



*AJ, Stacy, Georgia,
Blake & Jude*

As difficult as it can be to get to know someone on paper, we'd like to try to help you get to know us. We met 15 years ago through a mutual friend in college and have been together ever since. We share the same values and place our faith and family at the top of our priority list. We want our children to grow up knowing they are loved, knowing God, and knowing they have all the support in the world to follow their dreams. We strive to teach them kindness, gratitude, the importance of hard work and giving, and of course, how to have fun!

We have many things in common but also have differing characteristics that complement and balance each other well. AJ has degrees in Civil Engineering and Business Administration. He manages large construction projects overseeing major excavation sites, highways, bridges, and warehouse distribution centers. His schedule is flexible which allows him to put his family first and spend a lot of time at home. He enjoys sports, running, and house projects. He is the first to offer friends a hand with anything and teaches the Pre-K/Kindergarten Sunday school class at our church. Stacy earned her degree in Health and Wellness and is a Licensed Massage Therapist and former Certified Personal Trainer. She previously taught science courses at a community college but her current and favorite job is being a stay-at-home mom to our kiddos. She enjoys reading, cooking, repurposing furniture, and being active with the kids. She also volunteers with childcare at our church, attends a weekly bible study, and hosts a summertime playgroup for moms from our community.

We were both raised in smaller towns with supportive parents who taught us the values of family, responsibility, love, and faith. Stacy has a younger brother and is extremely close with her mom and extended family. (We actually bought a house with Stacy's mom about five years ago and live together – she retired just over a year ago and the kids love having “GiGi” around). AJ comes from a larger bunch with four siblings and nine nieces and nephews. They all live about 2 hours away, but we see them monthly for family birthdays and holiday celebrations. We're both close with each other's families, all of whom have always, and continue to, support us on our adoption journey. We also have a close-knit group of family-like friends who have kids similar ages to ours and whose families are still growing as well.

As a family, we love doing things together! We live in a great city with a small town feel but big enough to offer plenty of experiences. Our town has 2 colleges and a thriving downtown with festivals nearly every weekend. We have several great parks, bike/walking trails, and a phenomenal library. Our kids have been involved in activities at the arts center and YMCA and will continue to have more opportunities as they grow. We're also within a 1 to 2-hour drive of several bigger cities with zoos, museums, sports events, theaters, etc.

In addition to the great attributes of our town, our home and neighborhood are more than we could have dreamed for raising a family. We found a church home with several families that share the same values, and have wonderful neighbors. We live on a quiet street in a great neighborhood. There are several other families, some empty nesters, and in between. Everyone looks out for each other and is very friendly. We live in a multigenerational home with Stacy's mom, Suzie, and Stacy's 3-year-old niece, Quinn. (Suzie is Quinn's primary caregiver and has been since Quinn's birth. Our family make-up might be a little nontraditional but we love it! And watching our kids with their cousin is proof they're going to be great with future siblings).

Because we host neighbors, friends, and family often, a home with plenty of space inside and out was important to us. In addition to our family room, we have a play room space on the main floor and a jungle gym and active toys in the basement. We have 5 bedrooms and a big, partially fenced back yard with a playground of sorts that we've built over the past few years. We absolutely love it here and the layout (having a master suite for us upstairs by the kids' bedrooms and one on the main floor for Suzie) works perfectly!

Adoption has always been in our hearts and when we weren't able to conceive, we immediately began researching adoption options. We really don't see adoption as our plan B; we feel like God was calling us to

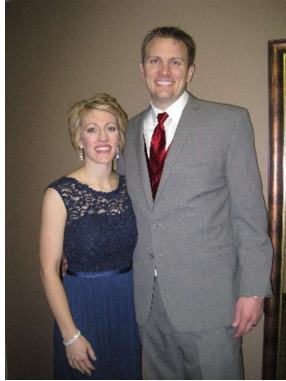
adopt all along. We were thrilled to become parents when we were blessed by the adoption of our daughter and our hearts only grew as each of our sons joined the family. All three of our adoptions have been unique in their own ways and different from the one before. Georgia, now 8, came home at three months of age. We were able to bring Blake, now 7, home straight from the hospital two days after he was born. And Jude, now 6, was just shy of his second birthday when he joined our family. They have each added more joy and love to our world than we could have imagined. Watching them learn, grow, discover, and become their own people has been amazing! Georgia loves to read and draw and do anything creative. Blake is a total detail kid and likes building with k'nex and magnetic sets. Jude is our mechanical guy. He loves figuring out how things work, taking things apart, and rebuilding. All of them love books, art, playing outside, doing puzzles, and helping in the kitchen and with their younger cousin. They're always asking to invite over friends or family or visit them. While AJ and I have always wanted a big family, we only made the decision to adopt again after talking with our kids first. This is truly a group decision and the kids can't wait to have more siblings!

In over 12 years of marriage, we've had so many adventures. We've changed jobs, relocated, endured the loss of loved ones, welcomed new family members through weddings and babies, and leaned on God and each other through it all. Also, humor. We're firm believers in the power of laughter as medicine! Our greatest adventure, by far, has been growing our family. Each of us have our own stories and characteristics and we value and treasure our differences. Life would be boring if we all looked and acted the same! Life is chaotic and messy and, rarely quiet in our house, but we love it, we're a team, and we wouldn't have it any other way!

To us, adoption is such a selfless gift that shows true love and courage on your part. We promise to give our all should you choose us to be part of your adoption plan. We know parenting isn't all roses and sunshine, but we're in this forever; for the good, the tough, and everything in between. In regards to openness, each of our kids have closed adoptions, a choice made by their birth parents, but we are absolutely open to an open adoption. We would welcome the opportunity to get to know you and continue a relationship with you if that is what you want. Whatever you decide, we want it to be what is right for you. You have our greatest respect and admiration and we thank you for taking the time to consider us.

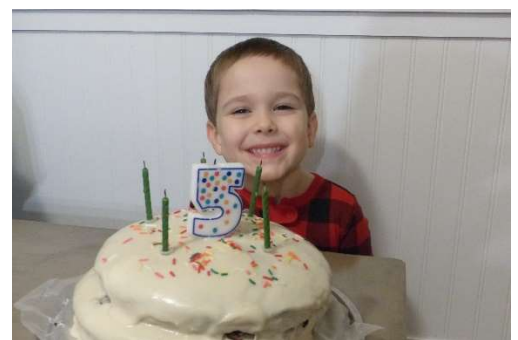
AJ and Stacy

		
Georgia	Blake	Jude



We've included pictures from the past several years through 2020 to share a real glimpse into our lives.







Georgia's 1st Day
Home (2012)



Blake's 1st Day Home
(2013)



Georgia & Blake
excitedly waiting to
meet Jude when we
brought him home



1st night together
(2016)





Backyard
→
Basement
←

