



Blake and Katie



# Hello!



We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to explore our book. As you contemplate adoption, we can only imagine the range of emotions you might be experiencing. We want to start by acknowledging your strength, bravery, and profound love for your child.

We are Katie and Blake from South Carolina. Our lives are anchored in laughter, honesty, and unconditional love. Our home is filled with the sounds of our dogs prancing down the hallway, cozy Saturday mornings with breakfast bagels, and afternoon walks around the neighborhood. Since we started dating in 2015, we have dreamed of becoming parents and eagerly anticipate sharing our lives, traditions, and love with a child.

If chosen, your child will grow up understanding their adoption story as one rooted in love and courage. We commit to providing a safe, stable, and joyful home where they can flourish into their true selves. They will grow up with a vast amount of people by their side, rooting them on wherever life takes them.

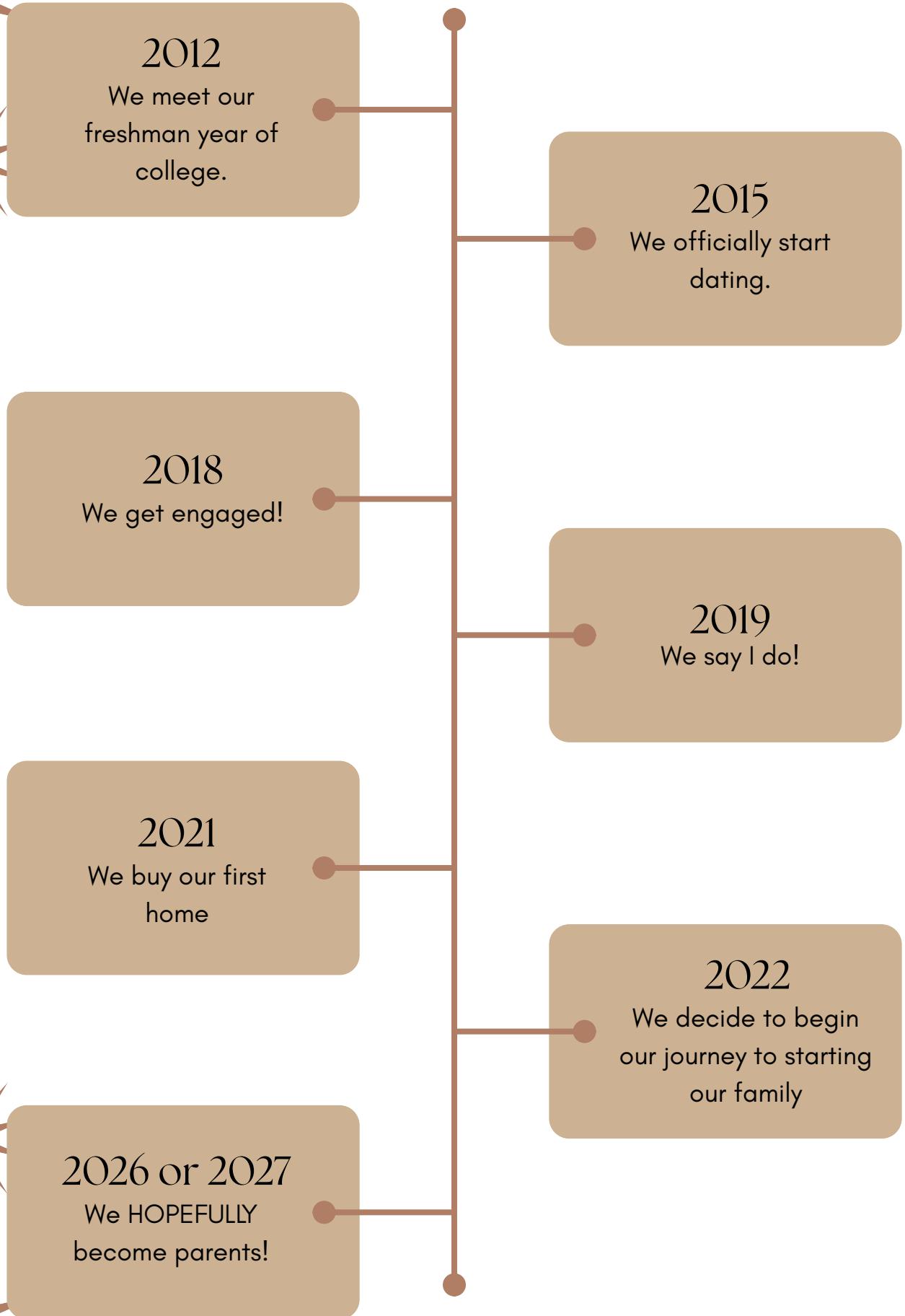
We will always speak of you with respect and gratitude, ensuring they know how profoundly they are loved by you.

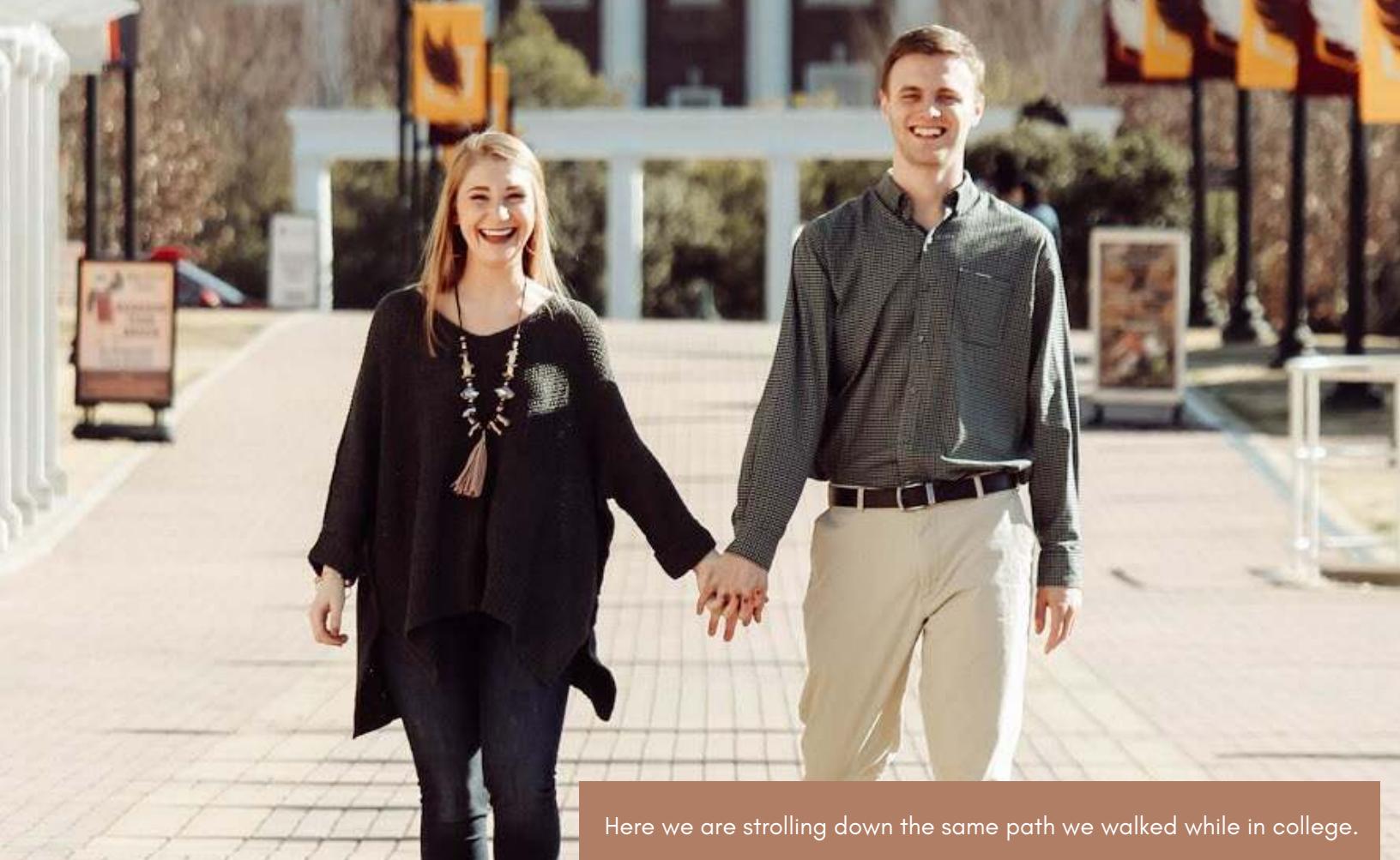
Regardless of your decision, we want you to know how much we admire you and wish you peace and clarity as you navigate this significant choice.

With love,

Blake and Katie

# Our Story - Timeline





Here we are strolling down the same path we walked while in college.

## Our Story - *Blake's Perspective*

We first met as freshmen in college during our very first semester, in the opening month, while participating in a co-ed dodgeball team organized by mutual friends. It was here that Katie experienced \*love at first sight\* and instantly recognized that I was the one she would marry. On the other hand, I wasn't in search of a girlfriend at that time. Nevertheless, we quickly became best friends, enjoying each other's company, texting regularly, and sharing meals at the campus Subway.

As we entered our sophomore year and returned to campus to settle into our dorms, our rooms were separated by just one concrete block. Throughout that year, we rested our heads next to each other, with only a wall in between. Each morning, we would check if the other was awake by knocking on the wall. Our friendship blossomed as we maintained our routine of Subway and Moe's dates throughout the week. By junior year, we both rented houses with friends, and by a twist of fate, those houses turned out to be connected.

Everyone around us could see what was meant to be, but as a stubborn twenty-year-old, I insisted that Katie was merely my best friend. Meanwhile, Katie remained steadfast in her belief that we were destined to be together forever. In January, I could no longer ignore what the universe and God had planned for us. I finally asked Katie to be my girlfriend, and it was the best decision I could have ever made. The night before I asked her to be my girlfriend, I spent a long time self-reflecting, and quickly realized that I wasn't just asking any girl to be my girlfriend; I was asking my future wife. At last, I recognized what Katie had always known—that **we were meant to be together for eternity**.

It took a few years after graduating college and a career path change for myself, but ultimately I nervously proposed to Katie the day after she graduated with her Master's degree. Surrounding by all of our friends and family on a boardwalk off the coast of South Carolina. We then got married less than a year later, at our college, where it all began.

# Why adoption?

We have always dreamed of having a large family. However, when the time came to start our own, God led us down a different path. Over the past four years, we have faced numerous challenges, including miscarriages, unsuccessful IVF cycles, and consultations with multiple specialists throughout the southeast. Unfortunately, the only explanation we've received is that we have experienced really "bad luck," leaving us with no clarity on why we have been unable to have children of our own. Very clear, however, is that this process has grown our faith, strengthened our marriage, and solidified our desire to grow our family.

Since our college days, we have often talked about adoption as a possibility alongside having biological children. As fate would have it, we have grown to know that **adoption has always been the path to parenthood that God intended for us**. We aspire to start and expand our family through adoption in the future.



# We believe...

 We believe in **love** that never gives up and family that supports one another through every season of life.

 We believe in **kindness** – in treating everyone with respect, compassion, and grace.

 We believe **laughter** is essential, that home should be a safe and joyful place, and that every day holds something to be grateful for.

 We believe in **faith** – in trusting God's timing and His plan for our family.

 We believe in **humility**. Recognizing that we are not better or less than any individual.

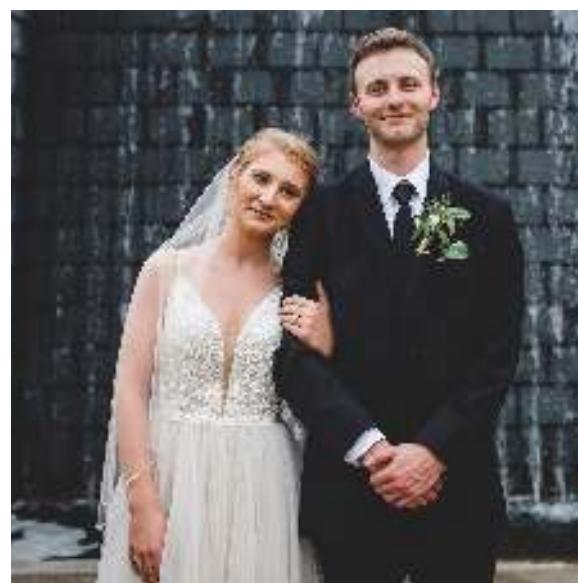
 We believe in **forgiveness**.

 We believe in **enjoying the journey of life**, and celebrating moments as they come, not just celebrating the destination.

 We believe in teaching our child to **dream big, work hard**, and to always know they are loved exactly as they are.

 We believe in the **power of community** – in surrounding our child with people who love them deeply and celebrate who they become.

 Most of all, we believe that **love makes a family**.



## GET TO KNOW

# Katil

"Have a great day, I love you, make good choices!" are everyday phrases I exclaim to my students as they leave my classroom. I've been a middle school math teacher for the last ten years, and I absolutely love it. I have taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade for a couple years, but have spent the majority of my teaching career in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, which I love.

Along with teaching, I have coached cheerleading and track. I have also been a sponsor for our school's badminton club. Whether it's teaching students how to add and subtract negative numbers, or showing them a new cheer, I love when the child "gets it" and you can see the lightbulb go off.

There are many reasons why I decided to become a teacher, but the main reason is that I have always dreamed of having a family. With teaching, I can align my schedule to our child's. Meaning, our child and I will have the same holidays off, spring breaks, summer breaks, etc. I can not wait to spend this meaningful time doing simple things like going to the library, getting lunch at Chick-fil-A, and playing mini golf.



### Favorites:

- **Color:** blue
- **Podcast:** "Chicks in the Office"
- **TV Series:** "Gilmore Girls"
- **Music:** country and today's hits
- **Sports Team:** Georgia Bulldogs
- **Sport:** soccer
- **Dessert:** vanilla cake with chocolate frosting
- **Food:** pizza

## I believe teaching is love in action.

### Things You Should Know...

- I was born and raised in North Augusta, South Carolina.
- I'm left-handed, have blue eyes, and stand 5'5" tall.
- My nephew and niece bring me so much joy, and I cherish every moment spent with them!
- I consider my friends to be family.
- In 2021 I was named Teacher of the Year
- Before becoming a teacher, I spent every summer babysitting.
- On walks, I can't resist complimenting every dog that passes by, letting them know how much I love them

- I was a member of the varsity soccer team during high school.
- Helping others brings me great joy.
- I take pleasure in maintaining a tidy home; organizing is one of my favorite activities.
- I hesitate to acknowledge just how competitive I truly am.
- A cherished saying from my Mema that resonates with me is, "Remember who you are."
- Given the choice, I would prefer to visit the beach over the mountains.

# My Wife, Katie

*by Blake*

There is not enough space in this section to truly convey how I feel about Katie. She is my everything and is the reason I am who I am today. Katie has this uncanny ability to see the potential in someone, even when they can't see it in themselves. She can not only see that potential but she will bring it out of you.

In life, Katie is amazing at everything she does, including being a wife. I have never met someone that is able to make people laugh exactly when they need it most. She is also one of the greatest teachers on this planet, she is gentle, kind, and witty. She has the biggest heart you could imagine, always striving to care for others, especially her loved ones.

I know Katie will be a great mom. She is fiercely loyal and protective. She will teach our children kindness and how to be a good person. She will be able to teach them anything, because her biggest secret is how smart she is. She is the smartest person in the room most times but she never wants anyone to know. She just wants everyone to be happy.

I can't wait to see the joy that being a mom brings Katie. I see the happiness that being an Aunt to her Niece and Nephew brings her; how she cares for them, makes them laugh, sings silly songs and dances along with them, while also being the first one volunteering for night shift to give her sister a break. I can truly say there is no one person in this world that was meant to be a mom more than her. I'm just lucky enough to get to call her not only my best friend and not only my wife, but my world.



*She is...*

**kind, brilliant, beautiful, witty, and patient.**

## GET TO KNOW

# Blake

From a young age, I aspired to be a basketball coach. My journey began with four years as a college basketball manager at Winthrop University.

Upon graduation, I joined Accelerate Basketball, where I had the privilege of learning from Brandon Payne, renowned as Stephen Curry's personal trainer. This incredible opportunity led me to work with the PGA of America and Nike. However, after two years in the sports industry, I recognized that my unhappiness stemmed from a desire for a more conventional life and the chance to be a father. Consequently, I transitioned from sports to a leading plumbing and HVAC wholesale distributor.

I have now been with the company for eight years, during which I have climbed the ladder, and received numerous awards. Currently, I serve as a business development manager, overseeing our Multi-Family HVAC category across the Carolinas.

In my free time you can find me helping Katie or other teachers around the school, being a mentor at the school, or teaching the game of basketball.

I work hard to provide for our family and I can't wait to spend weeknights and weekends coaching our kids, watching our favorite teams, and teaching them life's lessons like my father did with me.

## “Never Delay Gratitude”

### Things You Should Know...

- I grew up in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of Upstate New York before moving to South Carolina at the age of 16.
- I excelled in basketball, receiving all-conference honors and attracting collegiate interest.
- As a devoted sports enthusiast, I am a die-hard New York Jets fan and never miss a single snap of their games, and my family shares the same passion.
- I lead an active lifestyle, regularly participating in pickup basketball games and working out.
- Throughout my childhood, I engaged in various sports, with basketball, football, and baseball being my favorites.



### Favorites:

- **Color:** yellow
- **Movie:** “Miracle”
- **Podcast:** “The Ryen Russillo Show”
- **Music:** 2010's Rap/Hip Hop
- **Sports Team:** New York Jets, Mets, Knicks, and the Winthrop Eagles
- **Sport:** basketball
- **Dessert:** Katie's cupcakes
- **Food:** my spaghetti

- I am right-handed, have blue eyes, and stand 6'2" tall.
- I enjoy working on projects at home, particularly in the yard or building with wood.
- Cooking is a passion of mine, a skill I inherited from my mom.
- My favorite coaching mantra is, “Don't mistake activity for achievement.”
- I take great pride in having earned much of what I possess in life.
- I believe that accountability is one of my greatest strengths.
- I see every obstacle as a personal challenge, motivating me to find a way to overcome it.

# My Husband, Blake

*by Katie*

Blake is kind, patient, driven, funny, and caring. He is a category sales specialist, which means he interacts with people from all walks of life, treating them all with kindness and respect. He can talk to anyone and make them feel comfortable right away. Blake has a natural ability to connect with others, and he seems to make friends wherever he goes.

His warmth and leadership shine through in all of the things that he dedicates himself to: mentoring students at my school, coaching the basketball team at our church, and leading his employees.

The way Blake cares for our niece and nephew melts my heart and reminds me daily that he is already a wonderful husband and will be an even better father. I can easily picture him rocking our child to sleep, reading bedtime stories, and teaching them silly JETS chants. These moments offer a glimpse into the type of father he will be: patient, unwavering, reliable, consistent.

Blake is my rock, my best friend, and the person I trust most in the world. He was made for this. I can't wait to see him jump in head first.



*He is...*

**everything I have ever prayed for in  
a partner, and will be an even better  
father to our future child.**

GET TO KNOW

# Murdock & Kemba

Once we graduated from college, we knew we wanted a pet. During Katie's first year teaching, we drove two hours up in the mountains of North Carolina and got our beautiful black lab mix, Murdock.

Murdock is nine years old, but after meeting her, you would think she is still a puppy. She has lots of energy and spends the majority of her days playing with her toys. Murdock loves food, swimming in any body of water, and enjoys following our nephew around the house receiving "little treats" (goldfish) from him.

Four years ago, we rescued Kemba from a local animal hospital.

Our Kemba, is four years old, and is the most gentle dog we have ever met. Kemba spends his days laying in a blanket on the couch, or somewhere on a bed. There is nothing more he loves than being cuddled.

Together, Murdock and Kemba are a dynamic duo. They love running outside in the backyard, playing tug-o-war with their toys, and going on rides to Starbuck for their pup cups.

We are so excited to watch our child grow up with their four-legged brother and sister!





# Making Memories

If there's one thing that defines us, it's our **love for sports**. We make it a point to attend home games of our Alma Mater's basketball team and aim to go to at least one away game each year. When we're not cheering for our favorite teams in person, you can find us glued to the TV, especially when the New York Jets and Georgia Bulldogs are playing football.

On Saturday mornings, we love taking **family walks** with our dogs, exploring the neighborhood or various trails in our local parks.

Another cherished pastime is being near water. Whether it's a pool, lake, or the ocean, we always seek ways to cool off during the sweltering South Carolina summer. There's truly nothing better than enjoying the water, listening to music, and being surrounded by the **laughter of family and friends**.

Ultimately, whether we're savoring Blake's cooking at home or engaging in sports activities, we find ourselves surrounded by a wonderful mix of friends and family. **We treasure the moments spent with our loved ones, making memories together.**





# It takes a *village!*

We are very blessed and are lucky to have such a large support system within our community. We have spent 13 years in the area we live and both of us consider it to be our home. We have made friends all throughout our journey from college, to work, church, and more. We can never leave our house without running into someone we know.



While we have a large community of friends, our closest friends are special. They aren't just friends to us, they are family. Our closest group of friends all met as freshman in college and we never strayed from each other. Our group has gone through life's ups and downs together, gone on vacations and shared holidays with our extended families. They are the type of people we could call at any time of day, from any location, and we could count on them to be wherever we needed. Blood couldn't make us closer to this special group and **they can't wait to meet and spoil their newest addition to the family like us with their children.**



**Surrounded by laughter, love, and lifelong friendships, our child will always have a supportive community cheering them on.**

# Katie's Family

I am the oldest of three. My younger sister lives in Mississippi with her husband and two beautiful children. My brother still lives, with his fiancée, in the hometown where we grew up.

My parents recently moved from their hometown to be closer to my Mema in Georgia.

We are a close-knit family. We show up for one another no matter how far away it may be.

For holidays and long weekends, we love going to my family's farm in Georgia. Out at the farm, we spend our time at the pond, relaxing on the back porch, or playing basketball.

Our child will have this built-in support system from day one. They will be loved and cherished by everyone and will have cousins near their age. They will spend time with their Papa doing random projects on the farm and being spoiled by their Mimi.



# Blake's Family

I am the eldest of three siblings. My younger brother is a soon to be a father, while my younger sister is dedicated to her career in North Carolina.

With my parents residing three hours away along the North Carolina coast, my extended family enjoys visiting frequently. When we all gather, we become a boisterous and proud group of New Yorkers.

You can always expect three things when my family is together:

- We will be indulging in my mom's delicious cooking.
- Everyone's voices will be at their loudest.
- My siblings and I will be engaged in some form of competition.

With us, there's never a dull moment, and you are guaranteed to have a great time.

Our child will have the joy of spending afternoons with their grandpa in the backyard tossing a ball and learning to cook alongside their grandma, along with their cousin, who is due in May 2026.



# Our Traditions



Uncle Brian hitting a grand slam during the pumpkin smash!

One of our favorite traditions is our Annual Pumpkin Smash, which we celebrate every fall at the farm. Katie's family gathers together to take turns smashing small to medium-sized pumpkins with a baseball bat. Katie's dad throws the pumpkins, and one by one, we each step up to take a swing.

Christmas is another magical time for us. We love to decorate our home like we are Buddy from Elf. Each year, we rotate between celebrating Christmas at our parents' homes. Once our child arrives, we will host Christmas at our house, welcoming our families to celebrate with us. We can't wait to experience the joy of Christmas through the eyes of our child!

## Other Family Traditions Throughout the Year:

- **April:** Enjoying the waterfront Azalea Festival with Blake's family
- **October:** Embracing our annual tradition of dressing up on Halloween and passing out candy!
- **Thanksgiving:** Celebrated at Katie's Mema's house every year
- **Christmas:** Baking cookies and attending the candlelight Christmas Eve service at church
- **Summer:** Cherishing time at Katie's parents' pool and visiting North and South Carolina beaches!



Visiting the Christmas Lights at a neighboring town!

We are eager to carry on these traditions with our child while also creating new ones as a family!

# Our Home

We reside in a charming two-story home with four bedrooms and three bathrooms in South Carolina outside a major city. Our house is situated in a suburban neighborhood filled with young families and their children, who can often be seen riding their bikes and scooters along the streets in the afternoons. Our fenced-in backyard is a perfect spot for relaxing and enjoying the sunshine.

Our town is an ideal place to raise a child, having some of the finest schools, parks, shops, and restaurants in the area. One of the more impressive parks we have is an all-inclusive park designed for children with disabilities in mind. On weekends, we enjoy exploring downtown to discover its numerous shops and delightful eateries.

Every year they hold a variety of festivals. Our favorite one to attend is our town Christmas festival where we attend the parade and will take our future child to meet Santa.

In addition to these festivities, we also love attending various events at our Alma Mater.

Our friends live just five to twenty minutes away, while our families are located two to four hours distant. We are fortunate to be near multiple hospitals, parks, shops, and lakes. We are also conveniently situated between both the mountains and beaches of our beautiful state.



We spend lots of time in our kitchen cooking, baking, and meal prepping.



Decorating our tree in the family room.



## Please know...

Please know that, above all, this child will be **embraced by a loving village**. Throughout our journey to creating our family, we have been supported by an entire community—cheering us on and eagerly awaiting the opportunity to shower this child with love. We vow to raise this child in a **home infused with love and laughter**. They will learn that everything is earned, not given, and will have access to every resource needed to reach their full potential. We will teach them compassion, encourage independent thinking, ensure that everyone has a voice, and help them appreciate the importance of good character.

School nights will be filled with wholesome home-cooked meals, homework completed together, and family dinners brimming with smiles and stories from our day. Weekends will be dedicated to sharing our passions, whatever they may be, and taking pride in our endeavors. Holidays will be spent with their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, enjoying the beautiful chaos that comes with a large extended family.

We promise to do everything in our power to provide this child with the life they deserve — one **filled with love, safety, and opportunity** — and to cherish them as the child they are and the person they will grow to be.

# Final Thoughts

Thank you. **Thank you** for taking the time to learn about who we are. Thank you for considering us as parents for your child.

We can only imagine how incredibly challenging this time must be for you. **Your strength** is something we deeply admire, and we are committed to instilling those values in your child.

**Your resilience** is granting us the opportunity to expand our family and provide a life that we have worked diligently to share with another. We will forever be grateful and will love your child unconditionally, just as we know you always will.

If we are fortunate enough to be selected by you to embrace the responsibility of loving your child, we will ensure that both you and they know your story. They will learn about **your strength and courage**, and we will provide as many or as few updates as you wish as they navigate their journey.

Regardless of the circumstances, we will ensure that this child understands they have always been and **will always be cherished by both you and us.**

**God bless you and your little one.**



