



Hello We Are...



Derik & Katie

Graceful  
Adoptions™ 



## Our Hopes & Dreams

Our greatest hope is to create a life that is not only fulfilling for us, but meaningful for those around us, especially for the children we are fortunate enough to raise. We believe a truly rich life is one filled with purpose, compassion, connection, and the joy that comes from supporting others.

Since the early days of our relationship, we've dreamed of building a family grounded in love, curiosity, and mutual respect. We always imagined raising children in a home where they would feel truly seen, supported, and celebrated. After facing infertility and realizing that treatment wasn't the right path for us, we chose to provide foster care and now pursue adoption, knowing in our hearts that our journey was leading us here, to a lasting, stable family built through love and intention.

Katie finds deep joy in her role as a professor, especially in mentoring students and watching them grow into confident, capable people. Derik is the kind of person who is always ready to lend a hand, whether it's helping a neighbor or supporting a friend in need. Together, we've shared the profound experience of being foster parents, opening our home and hearts to children who needed stability and love. Each child we cared for shaped us, teaching us more about patience, resilience, and unconditional love.

We want to offer your child a nurturing environment where they can grow into whoever they are meant to be. That includes a warm and safe home, access to education, meaningful experiences, and the freedom to explore their own interests, whether that's music, science, sports, art, or something entirely unique. We will always make sure your child has all of the material things needed while growing up with unwavering love, security, patience, and acceptance. We want your child to know they will always have a place where they belong, just as they are.

We want you to know how deeply we respect the love, strength, and courage it takes to consider adoption. We don't take this lightly. You are already showing the deepest form of love imaginable. We hope you feel supported and honored every step of the way, wherever your journey leads.

If you choose us, we would be honored to build an open, respectful relationship with you, one that offers your child the opportunity to understand their story and the immense love that brought them into the world. We will always speak of you with love and gratitude and ensure your child knows how important you are.

Lovingly,

Derik & Katie

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**PASSION AND DETERMINATION** - We believe passion gives life purpose, and unwavering determination helps us achieve meaningful goals. Both of us have chosen careers in engineering—Katie as a professor and Derik as a project engineer—and we approach our work with dedication, enthusiasm, and heart. We bring that same energy into our hobbies, relationships, and volunteer work. We will encourage your child to discover what excites them and support their dreams with patience and commitment. By showing them what it means to work hard and love what they do, we hope to inspire them to pursue their own passions with confidence and joy.



**EDUCATION AND A LOVE OF LEARNING** - Education has played an important role in shaping our lives, but to us, learning is more than just school—it's a lifelong journey. We're naturally curious people who enjoy exploring new ideas, reading, and building new skills. We will nurture that same curiosity in your child. Whether they're asking big questions, trying out new activities, or exploring a topic that excites them, we'll cheer them on every step of the way. Our home will be one where discovery is celebrated and where your child feels encouraged to follow their unique path, whether that's college, trade school, or something completely different.



**KINDNESS, RESPECT, AND COMPASSION** - We believe deeply in treating every person with dignity and kindness. As former foster parents and active volunteers, we've seen how powerful compassion can be. We meet others with empathy and an open heart—no matter their background or story. These are the values we will pass on to your child. They will grow up in a home where feelings are respected, voices are heard, and kindness is practiced every day. We will teach them to see the good in others, to be a helper in their community, and to lead with love.

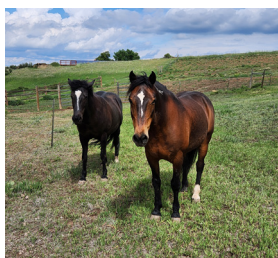


**FUN AND ADVENTURE** - We believe that laughter, play, and exploration are just as important as responsibility and routine. We fill our lives with fun—hiking, paddleboarding, game nights, and traveling to new places. Even simple moments, like dancing in the kitchen or trying a new recipe, become special memories. We want your child to grow up surrounded by joy, encouraged to be curious and adventurous. We'll create traditions and take on new adventures together, helping them grow in confidence while enjoying the beauty and wonder of everyday life.

**IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY** - Creativity isn't just for art—it's how we solve problems, express ourselves, and make sense of the world. Whether it's building with Legos, writing stories, or dreaming up big ideas, imagination is celebrated in our home. Katie nurtures creative thinking with her students, and Derik loves to build and fix things with a creative twist. We will support your child's creativity in every form—through art, music, building, or simply playing make-believe. Their ideas will always be welcome, and their imagination will be seen as a strength.

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# Our Home

Our home sits in a quiet, rural neighborhood where each house has several acres of land, perfect for outdoor play, imagination, and adventure. Children here spend their days riding bikes, playing tag, or sneaking treats to the horses. It's a close-knit, family-friendly community where kids make lasting friendships and neighbors genuinely care for one another.

Our home is peaceful and inviting, comfortable, down-to-earth, intentional, and family-focused. It's the kind of place where you can curl up with a book and blanket on the couch, build a fort, or watch elk wander by outside the window. Every room is designed to be lived in and loved—a space where your child can feel safe, relaxed, and truly at home. It's the kind of space where you can take a deep breath and immediately feel at ease.

Our fenced-in property has a playset and plenty of space for sports, games, and free play. Surrounded by nature, we're just minutes from hiking trails, lakes, and parks that invite us to swim, fish, paddle board, or simply enjoy the outdoors. In the winter, we look forward to family trips to nearby mountains for sledding or building snowmen before coming home to hot cocoa and warm blankets.

The child's room is one of our favorite spaces in the house. It's warm and peaceful, designed to feel like a true sanctuary. We've kept it simple and open, allowing plenty of room to play, move, and grow. The soft, neutral tones create a calming atmosphere, and we've included a comfortable bed, a large dresser, and a spacious closet for storing clothes, toys, and treasures. There's also wall space ready for artwork, school projects, and photos—whatever reflects their unique personality. Whether they're reading, playing with blocks, or just daydreaming, we want this room to be a place where they feel completely at home. As they grow, the space will grow with them—decorated and arranged in ways that reflect who they are and what they love.

Our animals are truly part of the family—two horses, two dogs, and two cats—each with their own gentle and loving personality. They've been amazing with the foster children who've lived here, offering comfort, fun, and friendship. The kids especially love helping care for the animals and forming bonds that bring joy and teach responsibility.

When friends and family visit, we gather for meals, games, and time together. We love relaxed evenings—dinner around the table, a walk through the neighborhood, or board games and laughter in the living room. Weekends are for exploring, visiting parks, or enjoying quiet mornings with coffee and cartoons.

We envision staying in this home for many years to come. We cherish its simplicity, the peacefulness that surrounds us, and the warmth that a smaller, close-knit community brings. It's a place where we feel grounded, connected, and truly at home—and we can't wait to share that with your child.

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Reading, Cooking, Gardening, Swimming, Hiking, Paddle Boarding, Golfing, Trivia, Board Games, Escape Rooms

**Adoptive Father:** Tinkering (working on cars, equipment, electronics), Video Games, Biking, Hiking, Paddle Boarding, Golfing, Trivia, Board Games, Escape Rooms

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Assistant Research Professor

**Adoptive Father:** Principal Project Engineer

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Doctoral Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Bachelor's Degree

## PLUS:

- Family dogs, cats and horses
- Both non-smokers

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# Our Family

At the heart of our life is connection, whether with each other, our families, our friends, or our community. We believe that strong, lasting relationships are built on love, trust, laughter, and simply showing up for one another. Over the years, we've built not only a deep bond between the two of us, but also a strong chosen family that surrounds us with warmth and support. We've learned that love isn't limited by distance or defined by biology, and your child will grow up surrounded by people who love them fiercely and unconditionally.

We met in college through a shared group of friends, and what began as a fun and easy friendship slowly turned into something more. There was a quiet realization that the person we trusted most, the one we looked forward to seeing each day, was also the person we were falling in love with. Our relationship grew naturally from a foundation of shared values, mutual respect, and deep companionship. Being together feels like home.



We enjoy a balance of adventure and downtime in our daily life. Whether it's hiking, paddleboarding, playing golf, or simply exploring a new town, we love experiencing the world together. We also treasure the cozy moments like board games at home, movie nights with popcorn, or just curling up with a good book or a cup of coffee. One of our favorite ways to stay connected with friends is through trivia nights and escape rooms, which always bring out lots of laughter, teamwork, and playful competition.

A weekly tradition we hold dear is Sunday Game Night with our close group of friends. Each week, we gather to share a meal, play games, or watch a movie—taking turns choosing the food and activity. It's a relaxed, joyful evening that has become one of the anchors in our week, creating meaningful connections and a strong sense of community that we can't wait to share with your child.

Holidays are also a special part of our family rhythm. We love celebrating Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and the 4th of July—often by attending local events and enjoying festive meals with friends and family. We especially love including children in these moments, whether it's decorating cookies, dressing up for Halloween, or watching fireworks together under the stars.

Travel is another way we create lasting memories. Each year, we take at least one vacation, often with friends who have children or with our extended family. These trips are a time to slow down, explore, and laugh together—whether we're trying something new or simply enjoying quality time in a new place.

Our desire is to create a home where your child feels safe, loved, and truly seen. A place where everyday life is filled with warmth and support, and where traditions, both old and new, help build a life full of meaning, love, and joyful memories.



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