

Hello Expectant family!

First of all thank you so much for looking at our profile! We look forward to telling you a little more about all of us in the family! We know that this is a difficult decision, and we so respect you and how you must be feeling at this moment.

Let us start by telling you a little more about us.

Dan and Kathryn: Our names are Dan and Kathryn. We met in college and became sweethearts in 2006. We got engaged quickly and got married in 2007. A year later Dan got a degree in English and started working at a bank. Kathryn got her degree in 2009 in sociology. Not long after Kathryn graduated from college, Dan changed jobs and began working as a correctional officer, a job he has been in for almost 11 years now! After completing her degree in Sociology, Kathryn tried a lot of different careers, she was a director of youth ministry at a local United Methodist church for a while but eventually returned to her first love of counseling. She received her addiction counseling degree in December 2019, and not too long later she got a job at an addiction counseling agency in our city. A job she loves and intends to stay in for a long time. Dan works full time to support the family and Kathryn's job is part-time to allow her to stay home and home school our children.

Liam- Our oldest son Liam was born in 2008. He is a great kid! He loves everyone he meets and wants to be friends with everyone. He is very responsible too and got his babysitting license from the red cross this summer. His two greatest loves are his family and Legos! He also loves spending time with his friends from church and from school. Liam does struggle with dyslexia, but he does well in the virtual school we have placed him in.

Liam had a bit of a health scare in November 2019 (He is lucky back to full health now!) and ended up spending time at Children's Mercy in Kansas City. We were very lucky that this hospital was close to us! While we were there we met and began relationships with a lot of the cardiology team there and in our home town which is about 45 minutes away from Kansas City. Though this was a scary time for us, we believe that maybe the Universe was preparing us for an adoption of a child with Down syndrome who might need access to cardiac services. We already know everyone and feel confident in the way they would care for any child that would come into our family.

Cole- Cole is our second little boy. He was born in October 2010 and is a very sweet young man! He also has struggled a bit and has a diagnosis of mild ADHD. Educating him virtually has made it possible for us to avoid putting him on medication and allowed him to excel at the things he enjoys. Cole LOVES science (especially dinosaurs), takes Piano lessons and hip hop dance lessons, and loves to spend his free time playing video games with his siblings and his friends.

Caroline- Caroline is our miracle baby girl. She was born in 2013. When Kathryn was about 6 months pregnant with Caroline she and Daniel received a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. We were terrified of what that might mean for our little girl. So when we say that we have been where you are it is completely true. In the end it turned out that the diagnosis was not correct and Caroline was born without Down syndrome, but we clearly remember not knowing how we would have handled it at the time if she'd had the diagnosis.

Nowadays, Caroline is a light in our life. She is going into 1st grade and is a sweet and spunky little girl. She takes ballet and tap which she enjoys very much! She is getting ready to take piano lessons with her brother. Caroline does have a diagnosis of a speech and language delay, so she attends speech therapy through her school as well as through our local ear, nose and throat office. She is making tremendous progress, and we are so proud of her.

“Grandma and Papa” and “Oregon Grandma”- Our extended families are VERY important to us! Some of them are blood and some of them are people we have known for a long time that we consider family. Pictured below you will see Grandma and Papa, they are Kathryn's parents, and we see them very frequently (at least a few times a week)! Oregon Grandma (Daniel's Mom) Who lives in Oregon, she tries to come back and visit a few times a year. There is also Unkie Dar Dar (Darren who is Dan's brother) and Auntie Heather (Darren's girlfriend) and Auntie Lisa (Dan's Sister) though we do not get to see our Oregon family as much we get on Facetime with them as often as possible. Oregon Grandma even loves to read stories to the kids over Facetime! We also have pictures of “Aunt Kathleen” Who is Grandma's best friend and is a children's librarian in Maine! She also loves to get online and read stories to all the kids! They love it because she does ALL the voices! Also pictured you will see Uncle Alan and Aunt Tahira! Aunt Tahira and Kathryn have known each other since high school, and we went through their adoption journey with them. All of the kids are close and tell each other that they are “cousins”

Our Faith- We consider ourselves to be United Methodist. Kathryn grew up in the church but Daniel grew up Non-religious. We attend church weekly and our children attend Sunday School. They enjoy it a lot, and we are so happy that they do! We encourage our children to explore their own journey with their faith, we do not force them to believe like we do or pressure them to attend church if they do not want to. It is our belief that our children have the right to find their own path. We enjoy attending church events and our children have a lot of friends there! The church that we attend has a large population of persons who are African American and Hispanic and has participated in the Racial and social justice movements, we also have a large population of LGBTQ+ persons. We really appreciate the diversity in our church because we feel that it will encourage our children to make their own choice regarding who they are



Dan and Kathryn



Caroline at the Piano



All Three Kids at the zoo



Cole found a painted  
a rock!



Liam in the Corn  
at Fall Festival



Whole family with Grandma  
and Oregon Gramma



Caroline watching Aunt Kathleen read a story



Grandma and Papa on their 49th wedding anniversary



The kids Great-Grandma  
Passing out candy for  
Halloween



Oregon family!



Aunt Tahira with her boys!  
Jordan and Cordea (adopted from Foster care) And Ryland when he was in the NICU!



Where we live- We live in a moderately sized city in Kansas! We are lucky to have some fun activities that we can do as well as having some of the advantages of a “smaller city” We are about 45 minutes away from Kansas City, which provides us with a lot of activities for weekends! Kansas City also offers Children’s Mercy Hospital a hospital where we ourselves have found great comfort and amazing doctors when we need them! They have an amazing Cardiology department as we said before, and we are so blessed to have them close. Kansas City also offers the Down syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City and organization that celebrates the abilities of persons with Down syndrome and holds several activities throughout the year. Once we have adopted we plan to attend as many of these events as possible. Our children attend virtual school through a school district that is about 20 minutes from our home. We really love that our kids have been given this opportunity! Dan and I work opposite schedules to accommodate their schooling to give them the best chance of success. We feel like it gives us the best of both worlds because they can be at home to learn however they also have access to teachers and any services that they require. Liam and Caroline both receive Occupational therapy to continue to improve on their fine motor skills and Caroline receives speech services to help her continue her progress there, we would like to add here though that we evaluate on a yearly basis what is best for our children. If at some point public or private education will meet the needs of one of our children better we are happy to find them the best situation possible! Our home and neighborhood- We live in a fairly nice neighborhood in a decently sized ranch style house. The house has 3 bedrooms with a family room and extra space down stairs. It works perfectly as eventually our two boys will probably want to move downstairs to a bedroom we are working on! We also have a nice “home school” space downstairs for the kids to work on their school. Caroline’s and our rooms are upstairs, and we also have a third room just waiting for our new little one to come home!



(Our living room)

The Future-- After Caroline was born without Down syndrome we began to wonder if the universe was leading us in the direction of adopting a child with Down syndrome. We had learned so much when we were pregnant with her and we truly feel that we are being called in this direction, we truly felt like we were met to help out a family that might be feeling the same desperate feelings that we had felt.

Our decision to adopt a little one with Down syndrome (and or other special needs) comes after a lot of thought and prayer. Kathryn has developed many friendships with people who have children with Down syndrome and has gotten to spend a lot of time with their amazing children. One of Kathryn and Daniel's good friends works in a group home where a lot of adults with Down syndrome live and they have both gotten to come into the home and see the people that live there. Very honestly at the beginning we both thought that it might be a sad place, but in reality it was a joy to see these individuals interact with us and our children.

We know that there is a good chance that the little one we adopt might need cardiology services and as we said previously we are aware of what those needs might be and we have no problem following through with them. It is our opinion that every child deserves the right to have a home and a family with people that love them and our hope and prayer is that we can provide that to a family who needs us.

We know that things will not always be easy.. However, we try to teach our children that it is ok, that not everyone will understand them or be like them but that God loves them for who they are and the gifts they can provide this world, and these children offer so much!

We wish you the best in finding the right fit for your little one!

Our love and thoughts are with you!

Daniel and Kathryn