



Hello We Are...



Blake & Shelby

Graceful
Adoptions™ 



Our Hopes & Dreams

We may not know the specifics of what brought you to this moment, but what we do know is that your decision comes from a place of selfless and unconditional love for your child. Thinking of all you have already done and will continue to do for this child moves us deeply. Your strength and bravery inspire us, and if we are chosen to be your child's parents, we promise your child will always know the depth of your love.

We were both fortunate to grow up in loving and supportive families filled with parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents who were actively involved in our lives. Our childhoods were filled with joy and treasured memories—matching pajamas at Christmas, swimming and camping during 4th of July weekends, and the unwavering support of family cheering us on at every activity. Our family has always been our safety net, catching us when we fall and lifting us up when we need help. This strong foundation has shaped who we are today.

Our dream is to create the same loving, happy, and adventure-filled childhood for our children. Becoming parents has been one of our greatest joys, and it has only deepened our desire to grow our family through adoption. We look forward to cherishing the early mornings, sweet snuggles, belly laughs, and even the sleepless nights that come with parenting.

When we envision the life we want to offer your child, the list is endless. Above all, we will provide compassion, spiritual guidance, support, security, safety, and joy. We hope to raise a child who is kind and respectful but also confident enough to stand up for their beliefs. While we know that love and emotional support far outweigh material things, we also want to share the experiences and joys we had growing up—favorite toys, outdoor adventures, bikes, four-wheelers, and play equipment.

We will encourage and nurture their education, support them in discovering their passions, and provide the financial means to pursue higher education if they choose that path. Most importantly, we will create a home where they feel safe, accepted, and cherished.

If you choose us, we will do everything we can to ensure your child never doubts your love for them. We will always honor and respect you and the beautiful, selfless choice you made for their future. Please know that we are here to support, appreciate, and care for you as well.

We hope and pray you will feel peace and clarity as you make this decision for yourself and your child. Whatever choice you make, we trust that it will be the right one for your family.

With love and gratitude,

Blake & Shelby

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

FAITH - Faith brings comfort in challenging times and fills us with hope in an uncertain world. We will raise your child with compassion, forgiveness, and love for others at the heart of their upbringing. Our Sundays are spent at church, where we sit in the same row with family members and participate in small groups alongside close friends and their children. Our church offers wonderful programs for kids, including Sunday School, Children's Church, Vacation Bible School, and Adventure Club. We hope these experiences will provide valuable life lessons in faith, while allowing your child the freedom to explore and make their own decisions about what they believe when they are ready.



LOVE AND FAMILY - Love is what defines a family. We are so grateful for the love and support we received growing up—and still do today. Our parents exemplified love that came without expectation, freely given no matter our achievements or struggles. They encouraged us to explore a variety of activities, supporting Shelby at dance and sports events and cheering Blake on as his biggest baseball fans. We know our families will extend the same unwavering Love to their new grandchild, niece, or nephew. We imagine your child enjoying sleepovers with grandparents and cousins, baking and cooking with grandmothers and aunts, and fishing with their granddads. These moments of connection will create memories that last a lifetime.



COMPASSION AND KINDNESS - Everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect. Shelby's brother has special needs, and growing up, she witnessed the struggles he faced due to others' lack of understanding. These experiences shaped our belief in being welcoming, friendly, and nonjudgmental, even when we don't agree. We actively strive to give back, whether it's collecting essentials for a mother/child-focused nonprofit, sponsoring a child in Mexico, or providing goods to those in need. We want to teach your child to recognize others' struggles, lend a helping hand, and practice kindness daily. From an early age, they will join us in meaningful acts of service, such as raking leaves for elderly widows, baking and delivering goods, and preparing meals for those in need.



HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE - Hard work and perseverance have been integral to our lives, allowing us to graduate college, pursue fulfilling careers, purchase a home, and travel to incredible places. We also work hard to nurture our relationship, putting our marriage first. Together, we've read *The 5 Love Languages* and make intentional efforts to show love in ways that mean the most to each other. We hope to instill in your child the same values of determination and resilience, helping them face challenges with courage while knowing they can lean on us for strength. From a young age, we'll teach responsibility in fun, age-appropriate ways—sorting laundry by colors or folding towels creatively. Outside, they'll learn about caring for nature and animals by gathering eggs or picking fruits and vegetables in our garden. Through faith, love, kindness, and perseverance, we aim to provide your child with a strong foundation to thrive and grow.

A Beautiful Experience





Our Home

We are blessed to live in a charming small town that offers so many wonderful advantages! Our community is home to two beautiful parks, a public swimming pool, and a lake perfect for boating. We also have ice cream shops, cozy restaurants, and a coffee shop where neighbors gather. Every summer, the town comes alive with a big celebration featuring a parade, food vendors, and fun children's games. It's a place where community and connection thrive.

One of the best parts about living here is having our parents, grandparents, and siblings close by. Family time is an essential part of our lives, and we love the support and joy that comes from spending time together.

We live in a cozy ranch-style home set on five acres of beautiful land. Our property is a haven, with fruit trees, grapevines, a garden, a swing set, and even a tire swing. We also share our space with some adorable companions—two playful outdoor kittens, chickens, and ducks who bring us endless entertainment and joy. Our land is perfect for walks, exploration, and creating treasured family memories.

Inside, our home is warm and welcoming, often filled with the comforting aroma of baked goods as Shelby loves baking sweet treats and bread. Weekend mornings and weekday evenings are some of our favorite times, as we enjoy being together as a family.

In the summer, we sip coffee on the deck, watching the sunrise and the deer graze in the morning light. In the winter, we love cuddling on the couch in front of the fireplace, watching a children's cartoon, and savoring the quiet comfort of the season. Our home is alive with the rhythms of the seasons—grilling, eating fresh-picked fruits and vegetables in the summer and savoring hearty soups and homemade bread during the cozy winter months.

Our community is filled with family and friends, many of whom have young children. Visits are always lively and joyful. In warmer months, we enjoy yard games, evenings around the fire pit, storytelling, and laughter. During colder weather, we gather around the table for meals, games, and movies. Weekly playdates with other children are a highlight for us, and it's exciting to imagine them all growing up and going to school together someday.

We are thrilled to share our lives and home with another child. We've prepared a special nursery filled with love and care. The room is decorated with a large picture of Noah's Ark, a Bible verse, and a bookshelf that holds Blake's favorite stuffed animal and book from his childhood. We can't wait to add personal touches once the child joins our family.

We look forward to waking up to hugs and smiles from our children, hearing their laughter and tiny footsteps filling our home. We imagine warm summer days spent playing on the swing set, splashing through sprinklers, picking fruit, and riding four-wheelers. In the winter, we picture sledding down snowy hills, building snowmen, making snow angels, and then warming up with hot chocolate and homemade cookies by the fireplace.

Our home is more than just a house—it's a place where fun, family, and love come together. It's a space where children will always feel safe, comforted, and free to be themselves.

HOBBIES:

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

Adoptive Father: Hunting, fishing, reading, grilling, boating, being outdoors, exercising, hiking, traveling, spending time with friends and family, listening to music/podcasts

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Registered Clinical Nurse Educator and Stay at home mom

Adoptive Father: Electrical and Instrumentation Reliability Technician

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Master's Degree

Adoptive Father: Associates Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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Our Family

We've been together for over twelve years, but our story began much earlier—we've known each other since childhood. Growing up just a mile apart, Blake's sister babysat Shelby and her siblings. Years later, we reconnected in high school, fell in love, and became inseparable high school sweethearts. Since then, we've shared a beautiful journey together, and our bond has only grown stronger with time.

While we've both grown and evolved as individuals and as a couple, the reasons we fell in love remain unchanged. Shelby was drawn to Blake's sweet and shy demeanor, his honesty, love for adventure, and his commitment to faith. Blake fell for Shelby's sense of humor, her kindness, and the way she always made others feel welcome and included. He also admired their shared love for the outdoors. Blake's logical and steady nature perfectly complements Shelby's outgoing and sensitive personality, making us a great team. Becoming parents has only magnified these qualities and deepened our love and respect for each other.

Our relationship is built on strong foundations: open communication, intentional love, and a faith-centered life. We laugh and find joy in all circumstances and prioritize spending meaningful time together every day. As a family, we cherish our time outdoors, whether we're fishing, boating, riding four-wheelers, grilling, traveling, hiking, skiing, or simply enjoying a peaceful walk. We also love cozy evenings playing board games, watching movies, or cooking together. Whatever we do, we make it fun and memorable.

Our extended families are an important part of our lives, and we're fortunate to spend time with them almost every weekend. Summers are filled with boating, swimming, camping, and relaxing at the sandbar. Recent family trips have taken us to Battle Lake, Minnesota, and the Yellow River in Iowa, and we're currently planning a trip to Colorado. Weekend getaways often include visits to Blake's grandparents' home or Shelby's family's cabin. We feel so blessed by the love and support of our families and couldn't ask for a better community to share life with.

We both grew up with family traditions that we are eager to pass on to a child. Shelby bakes and decorates her great-grandmother's sugar cookie recipe every Christmas with her mom, sister, cousins, and aunts—a sweet tradition that brings generations together. On Christmas morning, we all wear matching family pajamas, creating laughter and warmth. One of Blake's favorite traditions is his family's Christmas celebration, where 60-70 family members gather at a hotel in early December for a gift exchange, dinner, caroling, and games.

We also enjoy celebrating Memorial Day and the 4th of July with Shelby's extended family, camping and boating together to create unforgettable summer memories. These traditions brought us so much joy as children, young adults, and now as parents, and we can't wait to share them with your child.

Your child will grow up surrounded by love, not only from us but also from our extended family and friends. They will experience the same love and support that we've been blessed with throughout our lives. We are so excited to build a life filled with laughter, cherished traditions, and lasting memories with your child, knowing they will always be loved deeply by everyone in their life.



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