



Hello We Are...



Blake & Shelby

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Our Hopes & Dreams

We do not know the specifics of what brought you here, but what we are sure you came to this decision out of a selfless 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 will value our relationship with you and always respect you. If we become your child's parents, your child will always know your love.

We both grew up in loving and supportive families with siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents involved in our lives. We have amazing childhood memories of matching PJs at Christmas, swimming, camping and boating with family on 4th of July weekend, and our support system cheering us on at all of our extracurricular activities. Our family has been "our net." They are always there to catch us and support us if we fall. That unwavering and unconditional love has brought us to where we are today.

We hope to share the same experiences with a child and give them a happy, loving, safe, and adventure filled childhood. We are longing for the day that we have a child, to watch them grow, and cheer them on at every milestone. We cannot wait for early mornings, snuggles, laughs, and even sleepless nights.

When we think about what we want to offer a child, the list could go on and on. But most importantly we will offer a child compassion, 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. While we know material things are not as important as the love, emotional support and protection we will provide, our childhoods were filled with things such as our favorite toys, four-wheelers, dirt bikes, bicycles, outdoor play equipment, and much more. We hope to offer these and more to your child. We will encourage them throughout their schooling, including supporting them financially in college, if they chose to go this route.

If you select us, we will do everything we can to ensure that your child never questions your love. Please know that you will always be supported, appreciated, and cared for by us as well. We hope and pray you will make the best decision for you and your child, and we pray that whatever decision you make, you have peace.

Sincerely,

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - Faith comforts us in difficult times and gives us hope in an uncertain world. We will raise your child to show compassion, be forgiving, and to love others. We attend church on Sundays, sitting in the same row with other family members, and participate in small groups with many of our closest friends. Our church has amazing children's programs, like Sunday school, Children's church, vacation bible school, and Team Kids. We hope your child will find valuable life lessons in faith until they are ready to make their own decisions regarding what they believe.



LOVE AND FAMILY - Love is what makes a family, and we are so grateful for the unconditional love and support we received growing up, and still do today. Our parents provided their time, resources, strength, and leadership to us whenever we needed anything. We never had to earn their love, it came without expectation no matter what we did or didn't do. They encouraged a wide variety of activities to find what we enjoyed and stood alongside of us. They attended Shelby's dance, cross-country, basketball, and softball activities. For Blake, they were his biggest baseball fans. We know our families will show the same unconditional love and support to their new grandchild, niece, or nephew as they did with us. We imagine your child having sleep overs with cousins, cooking and baking with grandmothers and aunts, and going fishing with their granddads.



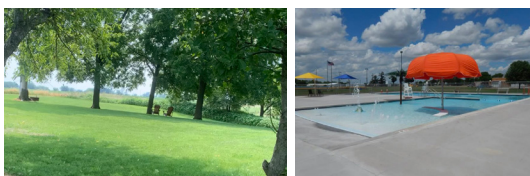
COMPASSION AND KINDNESS - We believe that everyone deserves to be treated with consideration and thoughtfulness. Shelby's brother has special needs; she grew up seeing how mean some people can be to a person with disabilities. We are always friendly, welcoming, and non-judgmental towards others, even when we disagree. We empathize with those who hurt and give a helping hand to those in need. We collect living essentials for a mother/child-focused non-profit organization, purchase and donate goods for the needy, and we have sponsored a child in Mexico for the last several years. We will encourage your child to be kind to others, always look out for the disadvantaged, and to offer a helping hand. From a young age we will bring them alongside us to help rake leaves for elderly widows, bake goods to donate, and deliver meals to those in need.



HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE - We have benefited greatly from hard work and perseverance. It has enabled us to graduate college, achieve great careers, and invest in our futures, hobbies, and trips to amazing places. We also work hard to put each other and our marriage first. Together we read "The 5 Love Languages" and actively show our love to each other in a way we feel most appreciated. Our hope is that your child will meet the challenge when things become hard and lean on us for strength. From a young age, we will teach your child responsibility through fun and educational ways to help around the house, such as sorting laundry by colors, finding fun ways to fold towels, and picking fruit and vegetables in the garden.

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Our Home

We live in a small town with many advantages! There are two parks, a public swimming pool, a lake for boating, 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 parents, grandparents, and siblings all live close by and we enjoy spending time together.

We have a cozy farmhouse on a large property with fruit trees, a garden, and grape vines. We love our little farmhouse but hope to build our "forever" home in the next year or two down the road, still close to our families. Our home is warm and welcoming. There is always the smell of baked goods from Shelby baking sweet treats and pictures of family throughout our home.

Weekend mornings and weekday evenings are our favorite times at home. We enjoy the peacefulness of the mornings, drinking coffee on the deck and watching the sunrise and the deer in the morning light. In the evenings, we talk about our day and make homemade meals with food we've grown ourselves. Summertime is always special to us because our apple and pear trees, grape vines, and raspberry bushes are full of delicious fruit, and our garden full of vegetables. We enjoy eating a variety of foods and love trying new things. We enjoy grilling meats and vegetables when the weather is nice and eating soups or crockpot meals in the winter.

We live within a couple of miles from family and friends with young children. When they come to visit, we spend time playing yard games, sitting around the fire pit, telling stories, and enjoying each other's company. When it's colder, we share meals, watch movies, and play games around the table. The children will have play dates, go to the same school, and will grow up playing together in our yard.

We look forward to sharing our life with a child and are ready to welcome him or her home. We have a crib, changing table, rocking chair, a closet full of baby essentials, handmade baby blankets, books, and more. One wall of the child's room has pictures of baby animals, and another has shelves with Blake's favorite stuffed animals and books from when he was a child. We can't wait to add personal decorations once the child comes home!

We look forward to waking up to our child every morning, giving them a hug and a kiss, and seeing their smile. We look forward to hearing their laughs and little footsteps running across the floors. We also look forward to having family meals and playing together. We imagine spending a lot of time outside in the warm weather. We see us playing on the swing set and in the sandbox, running through sprinklers and coasting on a Slip and Slide, picking fruit from the trees, riding our four-wheelers, and going swimming and boating. In the winter we imagine building snowmen, sledding down the snow-covered hills, making snow angels, and warming ourselves with hot chocolate, homemade cookies, and snuggling under blankets.

Our home will be a place to have fun, spend time with family and friends, find comfort, and to always be themselves.

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, hiking, traveling, spending time with friends and family, listening to music

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Registered Nurse, Educator

Adoptive Father: Electrical and Instrumentation Technician

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Masters Degree

Adoptive Father: Associates Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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Our Family

We have been together for more than ten years but have known each other since we were little kids. We grew up living one mile from each other and Blake's sister babysat Shelby and her siblings. We reconnected in high school, fell in love, and become inseparable high-school sweethearts. We have been together ever since.

It's easy to see how much we have changed and grown as individuals and in our relationship, however, the reasons we fell in love have not changed. Shelby loved Blake's sweet and shy demeanor. She also loved that Blake attended church, was honest, and loved adventure. Blake fell in love with Shelby because of her sense of humor and kindness. She always tried to make others feel welcomed and included. He also admired that Shelby shared the same love for the outdoors as he did. Blake's logical and quiet demeanor complements Shelby's more outgoing and sensitive personality perfectly.

Together our strengths are that we communicate effectively, are intentional about the love we show and time we spend together every day, we laugh and enjoy life in all circumstances, and we are Christ-centered. 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 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 grew up with many family traditions that we look forward to sharing with your child. These traditions created great memories for us as children, young adults, and even now as adults. 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 take 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, sing songs, and play games together. We love Christmas and cannot wait to pass these traditions on to a child. We also enjoy going camping and boating with Shelby's extended family every 4th of July.

We will continue these traditions with your child because we want him or her to have lasting childhood memories with family like we did. We know our family and friends will love your child unconditionally, always.



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