



Hello We Are...



Blake & Shelby

Graceful 
Adoptions™



Our Hopes & Dreams

We both grew up in loving homes and have supportive parents and siblings. We are surrounded by love from our immediate and extended families. We hope to share the same experiences with a child and give them a happy, loving, safe, and fun childhood. We are longing for the day that we have a child in our home and cannot wait to watch them grow and cheer them on at every milestone. We also cannot wait for early mornings, snuggles, laughs, and even sleepless nights.

We have been trying to start a family for more than two years, but we know God's plan is better than anything we can imagine. We have known for a couple of years now that God would call us to adopt someday. We both had adoption laid on our hearts individually, we did not know the other had the same feelings until it was brought up one day. We now know God is telling us that this is the time to pursue adoption.

When we think about what we want to offer our child, the list could go on and on. But we feel most importantly that we will offer our child unconditional love, spiritual guidance, support, security, safety, and fun. We hope our child will be respectful and kind, but also stand up for what they believe in. We also hope that our child will always feel loved and will understand the love their birth parents have for them. We will do everything we can to ensure that our child receives this and will make sure they never question if they are loved.

While we know material things are not as important as the love and protection we can offer, our childhoods were filled with things such as our favorite toys, four wheelers, dirt bikes, bicycles, outdoor play equipment and much more, and we hope to offer these things to our child as well. We will also provide educational toys and guidance from a young age. We will support them throughout their schooling, including supporting them financially into college if they chose to go this route.

We do not know the specifics of what brought you to this decision, but what we do know is that you came to this decision out of a self-less and unconditional love for your child. When we think of all you have already done and will do for this child, we are brought to tears. We have nothing but love and respect for you. If we become your child's parents, your child will always know of your sacrificial love.

Please know that you will always be supported, loved, and cared for by us. We are honored to be considered. We hope and pray you are able to make the best decision for you and your child and most importantly, we pray that whatever decision you make, you have peace. We cannot wait to meet you.

Sincerely,

Blake & Shelby

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - Faith comforts us in difficult times and gives us hope in the uncertainty of the world. Regardless of any difficult circumstances we may face, with faith, we are able to have peace and joy in knowing that God's plans for our lives is greater than what we can imagine. Our journey to becoming parents has not been easy, but we are thankful for every bump and unexpected turn that led us to where we are today. We will teach our child what faith means and raise him or her to show compassion, be forgiving, and love others. We will do this by our actions, words, age-appropriate books, and by taking them to church with us every Sunday. We are thankful to have friends and family who share these same beliefs and will be an example to our child as well.



LOVE - Love is what makes a family. We show love in many aspects of our lives. We show affection to one another, say kind and uplifting things to one another, help each other with things like household chores and comfort each other on difficult days. We also show love by praying for one another daily. We will share the many meanings of love with our child by not only telling them, but by showing them with our actions towards them and one another. We will do these things so that our child never has to wonder if they are loved.

COMPASSION/KINDNESS - The way a person demonstrates compassion and kindness towards others shows their character. We feel that everyone deserves to be treated with consideration and thoughtfulness. We believe the world would be a better place if there was more of this. We remain non-judgmental towards others, even if we disagree, by being friendly, empathizing with those who hurt, and giving a helping hand to those in need. We hope our children see this in us and that they will be the ones who speak up for those who can't defend themselves and that they will always show kindness to everyone they meet and compassion towards others who are hurting.



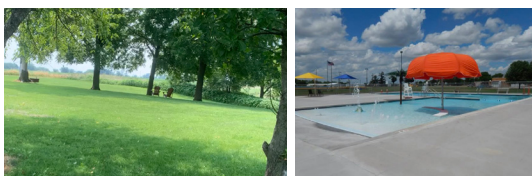
HARD WORK - Hard work is how we accomplish and achieve our goals and aspirations in life. We practice hard work by giving our best in our personal and work lives. Our parents demonstrated this behavior for us. We know that without hard work we would not have the degrees and jobs we do today, and we would not be able to do some of the things we enjoy. We will share this belief with our child by teaching them and working hard in all we do. We hope they will know the benefit of hard work and always try their best.



PERSEVERANCE - Perseverance is how we keep going, even when life knocks us down. We believe the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try again" because it holds a true and important value for us. The good things in life are often not easy to get to, and if we give up, we will never reach our goals. We feel our journey to parenthood is a great example of perseverance in our lives. We have experienced loss and years of waiting, and if we would have given up when things felt hopeless, we would never have gotten to where we are now. While it is perfectly okay to feel all the emotions that come with a disappointment, we hope our children do not give up when things become hard, but instead push on because they have their eyes set on the bigger picture.

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Our Home

We live in the country in a cozy farmhouse with a large yard with fruit trees, a garden, and grape vines. Our town is small but has two parks, a public swimming pool, a few boat landings, two ice cream shops, restaurants, and a coffee shop. Every summer there is a town-wide celebration with a parade, food vendors, and children's games.

Our home is warm and welcoming, with neutral walls and hard wood floors covered with large soft rugs. We have pictures of family throughout our home, and a front deck where we enjoy morning coffee in the Spring and Summer. Our home always smells like baked goods from Shelby baking sweet treats. We love our little farmhouse but hope to build our "forever" home in the next one-two years.

When friends and family come to visit, we spend time outside grilling, playing yard games, sitting around the fire pit, telling stories, and enjoying each other's company. We also enjoy riding four wheelers and playing games with our friends and family. In the wintertime, we share meals, watch movies, and play games around the table.

Mornings are our favorite time of the day on the weekends. We enjoy drinking coffee and watching the sunrise on the couch or on our deck. We feel the most at peace and content during this time. During the week, evenings are our favorite because we get to talk about our day and cook supper together. We enjoy grilling meats and vegetables when the weather is nice and eating soups or crockpot meals in the winter. We enjoy eating a variety of foods like pasta, seafood, steak, chicken, pork chops, sushi, all types of potatoes, roasted vegetables, and fruit. We enjoy trying new things.

We cannot wait to share our life with a child. We will adjust our schedules and routines to fit our child and will enjoy every second of it. We are longing for that day. We look forward to getting our child out of bed every morning and giving them a hug and seeing their smile. We also look forward to having family meals and playing together. We look forward to hearing their laughs and little footsteps running across our floors. We will provide age-appropriate quiet and play time by using both educational and fun toys, reading to our children, incorporating naps, and by doing outdoor activities like swinging and going on walks.

We are in the process of getting the baby's room ready. We have a bookshelf made by Shelby's dad, an area rug, and a rocking chair. Once finished, it will have a crib, changing table, and toys as well. We are currently decorating the room with a baby animal theme. Our yard is very big and has plenty of room for our children to run and play. Blake will set up the baby's swing outside once the weather gets warmer.

We live within a couple of miles from family and friends with young children and plan to have play dates, both in our homes and outdoors. The children will go to the same school, we know they will grow up spending time together playing in our yard. The church we attend has many young children that our child will grow up playing with as well. We also have a niece and nephew that we spend a lot of time with, and we know they will adore our child and enjoy the time they spend with them.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Baking, cooking, reading, boating, being outdoors, traveling, exercising, spending time with friends and family, going to coffee shops, listening to podcasts

Adoptive Father: Hunting, fishing, reading, cooking, boating, being outdoors, traveling, spending time with friends and family, listening to music

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Registered Nurse

Adoptive Father: Electrical and Instrumentation Technician

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelors Degree

Adoptive Father: Associates Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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Our Family

We have known each other since we were little kids, we grew up one mile from each other and Blake's sister babysat Shelby and her siblings. We reconnected in high school at ages 15 and 17 and have been together ever since. We have been together for more than nine years.

We love seeing how much we have changed and grown in our relationship since we were teenagers. As you can imagine at such a young age there were many awkward and shy moments that we can now look back on and laugh at. Shelby fell in love with Blake's sweet and shy demeanor. She also loved that Blake attended church and was honest, kind, and fun-loving. Blake fell in love with Shelby because she was funny, kind, and sweet. He also loved that Shelby shared the same love the outdoors as him. It did not take us long to fall in love and become inseparable high-school sweethearts.

We feel strengths in our marriage include that we are Christ-centered, we communicate effectively, we are intentional with one another in our day-to-day activities, we show each other love daily, and we can laugh and enjoy life in all circumstances. We spend time together outdoors fishing, boating, riding four-wheelers, grilling, traveling, going hiking or skiing, and going on walks. We also enjoy playing board games, watching movies, and cooking together. We love spending time together and we always have fun in whatever we do.

We have a great time with our families too. We are with one family or the other almost every weekend. We love spending time boating, swimming, camping, and hanging out on the sandbar in the summer with our families. We most recently went to Lake Michigan with Shelby's family for vacation. We also enjoy going with our families for weekend getaways, to Blake's grandparents, or to Shelby's family's cabin. We share so much love, we could not ask for a better family.

We have many family traditions that we look forward to sharing with our child. Shelby bakes and decorates her great-grandmother's sugar cookie recipe every year before Christmas with her mom, sister, cousins, and aunts. We also wear matching family Christmas pajamas and takes a group picture every year on Christmas morning. In Blake's family one of our favorite traditions is how we celebrate Christmas. All 60-70 of us stay at a hotel at the beginning of December and have a gift exchange, dinner, and sing songs and play games together. We love Christmas and cannot wait to pass these traditions on. We also enjoy going camping and boating with Shelby's extended family every 4th of July.

All these traditions are important to us because we have great memories throughout our childhood and adult life because of them. We will continue these traditions with our child because we want them to share these fun and memorable times with family like we did.

Our families are all overjoyed with our hopes and dreams to adopt a child. They have already surprised us with buying baby clothes, blankets, books, a stroller and car seat set, a bassinet, and much more. We are overwhelmed by the outpouring love our baby has already received. We have no doubt they will all love (and spoil) our child unconditionally.



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