



our journey
to adoption

KELLIE & LAUREN



We met online over eleven years ago, and it turned out we lived around the corner from each other. We have been together ever since! We got engaged at our favorite place on the beach, under a pier at sunset. We were married in a small backyard ceremony with close friends and family. We both work for the same insurance company in different roles. Kellie works with provider contracts, and Lauren works directly with provider offices. Our relationship is based on laughter and love. We can be quirky and silly around each other without judgment. We even have a secret handshake and nicknames, and we have been known to have spontaneous dance parties while cooking dinner.



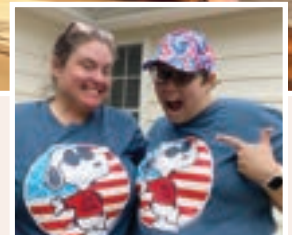
our home & pets

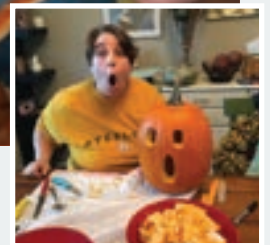
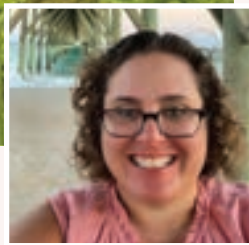
Our house has three bedrooms and is in a cul-de-sac tucked in the middle of a diverse neighborhood with children all around. We live near parks, lakes, and walking trails and have a big backyard waiting for a playset. Our best friends live just down the street from us, which is great for playdates! We live close to downtown, with museums, restaurants, and fun places to explore. The schools in our community are among the best. We live equal distances to the beach and the mountains and love to take trips there. We have a 14-year-old chihuahua named Maya. She is tiny at four pounds but full of personality. She has always loved children and has been known to sneak kisses at any given opportunity.

what led us to adoption

When we began dating, we immediately spoke about children. Both of us love children and always wanted to have our own someday. Little did we know we both wanted to adopt! Lauren has always wanted to adopt, and both Kellie's brother and sister were adopted at birth. She loved the idea as well. We first chose to become foster parents to help children in need and support keeping families together. After three years of being foster parents, we decided it was time to permanently expand our family and adopt. Adoption has ALWAYS been our first choice. We have so much love to give!

PHOTOS OF our life together





- OCCUPATION:** Network engagement
- EDUCATION:** BA in psychology
- RACE:** Caucasian
- RELIGION:** Spiritual
- SPORT:** Swimming
- FOOD:** Sushi
- HOBBY:** Crafts, kayaking
- TRADITION:** Carving pumpkins together, backyard cookouts, summers at the pool
- MUSICAL GROUP:** Adele, Sia, Tegan and Sara
- MOVIE:** *Dirty Dancing*
- DREAM VACATION:** A tour of Asia
- HOLIDAY:** Thanksgiving
- TV SHOW:** *A Million Little Things*, *Friends*
- SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** Theater
- BOOK:** *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

- OCCUPATION:** Provider contracting
- EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree
- RACE:** Caucasian
- RELIGION:** Spiritual
- SPORT:** Football
- FOOD:** Pizza
- HOBBY:** Fishing, kayaking
- TRADITION:** Driving around to see the holiday lights on Christmas Eve, cupcakes at the pool for birthdays
- MUSICAL GROUP:** Any current pop music
- MOVIE:** *Apollo 13*
- DREAM VACATION:** Bora Bora
- HOLIDAY:** Christmas
- TV SHOW:** *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD*
- SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** Gym
- BOOK:** Nicholas Sparks books

OUR FAMILY and traditions



Lauren's parents live very close, and we get together often and for most major holidays. We have dinner together frequently and stop by just to say hello. They can't wait to be grandparents! Lauren's sister lives in New York, along with most of her extended family. Kellie's family all live in Pennsylvania. She has one brother, one sister, a niece, and two nephews. Even though there is distance, they talk all the time, FaceTime, and send daily Snapchats. We love traveling to Pennsylvania to spend time with family. Both of our families are very excited to add a new member to the family. Kellie's siblings are both adopted as well, so they understand adoption.

We want to expose our child to our unique backgrounds and have them appreciate the differences in the world while understanding not everyone is the same. We love taking an annual trip to the pumpkin farm and selecting perfect pumpkins. We always get a small one for our chihuahua! We carve those with our friends and their children while having a bonfire and roasting marshmallows. Birthdays are always special occasions as we love to celebrate each other. We can't wait to celebrate our child every day!





Dear Mama,

We can't tell you how much we appreciate you taking the time to consider us to raise your baby. Take a breath and know you and your baby would be safe and loved with us. Please know we will not only do everything we can to create the best life possible for your baby but we will be a support to you as well. Your baby will always know where they came from. They will never have to question their background. We will always explain your selfless love.

Our home will always be a place of unconditional love, and we promise to support their unique personality. Every day will be an adventure filled with laughter and exploration. We can't wait to make chocolate chip pancakes together on Sundays or to take your child to the beach to build sandcastles and surf the waves. Lauren is excited to teach your child creativity and crafts. Kellie can't wait to introduce them to Steelers football and fishing. We will be with them for every award, every scraped knee, and everything in between!

We promise we will always be your child's safe place. They will never question our love and support. We promise to teach your child how to be a good person. Kindness, empathy, and caring for others are values that we believe in and want to instill in your child. We promise that your child will be surrounded by love and be the center of our world.

LAUREN & KELLIE