beautiful part of our journey.





*Teresa*





I grew up in the Midwest as the oldest of three sisters. My parents, who've been married for 46 years, taught me the importance of kindness, faith, family, and hard work. My dad ran an appliance business before becoming a finance director at a care facility, and my mom was a dedicated nurse. They have always been my biggest role models.

I've been married to my best friend Todd for 4 years. Together, we enjoy spending time with Dutton, our two dogs, family and friends, trying new restaurants, hiking, traveling, and relaxing at home.

Music has always been a big part of my life. I played the piano, flute, and percussion and love to sing. In college, I was honored to sing in a prestigious choir, and now share my talent by singing in her church choir. I also love karaoke and never misses a chance to belt out my favorite songs.

I earned two master's degrees in education and spent years teaching 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. I've also worked as a literacy coach, helping struggling readers learn how to read, and as an instructional coach, where I mentored and trained teachers to improve their classroom instruction.

Recently, I decided to step away from my teaching career to focus on my most important role yet—being a stay-at-home mom to Dutton. I'm incredibly grateful for the path that brought me here and feel so blessed to be Dutton's mom. I am all about balancing hard work with the things that bring me joy.

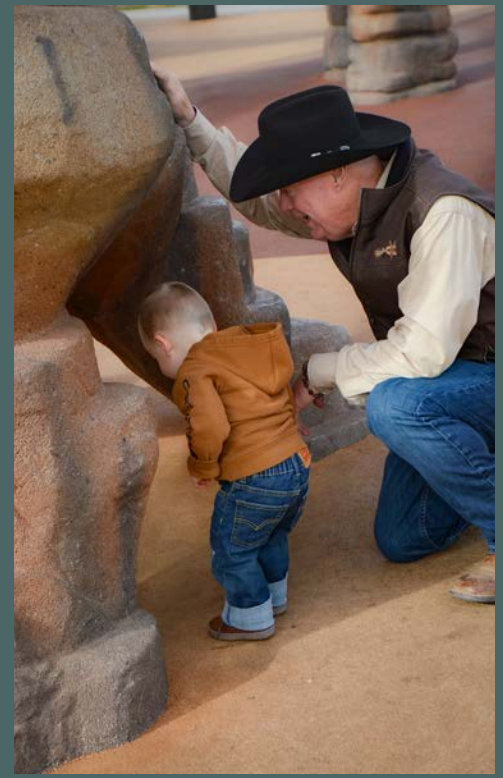






Todd





I was born in Kingman, AZ. I grew up with four siblings and a large extended family that resides in the Southwest. My father and stepmother are retired, while my mother and stepfather are deceased. My parents instilled the importance of feeling loved as a child, a value I hold close to this day.

I attended The University of Arizona in Tucson, where I earned a degree in Finance. I later completed the Certified Financial Planner Program at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA. In 1999, I founded my own business, Dogwood Capital Management, Inc., where I continue to serve as owner and CEO, helping people make smart choices about their money to achieve their goals.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, visiting my family's ranch in Northern Arizona, volunteering at our church, traveling, reading, writing, meeting new people, learning new things, and doing anything with Teresa and Dutton. I believe in adding value to every person I meet and am excited about the future as our family grows.

Teresa and I have cherished every moment of parenthood since starting our family. Being a father has always been my greatest joy and am thrilled at the thought of welcoming another child into our lives.

*Simply put, Todd is the best man I've ever known.  
I am beyond thankful to call him my husband and the  
father of our child and of our future children.  
He is truly a blessing in our lives.*

Todd is an incredible father and an even more remarkable and supportive person. He has a natural gift for connecting with our son, bringing laughter and joy into our home with his playful and lighthearted spirit. Whether he's roughhousing on the floor or teaching important life lessons, Todd is intentional about raising our son to grow into a man of God. His kindness, love, and patience shine through in everything he does.

One of the things I admire most about Todd is his unwavering dependability. He's the kind of person who would drop everything to help a friend—or even a stranger—in need. His kind and approachable nature draws people to him, and his gift for communication has made him loved and respected by so many, even across the world.



Todd embodies the values of providing and protecting. Since the day I met him, he has lived out his belief in what it means to be a man of integrity. He is deeply committed to ensuring our family feels loved, safe, and cared for. Our children will always know how cherished they are because of his dedication and endless love.

And then there's his laugh—it's one of my favorite things about him. His laugh is infectious, lighting up the entire room and making it impossible to stay upset. Despite his hard work and dedication, Todd knows how to have fun and keeps our home filled with joy.

*From Teresa*



*Teresa is an amazing person. She's smart, she's fun, and she's beautiful inside and out. I chose her because she's a genuine, loving person and I knew that she would be an amazing mother.*

Teresa has a vibrant Christian faith. She connects with God through praise and worship and her perspective and passion for music has enriched my faith and is a blessing to the families in our parish where she serves. She connects with God through praise and worship and her perspective and passion for music has enriched my faith and is a blessing to the families in our parish where she serves. She's fantastic with children and she's an awesome mommy and teacher. She is the life of the party and she's spontaneous. I never know what's going to happen next!

She has a beautiful singing voice and the prettiest eyes I've ever seen. She's sassy and affectionate and always keeps me on my toes. She's got a magnetic personality that's playful and comforting. She makes you feel safe. Kids gravitate to her. She has a heart for others. She's generous, kind and talented.

Ultimately, the reason I married her was because of her faith, her character and her love for children. My goal in life is to have a family. We complement each other well. The children that we are privileged to raise will have an amazing life... and it will definitely be an adventure!

*From Todd*



*Dutton*





Our son, Dutton, is truly the light of our lives. He has a laugh that can brighten any room and melt any heart—it's the kind of joy that's simply contagious. Dutton is full of energy and curiosity, especially when he's playing with his favorite toys: cars, trucks, and tractors. He loves nothing more than rolling them across the floor, pretending to zoom and honk, and letting his imagination take over.

Dutton has a deep love for animals and adores our two dogs, Lucy and Ziva. Watching him play with them is pure magic—he's gentle and affectionate, yet always ready to giggle when they nuzzle or chase him around. He's also happiest when he's outside, whether he's exploring our backyard or laughing with other kids at the park. Dutton is incredibly social and lights up when he's around people, greeting everyone with his sweet smile and endless charm.

What makes Dutton so special is his big, loving heart. He's always ready to give hugs and blow kisses, wrapping everyone around his tiny finger with his kindness and affection. We know without a doubt that he's going to make the most amazing big brother. He has so much love to give, and we can't wait to watch him grow into his new role, sharing his sweetness, laughter, and playful spirit with a sibling. Dutton truly is the center of our world, and we are so excited to grow our family and give him the lifelong bond of a brother or sister.





# == Lucy and Ziva ==

Meet Lucy and Ziva—our beloved fur babies and cherished members of our family! They bring so much joy to our lives and share a special bond with our son, Dutton, who absolutely adores them. The feeling is mutual, as Lucy and Ziva both love Dutton and enjoy being part of all his adventures.

Lucy is a 9-year-old Dachshund mix and has the sweetest personality. She's a total cuddle bug and can usually be found snuggled in Mommy or Daddy's lap—or happily following Dutton around the house, keeping a close eye on her favorite little human. Her gentle nature makes her the perfect companion for Dutton, and their connection is heartwarming to see.

Ziva, is our 4-year-old Blue Heeler bursting with energy and affection. She has the happiest smile and loves nothing more than playing fetch for hours. When she's not running after her favorite toy, she's curled up with Mommy, Daddy, or Dutton for some snuggle time.

Lucy and Ziva are more than just pets—they're an integral part of our family. Watching them interact with Dutton is one of our greatest joys, and we can't wait to see how they welcome another little one into our home.









# Our Home is a haven of love, peace, and laughter...

where toddler giggles and cozy dog snuggles fill every corner. It's a welcoming and vibrant space that reflects who we are as a family. With four bedrooms and a dedicated playroom, there's plenty of room for Dutton to explore, play, and let his imagination run wild. One of Dutton's favorite spots is our fun backyard, complete with space to run, laugh, and create endless adventures. It's where many family memories are made, from grilling dinners to playing games and enjoying the sunshine together.





Todd has a passion for cooking and barbecuing, and our kitchen and backyard are often the heart of our gatherings. We love hosting friends and family, sharing meals, laughing, and creating lasting memories that make our house feel alive. Teresa adds her own flair of goofiness and music, always singing and keeping the atmosphere lighthearted. Music is a constant in our home, and Dutton loves dancing and playing to any tune that comes on, often turning our living room into his personal dance floor.



Whether we're curled up on the couch for a cozy movie night, baking cookies together in the kitchen, or enjoying a peaceful evening on the patio, our home radiates joy and togetherness. It's a space where you can truly be yourself, feel safe and loved, and grow closer as a family. For us, home isn't just a place—it's a reflection of our values, filled with laughter, love, and the small moments that make life meaningful.



# Day to Day



Our day-to-day life is rooted in family, faith, and creating a loving home full of connection and purpose. Teresa is a stay-at-home mom who spends her days playing with Dutton, teaching him, and keeping the house running smoothly. They love going on little adventures together, like story time at the library, visits to the park, or trying out fun crafts at home.

Todd works from home and runs his own business, which gives him the flexibility to balance work and family time. While he spends part of the day in his office, he always makes time to join in on family activities and be fully present.

Faith is a cornerstone of our family life, and we both volunteer actively at our church. Todd leads a program that helps people learn more about God and the church, and he also started and heads a weekly men's Bible study. Teresa leads a weekly women's Bible study and sings in the choir for two services each week. Dutton hasn't volunteered yet, but he is practically a celebrity at church. Everyone knows him and he loves giving high-fives to everyone coming in. We joke that he's on the welcome committee. Giving back to our church community is a big part of who we are, and it brings us so much joy to serve others together.

We're also excited for Dutton to start an elite preschool program part-time soon. It's the perfect balance—he'll enjoy the social and educational benefits of school while still having plenty of time at home for one-on-one moments with Mom and Dad.



# Community

Our neighborhood is a safe, welcoming, and family-friendly community that we are so proud to call home. Just a short 2-minute walk from our house is a beautiful park, where we spend countless afternoons playing, relaxing, and making memories together. The neighborhood is filled with the joyful energy of kids walking to school, riding bikes, and enjoying fun traditions like Trick-or-Treating. It's the kind of place where childhood feels magical, and families come together to create lasting connections.

One of our favorite things about the community is how festive it becomes during the holidays. Nearly every house is decked out in decorations, adding a cheerful, vibrant touch to the streets. From Halloween to Christmas and beyond, there's always a reason to smile as you stroll through the neighborhood.

We also love hosting friends and family, whether it's a backyard BBQ or just a casual evening of laughter and conversation. Additionally, we're only a 2-minute drive from our church, where we spend a lot of time volunteering and connecting with others in meaningful ways. Our church is an extension of our community and a big part of our lives, giving us the opportunity to serve, grow, and build lasting relationships.

With so many activities and places to explore nearby, there's always something fun and exciting to do, making our community the perfect place to grow and create beautiful memories as a family.



# *Teresa's Family*



Teresa shares a deep and special bond with her family, speaking with them every day and cherishing the time they spend together. Her parents, Terry and Beverly who have been married for an incredible 49 years, have set an inspiring example of love, commitment, and support. Teresa also has two younger sisters, Anndrea and Cathleen, with whom she is extremely close. Together, they share an unbreakable bond filled with laughter, encouragement, and countless cherished memories.



Her nieces and nephews hold a special place in her heart, and as "Auntie Teresa," she treasures every moment she gets to spend with them. Whether it's family vacations, holiday celebrations, or simply planning their next visit, Teresa's family's time together is always filled with love and laughter.



Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Anndrea and Uncle Dave, Aunt Cathleen and Uncle Jeff, along with cousins Alex, Dylan, Jackson, Natalie, Wyatt, and Elizabeth, are all eagerly anticipating the newest addition to the family. They already adore Dutton and make every effort to visit or FaceTime as often as possible. Dutton lights up with excitement when he gets to play with his cousins, and their bond is truly heartwarming.

Teresa's family's love and support for one another are evident in everything they do. They create a joyful and nurturing environment, celebrating togetherness and the joy of family. Teresa feels incredibly blessed to be part of such a close-knit, loving family and looks forward to continuing these traditions as her family grows.



# Todd's Family

Todd is deeply family-oriented, maintaining close relationships with his parents, siblings, stepsiblings, and extended family. With a brother, sister, stepbrother, and stepsister, Todd values each connection and is often seen as the “glue” that keeps everyone united. His dedication to upholding family traditions and fostering inclusivity is one of his greatest strengths.

We spend a lot of time with Todd's father and stepmother, creating precious memories through holidays, dinners, and weekends together. Although Todd's mother and stepfather have passed away, their legacy of love and family values continues to inspire his commitment to maintaining strong family ties.

Each year, Todd leads the organization of a massive family reunion, a cherished tradition that last year brought together over 220 relatives, including a 103-year-old family matriarch. His dedication to keeping the family connected is admired by all and reflects his passion for nurturing these relationships.

Todd's family has fully embraced Dutton, showering him with love through visits, FaceTime, and gatherings. Their involvement is an integral part of his life, and they are always there to cheer him on. Additionally, Todd's family has been incredibly supportive of our journey to grow through adoption. They are overjoyed at the thought of welcoming another child into the family, ensuring that any child in our home will be surrounded by unconditional love, support, and the joy of belonging to such a close-knit and caring group.



# Holidays are incredibly important to us and a treasured opportunity to celebrate love, joy, and family.

They are a cornerstone of our family life, offering opportunities to celebrate, connect, and create cherished memories. We love finding ways to make each one magical and meaningful, and we look forward to sharing these special moments as our family continues to grow.



Easter holds a particularly special place in our hearts. It's a time to reflect on our faith and gather as a family. We start the day by attending church and follow it with a special meal, celebrating with loved ones. Of course, Dutton's favorite part is the Easter Bunny's visit and the fun of an Easter egg hunt in the backyard.

Halloween is another family favorite! We love dressing up in costumes and participating in our church's Trunk or Treat event, which is always filled with laughter and excitement. It's a wonderful way to connect with our community while enjoying some festive fun.



Thanksgiving is all about family and gratitude. We always spend it surrounded by extended family, sharing a delicious meal and reflecting on our blessings. For the past two years, we've had the honor of hosting Thanksgiving at our home, which we absolutely love. Bringing everyone together around our table has become a tradition we look forward to each year.



Christmas is by far one of our favorite times of the year, filled with love, joy, and the perfect blend of fun traditions and meaningful reflection. We cherish the magic of the season, from decorating our home with sparkling lights and ornaments to the excitement of giving and receiving thoughtful gifts. For us, Christmas is more than just a holiday - it's a time to celebrate the birth of Christ and the love and hope that His birth brings to the world. Attending a special Christmas Eve church service together is one of the most meaningful traditions we hold dear, grounding our celebration in the true reason for the season.

We also love bringing the magic of Christmas to life in our home. This year, Dutton had so much fun helping decorate the Christmas tree. Watching his little hands carefully place ornaments (sometimes in the same spot!) and his excitement as the lights turned on made it an unforgettable experience. From singing carols and sipping hot cocoa to baking and decorating cookies together, every moment feels special.

We enjoy sharing these traditions with both sides of our family—one in Nevada and the other in Iowa—making the season even more joyful and memorable. Watching Dutton's eyes light up with wonder as he experiences the excitement of the holiday is truly one of the highlights of the season.

For us, Christmas is about connection, celebration, and gratitude. It's a time to reflect on our faith, enjoy the blessings of family, and create memories that we will cherish forever. We love everything about this season and look forward to continuing these traditions for years to come.



# Core Values

Our faith is the foundation of our lives, and we strive to put God at the center of everything we do. We believe that His love and guidance are the keys to a fulfilling and meaningful life, and we are committed to raising our children with that same love for God. Teaching them to trust Him, live by His word, and understand His grace is the most important responsibility we have as parents. Welcoming another child into our family would be an incredible blessing, and we are so excited to share our faith and values with them.

Family is one of the greatest gifts from God, and we cherish ours deeply. To us, family means unconditional love, support, and a safe place to grow and thrive. We feel so blessed to have such a loving and close-knit family, and we look forward to welcoming another child into that same environment of love and care. Family is where traditions are made, values are taught, and memories are cherished for a lifetime.

We also believe in the importance of kindness and generosity. Spreading love, giving back, and serving others are core to who we are. Whether it's volunteering in our community, helping a friend in need, or simply showing kindness in our daily lives, we want to lead by example and instill these values in our children. We believe that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference in the world.

Our hope is to create a home filled with faith, love, and compassion, where a child can feel safe, supported, and endlessly loved. We are committed to raising them with strong values, a heart for others, and an understanding of the incredible love that God has for all of us. Welcoming another child into our family would be the fulfillment of a dream and a blessing we would treasure forever.







## Why Adoption

Becoming a parent has been the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. We always envisioned ourselves as mom and dad, pouring love into our children and building a family rooted in faith and joy.

Adoption has always been in our hearts because we've felt a deep calling to provide a loving, stable, and faith-filled home for children. Even before facing infertility, we talked about adoption as part of our family's story. We've always believed that every child deserves to be surrounded by love and care, and adoption has given us the opportunity to grow our family while honoring that belief in a deeply meaningful way.

Adopting our son, Dutton, was a dream come true. He has brought so much love and light into our lives, and being his parents is the greatest blessing we could have ever imagined. We have so much love to give, and adoption has given us the opportunity to share that love in a way that feels uniquely purposeful and right for us.

We can't wait to grow our family and adopt again. Raising our children to feel cherished, valued, capable, and loved by God is the greatest joy and purpose of our lives. Adoption is our way of living out the love and gratitude we feel every day as parents.

# Thank You





As you consider one of the most significant and heartfelt decisions of your life, we want you to know how deeply honored and humbled we are by your courage, love, and strength. If you choose us to raise your child, we promise to love, cherish, and nurture them with everything we have. This is our promise to you and to your baby.

We promise to provide a home filled with unconditional love, warmth, and laughter—a place where your child will feel safe, supported, and celebrated. They will grow up surrounded by a family that treasures them and delights in who they are. Our home will be a haven of joy, where traditions are made, milestones are celebrated, and memories are cherished.

We promise to guide them with patience, understanding, and faith. We will teach them kindness, resilience, and the importance of caring for others. They will be encouraged to dream big and given every opportunity to discover their unique gifts and talents.

We promise to honor their story. Your child will grow up knowing how deeply loved they are by you. They will always know that your decision came from a place of incredible courage and selfless love. We will ensure they are proud of their adoption story and understand the strength and care that brought them into our family.

Finally, we promise to pray for you and your child every step of the way. We know this journey is not an easy one, and we hold you close in our hearts as you make this decision. Your trust in us would be the greatest gift, and we are ready to dedicate our lives to honoring it.

With love, respect, and gratitude

*Todd and Teresa*





Verde  
Vaqueros  
Since 1959

Cradled  
in  
Grace  
ADOPTION CONSULTANTS