

Hello!

We are Derek and Katherine and we are extremely grateful for the time you're willing to take reading through our profile. We recognize the difficult place you are in and all the decisions you are having to make at this time. We know you want the best for your child and we want to thank you for considering us as prospective adoptive parents!





How we met

We met each other in our mid-twenties. We had both heard about each other through mutual friends, and finally met, late one night at Waffle House. That's where all romantic stories start, right? We kept each other in the friend zone for a couple of years, meeting up after softball games, or going to movies.

A few years later Derek moved away for a new job. After a few weeks of not living in the same town, we realized we missed each other! We started dating which meant a lot of phone time and driving back and forth to see each other on the weekends. A year and a half later on a freezing winter walk by a river, Derek asked Katherine to marry him. She was so excited she nearly fell in the river, and finally managed to say yes! We were married 5 months later!





Meet Katherine

Katherine grew up in Atlanta and is the middle child of 11 children. Yes, you read that right! Growing up she was always the one who wanted to color. Her mom was artistic and always encouraged whatever she was interested in. She loved being around children which naturally led to 5 years of working as a nanny. Additionally she spent several years overseas working with children in Ukraine before returning to the states to study art. Katherine now paints commission artwork for clients out of her home. Working from home allows her to have a flexible schedule. She loves her interaction with clients and their families! Whenever nieces or nephews come to visit you can usually find her setting up some art project for them to work on!

Derek about Katherine -

"One of the first things I noticed about Katherine is that she was always up for an adventure. I knew that we would have so much fun together! She is by far the most caring and considerate person I have ever met. Katherine does an amazing job making our home warm and welcoming and is an incredible hostess! I enjoy spending as much time with her as possible. She is an incredible woman!"





Meet Derek

Derek grew up as an only child; quite different from Katherine's family experience! However his extended family was close and often the cousins could be found getting into trouble just like siblings. He was always spending his free time playing outside and trying out any sport available. As a child, he liked tinkering and taking things apart (especially things he wasn't supposed to!) Following that impulse led him to engineering school where he obtained a degree in Construction Management.

He currently works as a project manager on a college campus. He enjoys seeing projects go from being a mud pit in the ground to a final product. Derek enjoys spending time with friends, playing any sort of sport, and being outside.

Katherine about Derek -

"When Derek and I were dating, before I even knew I wanted to marry him, I knew Derek would be a great dad someday! He is fun and hilarious and never seems to have met a stranger! Regularly we'll be in another town and he'll run into someone he knows! Derek is extremely thoughtful of others, caring and kind, and I don't know anyone who doesn't like to hang out with him. He makes everyone around him smile and laugh. Derek has shown me the greatest love I've ever known."





Meet Levi

Levi was born in October of 2019 and joined our family through adoption! We are so grateful to Levi's birth parents for choosing us and we correspond with them regularly sending photos and updates.

He is a busy little guy running and walking all over the place! Levi loves spotting the airplanes and birds when we go on walks, and "crunching" the leaves under his feet! He's all into climbing the stairs, reading books and sorting through the tupperware drawer!

We're excited to see him as a big brother. He's cute loving on his younger cousin and we're sure he's going to be a great big brother!





Our community

Our college town where we live couldn't be a better fit for us personally. Community is a huge part of our lives, and we love the fact that we can run over to friend's house for an impromptu dinner, or have people over for a game night. A lot of our community revolves around our church and our small group that meets weekly in homes where we have a meal together and share life. We love our Saturday morning tradition of going for a run and then hanging out at a local coffee shop with friends and their kids.





Our home

We bought our house in 2011, the same year we got married. We've enjoyed working in the yard and trying to plant a garden (even though the deer keep eating everything!) Derek is Mr. Handyman and we often have projects like refinishing furniture that we work on together. Our home has three bedrooms and bathrooms, and a large living room/kitchen/dining area that's the main hangout spot.

Katherine's studio is the first room as you walk into the house and she enjoys being able to work from home. We have a large basement and have made this into a game area that's great for kids, and opens onto our backyard. Our home backs up to woods as far as we can see, and we love watching the seasons change and enjoying the wildlife!





Our Families

Most of Katherine's siblings are married and now have children of their own. Although it is not often that we can all be in the same place at the same time, we see one another frequently as most of them live within a short drive. Katherine's parents are less than two hours away and visit often.

Derek's parents just bought a house in our town and can't wait until the renovations are done and they can move in! One of Katherine's brothers lives in town and is has two children around Levi's age. We're fortunate to have lots of family close by and love getting together with them.



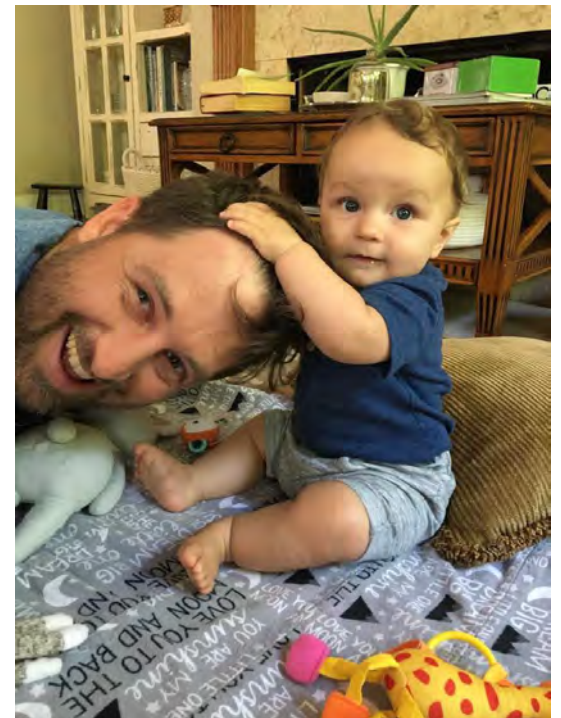


What we like to do

We love having people in our home, cooking together for friends, and hanging out talking or playing games. Derek's favorite meal to cook is brunch, and he would probably eat biscuits for all 3 meals if he could! Often on a Friday evening you'll find us at a friend's house, with some sort of potluck dinner, and a bunch of kids running around in the yard.

We've had the opportunity to travel a good amount together and been to several different countries. We love having new experiences, learning about new cultures, and trying different foods! Recently we took a weeklong hiking trip and loved being outdoors in the mountain air! Every fall we go to the beach with some of Katherine's family and love having a relaxing vacation.





As parents we're excited about -

- Making a big sticky pancake breakfast as a family on Saturday morning
- Coaching our kids' soccer teams, or being the team mom for whatever sport they might be interested in
- Goofy time together and belly laughs with our kiddos
- Snuggling up by the fire with Christmas books and Derek's famous hot chocolate recipe
- Building sandcastles at the beach (and maybe also tearing them down while making dinosaur noises...)
- Taking family picnics to the pool on hot summer days
- Craft projects for the little ones; Katherine has lots of supplies!

We have always wanted to be parents and struggled through many years of infertility waiting to grow our family. We've celebrated new babies with so many friends and families for years, and are so grateful for the opportunity to be parents through adoption! We consider the opportunity to raise a child to be one of the greatest honors of our life, and are eagerly anticipating the possibility of adding another child to our family!



Thank You

For taking the time to get to know us and read a little bit about our lives! We cannot imagine how complicated and difficult this time is for you, but we are praying peace for you in your decision. We're so grateful for the life growing inside of you and deeply respect your desire to do what is best for your child.