

# Hayley & Joe





### Our Hopes & Dreams

Hayley has been surrounded by adoption since she was born. Her grandma, aunt, uncle, and best friend are all adopted. For as long as she can remember, she was inspired to adopt one day. So when it came to us discussing how to grow our family, we knew we would grow our family through adoption. We adopted our daughter, Grayson, as a newborn in 2019, and we look forward to expanding our family through adoption again.

We dream of having a large family, and hope each of our children have their own unique stories to be told. We hope to give our children the best future by preparing them for their lives that lay ahead. We dream of exploring new places and learning about different people and cultures. We want to give our children every chance we can to follow their passions and learn from others.

We both had good childhoods and upbringings and would like our children to have the same.

We want to offer this child a loving, giving, and secure environment where this child will have the chance to experience everything that you want for them. We have special family traditions we can't wait to share with our children, and we want to know and celebrate yours as well.

You are important to us. Our number one priority is for you to feel supported and your wishes for your child to be fulfilled. We are committed to providing your sweet child all the hopes and dreams you have for them. We also hope you can strive for your own hopes and dreams. If you select us, we will be on this journey together and we will be open with your child about your love and sacrifice that made us all a family. We look forward to sharing all their milestones; we believe that they need to be celebrated by us and you.

Warmly.

Hayley & Joe



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### Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**SELF-VALUE AND COURAGE** - We want our children to develop self-value and courage. We want them to discover what they believe and be strong and confident to advocate for themselves and others. When we have self-confidence and self-love, we will respect ourselves, and we must respect ourselves before we can respect others and for others to respect us. We will teach our children to have positive self-talk and use their confidence to lead others. We will encourage and reward our children to speak up if something is bothering them, ask questions when they have them, and be confident in those items that are important to them.

**QUALITY TIME WITH FAMILY** - We want our children to know that their family are their biggest supporters and to feel part of something bigger than themselves. We want our children to know they belong, are cared for, and are needed. As a family we spend quality time together reading, playing outside on the water table, swinging on the tree swing, going for gator rides, and having dinner together every night. With our extended family, we have weekly dinners as well as celebrate life together. We believe that family gatherings and holidays are essential for creating a lifetime of memories, sharing stories, and experiencing life together.

KINDNESS AND COMPASSION - We want our children to understand the importance of being respectful and compassionate to everyone around them. The world is full of diversity in opinions, cultures, and actions, and we want our children to understand that this is good. Gaining compassion will help our children think creatively, make decisions that inspire their personal journey, and pursue life with purpose. When Joe was a young boy, he saved all the money he earned through lemonade stands, allowance, birthdays, Christmas, etc. One year his sister wanted a new prom dress, but his parents wouldn't buy her a new one. Instead, Joe bought it for her and loved seeing the look of pure joy on her face. Ever since then he has loved helping others. We give personal care items, cleaning supplies, toolboxes, and utensil packages to a homeless shelter. We also donate items such as dog and cat food, kitty litter, treats and blankets to our local animal shelter. Grayson donates her gently used toys and clothes as well. We hope our children will care about others and provide comfort in their own way.

**LEARNING AND EDUCATION** - We believe that every experience is an opportunity to learn. Whether it is a trip to the grocery store, a walk, or formal education in the classroom, we are surrounded with opportunities to learn and grow. We are a totality of our experiences, and we think it's important for your child to experience the world around them. We hope our children participate in sports/ team activities to learn how to work well with others, enjoy hobbies like drawing and "acting" to further develop their creativity, and read stories and sing songs to help develop their vocabulary.

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#### **HOBBIES:**

Adoptive Mother: Gardening, outdoor exercising, keeping up with friends, history and politics, donating to local shelters, and being a mom

Adoptive Mother: Agriculture, history and politics, golfing, fishing, and working on old cars

#### **PROFESSIONS:**

Adoptive Mother: Stay at Home Mom Adoptive Mother: Business Owner/Farmer

#### **EDUCATION LEVEL:**

Adoptive Mother: Some College Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

PLUS:

- Family dogs
- Both non-smokers

### Our Home

We reside in a small neighborhood just outside of town where everyone has big yards, there are a lot of kids riding bikes together, and there is a neighborhood pool that we all enjoy. It's just a short drive to multiple parks and the community library. We are members of the golf club where we often spend time golfing as a family and swimming during the summer. We also enjoy visiting the local YMCA when it is too cold to enjoy being outside.

Our home was our first big purchase together. We fell in love with the space it has for a growing family. We have a playhouse, sand box, and water table in our backyard. We hope to add a big playground as the children get older. We have a beautiful tree that has a swing tied to it, and a long-paved driveway which makes it fun for the kids to ride their trikes in circles. There is plenty of room for drawing with chalk and hopscotch!

We have enjoyed putting our personal touches on our home and making memories together. We have a cozy living room where everyone gathers and is the perfect dimmed room for movie night! Our playroom is the largest room in the house and is full of all types of toys. It has one wall that is all windows which makes it bright and fun. Hayley's favorite part of the house is the kitchen, it has multiple windows that overlook the entire back yard. Our dining room has a window seat, where we like to sit and watch the dogs play outside. We love our slow mornings together, drinking coffee still in our pajamas and talking about the day ahead of us.

When everyone comes to visit, we are guaranteed to eat a ton of good food. That is our love language. When it's warm, we get outside and grill up some food! We have fun playing games and doing family trivia nights. When it's cold out, we enjoy each other's time inside watching movies or completing puzzles. Every year we have a July 4th party where everyone comes over to swim in our huge blow-up pool and once again celebrate with lots of food.

We are excited to add another child to fill our lives with more love and to watch the children's sibling bond develop. Grayson loves her cousins and our friends' young children. She has such a caring personality and loves to be helpful. We know that she will be happy to have a sister or brother to play with. When it comes to play time, we like to incorporate toys, puzzles and educational games. Quiet time for us, is no TV and using the dim lights. We like having quiet conversations with one another. Outdoor time for us includes so much! When at home we swing, swim, play in the yard, and go for gator rides around the neighborhood.

Your child's room is neutral colors. There is a white crib, with a mobile above it with farm animals. There is also a comfy gray rocker and shelves full of books where we will rock and read to your child! There is a sign above the rocker that says "you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you know."

This is the home where we brought home our first adopted child, and now will be the home where we bring home our children to become a bigger family.



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## Our Family

We met at a college football game more than 12 years go. We became quick friends and two years later we saw each other at a mutual friend's birthday party and danced the night away. Soon afterwards we started dating and four years after we originally met, we were married. A lot of couples don't have the amazing opportunity to be friends for a years before they begin dating. We got that chance and now have many stories to enjoy about when we were friends and when we fell in love.

Joe is intelligent, has a loving heart, and is driven and determined. Hayley has strong will power to meet her goals, is loyal, and kind and generous. As a couple we have open and honest communication and are loyal to each other. We work well together and find common ground. We love each other with everything we have and respect each other for our similarities and differences.

Hayley is a stay-at-home mom, so we enjoy lots of activities and family time. During the winter months we enjoy popcorn and movie nights. Building a snowman and sledding down our neighbor's hill. During the warmer months we enjoy so much more! We like to go on walks and bike rides through the neighborhood, spend the weekend boating and enjoying the water on nearby lakes, and go camping. Every fall we go to the pumpkin patch and pick out our pumpkins to carve. Our local pumpkin patch has a ton of activities for children to enjoy, a corn pit, pumpkin trampoline, and a petting zoo. We also visit the apple orchard, our favorite treats there... apple donuts!



Your child will grow up with great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins who work together to create traditions for great childhood memories. During quarantine we started having trivia nights over the weekends. Each couple in the family hosts and chooses the topics for that weekend. We are the reigning champs! For Halloween Hayley's family has a costume party where we all dress up. Once it's dark we go on a hayrack ride and share ghost stories! Once we return from the ride, we all gather around the bonfire to warm up and have hot cocoa. It's one of our favorite traditions. We hope to continue our Thanksgiving tradition of being with both sides of the family gathered around the table expressing what we're thankful for, as well as continue our Christmas morning tradition of Santa and stockings.

We go to Disney World every other year with Joe's side of the family, and we go as a smaller family group on the off years. When we go with Joe's family, there are 19 (soon to be 20) that go together. We go to the park, visit our favorite restaurant to have fresh oysters, go on boat rides, and of course take tons of pictures. It's usually so much fun! Once we decided to drive an old RV instead of flying. It was the worst decision we could've made! While driving through a down pour, we had to duct tape the windshield wipers together, when it got hot the RV overheated, and the air conditioning broke so we had to drive with the windows open to get "fresh" air. This vacation was like the ones you see in the movies that are just a hot mess. But ones you end up laughing about once it's all over.

Our family is over the moon with the possibility of adding another member to our family and they all look forward to loving and supporting another family member.



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