

Hello we are...

Mike & Laura Beth



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Our Hopes and Dreams...

When we think about our hopes and dreams, we see family at the center of it. We hope and dream of a life of wonder. When we picture our life with a child, they are often simple pictures- rocking the baby in his/her nursery, digging for worms out in the garden, playing with rubber duckies during bath time, or chasing the dogs around the backyard.

We have always liked the idea of adoption. When Laura Beth lived in Honduras, there were several teachers that suggested she adopt from a local orphanage. At that time, she wasn't in a financial state to fully provide for a family, but that longing never changed. Mike's grandfather was adopted around the age of seven so adoption is something he has always felt would be a beautiful way to continue a family legacy. When we started dating, we agreed adoption was something we were both interested in once we were ready to have a family. We are both teachers. Not only do we love children and are trained in child development, we also believe our responsibility is to advocate for them.

We got married more than five years ago and knew we had some goals before having kids: to be financially stable, complete our educational goal of getting our Master's degrees, and feel healthy in our marriage relationship. About three years ago, we started trying to have kids and just haven't gotten pregnant. We haven't visited with any doctors or sought opinions on if there is a medical issue since we already knew adoption would be a part of our story. We find the story of adoption to be really beautiful-- two families coming together to create a home created especially for that child.

There are many things we want to offer a child. We care deeply about our child becoming the best versions of themselves. We will have a home environment that encourages individual growth- emotionally, spiritually, and physically. As parents we will provide deliberate guidance in how to do this. We will be experts on our child - their emotions, interests, friends, and education. We will offer a home that is full of rich learning. Laura Beth envisions sharing lots and lots of books with her child- reading at bedtime, looking at books on the couch, and trips to the library. Mike envisions sharing the outdoor world- learning about the honeybees we own, trips out into the wooded area in our backyard, and exploring different kinds of trees or animal tracks. He also looks forward to offering hands-on and practical learning where our child will work alongside him to learn new experiences.

We want you, the mother, to know first and foremost that we respect you. We are confident this decision doesn't come easily and that there are other options that might seem easier in the moment-- yet you are choosing adoption for your child. We care about you and want to do whatever we can to come alongside you and help with this. Our dream is that the child we share will know how loved he or she is by both your family and ours. We want you to feel peace with this decision and to feel comfortable talking to us any time.

With love,
Mike & Laura Beth


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Our values and beliefs as parents...



Kindness - As teachers, we see the effects of kids being kind or not kind to each other, but this is something that can be seen in adults too. When people aren't kind, it can be devastating to a person's psychological well-being. We are kind to our friends, our family, our coworkers, students, and strangers. We use kind words and are respectful of others and their beliefs. We put ourselves in their shoes and always try to see what people need to feel respected around us. We will raise our child to be kind to others and for them to see us being kind to others as well. This is something we will talk about on a regular basis.

Hospitality - We feel the best way to get to know people and for them to get to know us is in our home with the comforts a home can bring- good food, a nice ambiance, music and conversation. We have friends and family over regularly, and occasionally host the neighborhood get-together, a school staff social, or a church party. We will have our child's friends over to play and also spend time with their friends' parents. As they get older, we will encourage them to pay attention to other kids that might not be invited to other people's homes. This is something Laura Beth experiences as an English Learner teacher-- often the parents don't speak English and therefore their children are left out of invitations. Since Laura Beth speaks Spanish, this would allow for us to open our home to kids in our child's classes that speak other languages as well.



Relationships - We prioritize our relationships by spending time with friends and family. We very much value relationships - childhood, siblings, colleagues, church friends, and our relationship with each other. These friends have been invaluable to us and have helped us remain emotionally and spiritually healthy. Having friends around us that are parents have also taught us what it looks like to be a good mom and dad, and we are excited to have their support as we venture into parenthood. Many of our friends and family have children, so we will spend a lot of time as families cultivating relationships with friends and cousins. We will organize play dates and birthday parties. As our child grows older, we will be there to support them through friendships that may come and go.



Hard Work - We believe we have accomplished a lot of our goals by working hard. One of the goals we've met is getting our Master's degrees. As teachers, one of the only ways we can move ahead in our careers is higher degrees, so we spent a year and a half working on our Master's together. It was hard work, but worth the professional and personal growth! We would like to teach our child how to work and persevere even when something is difficult. This might be with school work, friendships, a dance routine or learning the sports playbook. We want to be there to encourage and support him or her.



Honesty - We believe that our relationships only work because of honesty. We have a very open relationship and have learned how to communicate well with each other while still being honest.

We discuss everything in our home and have no secrets from each other. We are experts on each other and know what makes each other tick because we talk about our thoughts and feelings. We will teach our child that it's important to be honest. We will have a home where we are honest with them- if they come to us with questions, we will answer honestly. We believe that if we have honest communication, our child will feel safe talking to us, not only about the little things, but also big things.

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Our home...



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Spending time with friends – coffee, playing cards, or just hanging out in each other’s homes. Watching Denver Broncos’ games, reading, cooking, doodling, watching Netflix. Leading a Karaoke Club for the students at school. Spending time with family. Playing the piano, camping in our camper.

Adoptive Father:

Riding my bike, spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping and doing yard work. Watching sporting events. Spending time with friends and family. Coach wrestling at local high school.

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: English Learners Teacher

Adoptive Father: First Grade Teacher

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Master’s Degree

Adoptive Father: Master’s Degree

We live in a very tight knit community at the end of a long cul-du-sac. It’s great for kids to ride their bikes or play. Our neighbors have become an extended family - we set time aside to celebrate holidays together, we share meals together randomly, and often spend time together to play games. Everyone helps each other out and are available when needed.

Our front yard has a flower garden and a basketball hoop in the driveway. We will spend time playing basketball, coloring with chalk, and jumping rope. We have a big backyard. There is a deck and a ‘courtyard’ area that is sheltered by evergreen trees with a fire pit and an herb garden. The remainder of the yard is a large open grass area, a large wildflower prairie Mike planted, a vegetable garden, and a hill that is used to sled down in the winter. A chicken coop, a swing set, and sandbox are in an open space shared with neighbors. We imagine pushing our child on the swing, digging in the garden, and sliding down the snow-covered hill together.

Making the house a home is something we’ve done together, and it reflects our personalities. The front room has vaulted ceilings with 10 feet high windows for a light, airy atmosphere. We love warm and cozy spaces so there is comfortable furniture, beautiful colors, soft lighting, bookshelves full of books, a fireplace, and a piano in our living space. When we have friends and family over, these spaces are all full of people talking and laughing. If it’s nice weather, we usually move out to the fire pit with our music and will roast marshmallows. Usually our dogs are running around outside or sitting at our feet.

We really enjoy Saturday mornings. We start every day with coffee, so Saturdays are no exception. Our favorite breakfast is French toast, a combination of a recipe from Mike’s grandfather and his mother. We add fresh eggs from the chickens and bacon or sausage. We look forward to adding a child to this fun and weekly tradition.

Once we have a child, our life will revolve around him or her. We will wake up early to have time to snuggle before getting ready for the day. We will have breakfast and dinner together each night. Our evenings will include tummy time, reading books, singing songs, going for a walk, or sitting on the back deck looking at stars. Our weekend plans will include activities our child will enjoy such as playing at the park, visits with cousins, or just playing in the backyard. As our child gets to school age, we will be involved in school work - reading, learning their letters, counting, or a science project. We look forward to sharing these experiences.

As teachers we get lot of time off and will take full advantage of it and will take vacations during spring, summer, and Christmas breaks. We will visit Pennsylvania to see Mike’s family and have visits to our child’s birth family, wherever that may be. We dream of taking vacations to places like The Grand Canyon, Seattle, Washington D.C., and Virginia Beach.

The nursery is gender neutral and will be decorated in the ‘Greatest Showman’ theme - sweet and whimsical like the circus-- full of dreams and love. Mike’s mom crochets, so she has already begun to make clothing and blankets with this color scheme. We have a dresser and closet ready for clothes and a crib and changing table ready to be used.



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Our family...

We met more than seven years ago at a mutual friend's Halloween party. Mike was dressed as Indiana Jones and Laura Beth was dressed as an angel. After talking briefly at the party and discovering that we were both teachers, Mike contacted Laura Beth on Facebook. The first time Mike's dad's met Laura Beth, he gave her a puppy from one of his dog's litter as a gift. This is how we got our wiener dog, Oliver, to join Mike's chocolate lab, Otis, and since we've added a third wiener dog, Opie. We dated two years before getting engaged. Mike proposed after we ran a mud race called Gladiator Assault. After about 30 obstacles and 5 miles, Mike stopped Laura Beth at the end of the last obstacle right before the finish line. He got down on one knee, proposed as both of us were all covered in mud, and said "I want to run the race of life with you."

Our strengths as a couple are: perseverance, passion, and love. We persevere with our goals and our relationships, taking care of each. We are passionate about the things that are important to us. We love each other, enjoy being together as a couple and a family, and show our love to each other by doing small and big gestures. Mike knows Laura Beth loves to play the piano, so he bought a piano for our house. Laura Beth packs Mike's lunch each day and puts a note in it telling something she appreciates about him.



We enjoy trying new things and supporting each other in our individual endeavors. We try new out new restaurants - like Honduran, Ecuadorian, Vietnamese, Thai, Indian, Salvadorian, and Bosnian. We have also enjoyed trips together to Arizona, Kansas City, Colorado, Virginia Beach, Honduras, and Alaska to celebrate our five-year anniversary. These trips are nice to relax and get away from daily commitments. Mike coaches wrestling and Laura Beth likes to go to meets and competitions. We also like exploring new hobbies. We both took a beekeeping class and now have a beehive in our backyard. They pollinate our flowers, garden and the neighbor's fruit trees. This year we got 56 pounds of honey from our hive!

Laura Beth is the oldest of seven children, and all her family lives in town. Her parents are active grandparents and there are four cousins waiting to spend time with a new family member. We spend holidays together as well as birthday celebrations. We hang out together on the weekends, usually go out to eat, play games, or go to an activity that one of our family members is involved in.

When we visit Mike's family, we spend quality time with everyone. Mike usually goes golfing with his dad and his friends. We spend time with Mike's mom and her husband playing games, watching movies, and touring wineries and breweries in the area. We also see our nieces and nephews. This might be a parade that our niece marches in or lunch with our nephew and his kindergarten class.

Everyone is very excited to add a child to our loving and active family. Our families have always been involved with kids in one way or another-- either babysitting, working at daycares, in education, or with church programs. Our nieces and nephews are all excited to have another cousin. Everyone is also excited for us to be parents. We have already been told we will never need a babysitter because all of our family members want to take turns watching our child.



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