



steven & brittney

hello

so nice to "meet" you



thanks for getting to know us

We want to honor you for being courageous and considering adoption for your precious child. We respect the care you have put into making these hard decisions for you and your baby. **Although we don't know your whole story, please know we have already accepted you both into our lives and are excited about connecting with you.**

When we met, we both already had a heart for adoption. We have always known we would adopt at some point in growing our family. We have been blessed with the gift of three biological children and always knew our family would be complete with four. After three complex pregnancies and c-sections, we were told another pregnancy would not be a safe option for growing our family, and we joyfully transitioned our hearts towards adoption. We always knew adoption would be part of our story, and we still feel a deep desire to love and treasure another child in our family.

If you're reading this, we've already opened our hearts to you and your baby. **We promise that if you choose us to raise your child, we will always honor and respect you and your place as your child's first mother and will encourage your child to know and love you.** If we are so lucky to parent them, we will treasure them every day and love them unconditionally.

We are so thankful that you are considering us for your child, and we hope you feel love, support, and grace from our family as you get to know us through this book!

with love,

Steven & Brittney

our story

We met when we bumped into each other getting prepared to run a half marathon. Our first conversation was quick but so natural, it felt like we'd known each other for years. We didn't say it at the time, but we both had a crazy feeling we would marry each other. On our first date, we ran 5 miles together (we still love going on running dates!). In the early days, we spent a lot of time running together, went to fun dinners, and did all kinds of things - played tennis, went hiking, traveled, and much more. We'll always cherish the memories from those early days of getting to know each other!

We dated for about a year before Steven proposed on a beautiful lake, and got married six months later. We got married in January on a beautiful 60-degree day. The wedding was in a small church and our reception was at a winery overlooking a river. It was everything we dreamed of, filled with all our friends and family, dancing, and enjoying the evening.



*we knew early
on we had
something
special*



We have been married for 11 years! Our marriage is strong and we love being with each other. We put a lot of intention into our marriage. We talk about all parts of our days every evening and we choose every day to love each other fully. Our very, very favorite date is the 30 minutes we sit in our rocking chairs and drink our coffee together every morning before the kids get up. **We make it a point to support each other, we always have each other's back, and we still have so much fun going on dates and spending time together.**



Where there is great love,
there is always miracles

Willa Cather



Fun fact:

I love to garden and use our vegetables to make fresh pesto, salsa, and more.

Greatest accomplishment:

Definitely being a mother. Raising kids is not always easy, but I show up every day for them, love them, give them grace, and show them patience.

What my friends say:

My friends would tell you I'm understanding, compassionate, empathetic, easy-going, and loyal.

meet brittney

I spend most of my time being a Mom, however, my professional occupation is in real estate and designing renovation plans for old houses. Steven and I are able to work together on a professional level on several occasions throughout the week. We love this time together working for a common goal. **I actually work less than ten hours a week and I love that it's super family-friendly allowing my family to always come first.** I can work around my kids' schedules and most of the time I do my work after they're in bed or at school.

Most of my free time is spent with my kids and Steven! I enjoy hanging out with them, doing activities with them, just having them around. I love taking the kids for walks, playing card games, playing basketball in the front driveway, or taking them to the pool, etc. When I'm not with the family, **I love to play tennis or get coffee with my friends.** I also love to **relax in the sauna or do interior design work** for any renovations we are working on.



I am looking forward to adding to our family and feeling like our family is complete. The new baby stage of life is so sweet and special to me, and I can't wait to experience it again with our newest addition. I can't wait to be a mom again for so many reasons.

My prayer for my children is that they reflect the Lord's love, kindness, compassion, and empathy confidently to everyone that they meet.

meet **Steven**

I work as a business owner in the field of Real Estate and Construction. It is very family-friendly and flexible and **I've worked to create businesses that have allowed me to spend needed time at home, be there for school or sporting events, and spend time with our family.** I love the people I get to work with, and feeling a sense of accomplishment seeing projects be completed. Each time we've had a baby, I've taken several weeks off, and I excitedly plan to do the same and continue to be available to help with the family as we transition into a family of six.

In my free time, **I enjoy working out, going to ju-jitsu classes, playing my guitar, fishing and playing basketball with my kids, and going on all kinds of dates with Brittney.** I spend most of my free time with our family; they are my priority and I love hanging out with them.

Fun fact:

I coached college track after graduating from college and still run multiple times a week.

Greatest accomplishment:

I think my biggest accomplishment is having children that are sweet, humble, and respectful, while still being curious, adventurous and full of life.

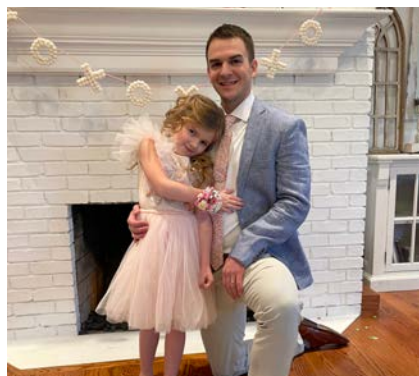
What my friends say:

My friends would tell you I'm loyal, supportive of my family, and easy-going.



My greatest prayer for my children is that they know the fullness of a life of faith with joy in abundance. I want them to build deep relationships and have rich experiences. I want them to take risks, make mistakes, and live a life they can look back on and be proud of knowing they gave it their all.

I am still a child in many ways and love to play, goof around, and make life fun every day. I look forward to sharing that.



more
about

brittney *(from Steven)*

I am so blessed God provided me with someone who not only loves me and sees the best in me, but also someone that has so many different qualities that compliment mine. **Brittney is constantly coming up with new ways to create lasting family memories** like vacations, events, and activities as a family. She is **loyal** to her friends and family and is **willing to stand her ground for something she truly believes in**. I also love her silliness. Brittney knows how to have fun in the simplest ways like a dance party with the kids, spontaneous cookie baking, or a car ride to somewhere fun for the day. **She creates a beautiful and comfortable atmosphere in our home!**

Brittney is such an incredible mother. She is so intentional and purposeful when it comes to each of our children. She recognizes how different they each are and purposefully spends time with each one doing things they enjoy. Brittney adores closeness and snuggles with our kids. She likes to wrap up in a blanket and watch a movie, chat with the kids, or just joke and laugh with them. **Brittney is eager to add another child to our family and I have no doubt they will be so loved!**





more about **steven** *(from Brittney)*

I admire many things about my husband. **Steven is so calm and stable; he always shows up with love and open arms.** He makes me feel accepted and is wonderful at acts of service to make me feel appreciated. He is an extremely **talented business owner, athlete, and guitarist** and I love having a front-row seat watching all the neat things he is doing. He makes everyone around him feel loved and accepted. **He will help anyone with anything, he is so giving.** I feel blessed to be his wife.

Steven is so great with children and is the best dad. I often wonder how he doesn't get worn out, but he genuinely loves playing with our kids for hours. He loves all kids well, not just our own. When we have friends, neighbors, or cousins over, he is just as good to them as he is to our kids. He will play superheroes, basketball, tea party, characters...you name it. **He is looking forward to being a father to another baby.** We feel ready to have another baby in our home, and I know he will be just as amazing to this baby as he is to our current kids! **He is such a loving father and so present for our kids and I.**





Gwen is eight years old. She is extremely loving and compassionate, studious, funny, and playful. She makes new friends very quickly and loves girl time. She has a lot of love and shares her love with everyone she meets. Gwen loves to dance, play soccer, paint her fingernails, play board games, and play piano. She is beyond excited to have another sibling!

Beckham is six years old. He has a very sweet and gentle demeanor, is very funny, playful, and always thinks about others. He is precious and snuggly and such a Mama's boy. Beckham loves superheroes, going on adventures outside, playing basketball, and attending Cub Scouts and ju-jitsu. He says he can't wait to have another sibling.

Crew is three years old. He is brave and adventurous, always up to something fun and keeping us on our toes! He is so funny and snuggly, and he loves our dog, Simba. He loves Paw Patrol, playing soccer and basketball, running around with his older siblings, and snacks! He loves holding and talking to babies and will make such a sweet older brother.



meet *our kids*

We want our kids to be confident they are loved beyond measure and that we will always support them.

Being parents is the most fun and funny thing in life; we love watching them grow, learn new things, and see their personalities shine through. We are so blessed our kids are sweet, humble, and respectful, while still being curious, adventurous, and full of life. **We strive to create a home that leads to our kids' creativity and freedom.** We have a lot of fun in our house, we love to tell jokes and play silly tricks on each other. Our kids are totally comfortable at home and we love that. **We try to be laid-back, intentional, and loving parents.**

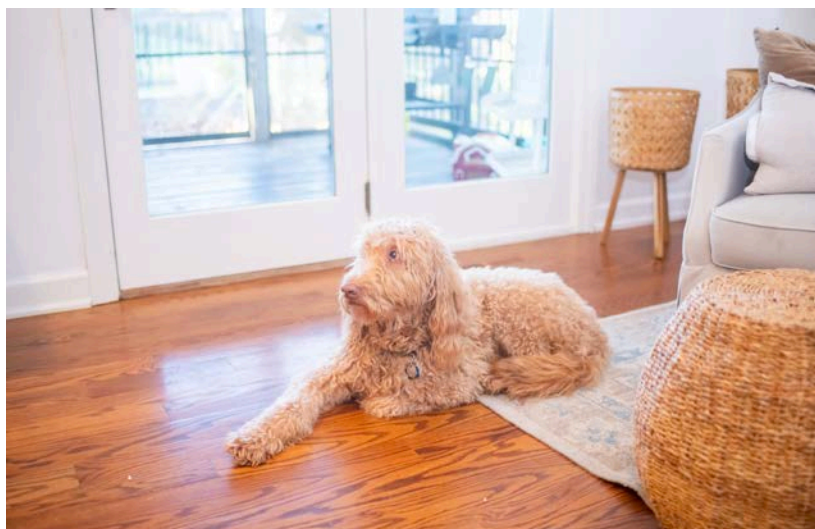


our life together

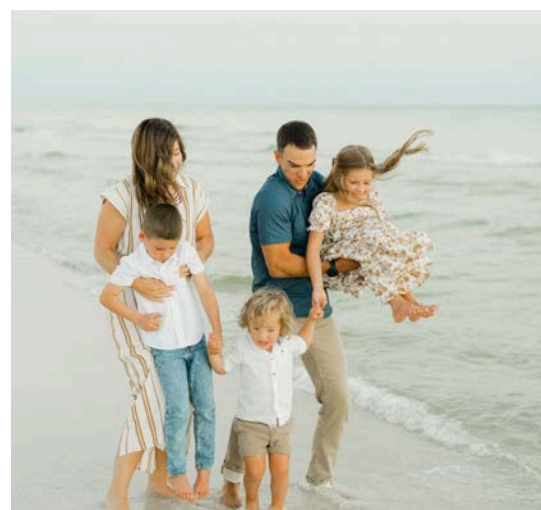
Our family loves so many activities! We love going to the pool, playing tennis together, going to parks, pumpkin patches, light shows, the zoo, skiing together...really any outing! **We spend a lot of family time on evenings and weekends**, which often looks like having a family dinner, playing together at home or going out for a meal or activity. We have a golf cart and one of our favorite activities is to go on a family 'bedtime buggy ride' where we put on pajamas and go on a ride right before bed. We spend a lot of time at school and after-school activities during the week. During a typical weekend, we like to have **family night on Friday nights**; watching a movie outside, playing games, or hanging out with neighbors. On Saturdays we try to have **slow restful mornings**, letting the kids play and rest at home. We usually have social plans as a family on Saturday evening, or we will go to the pool or play golf or another activity. **Sundays we go to church** in the morning and then often spend time resting or seeing extended family in the afternoons.

We also love to travel and we all have passports so we can enjoy seeing the world as a family. We spend a lot of time in Colorado enjoying hiking or skiing, and a lot of time in Florida enjoying the warm weather and beaches. We have taken the kids to Jamaica, Mexico, Disney World, Hilton Head, and other locations. Our favorite spot we've been to with the kids is Mexico. We hope to do an extended summer trip to Europe as a family in the next few years.

Simba is our ten-year-old Goldendoodle. He was around before any of our kiddos. He is the most gentle, loving dog and we trust him fully around all children. He is calm, doesn't take food out of anyone's hands, and nowadays spends most of his time just resting and enjoys watching the kids. **We love having Simba as a part of our family and he brings the kids a lot of joy.**



*Together is our
favorite place to be*





family *traditions*

Easter

We love celebrating Easter and that the Lord has risen. We typically do this by going to church and then doing a family easter egg hunt, and having lunch with all of Brittney's extended family.

4th of July

On the 4th of July, we spend time at Brittney's family's farm and shoot off lots of fireworks. We swim during the day and enjoy a large BBQ for dinner. Sometimes we will make it to Steven's family for the Fourth of July, depending on when in the week the holiday falls!

Halloween

We do Halloween with our neighborhood community, we have a soup and chili dinner and then trick or treat in our lively neighborhood with lots of kids. Brittney's extended family and friends usually joins us for this celebration as well!

Christmas

We start celebrating Christmas early, we get too excited to start decorating. We love to get matching Christmas pajamas every year and filling stockings for the kids. We bake a lot, watch Christmas movies, and pick out gifts for each other. We celebrate with just our family at home, and then go to Brittney's family farm for Christmas Day, or to Steven's hometown to celebrate with his family, depending on the year.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a pretty big deal at our house. We love decorating, coming up with surprises, having a party and special dinner and celebrating fully for our birthday guy/girl. We make special breakfast, wrap up gifts, and have a fun morning celebration on birthdays.

There are always lots of fun things to do during the holidays, but we do make sure to slow down and celebrate just as a family as well.

We love the holidays: they are a great excuse to celebrate and spend extra time together!



our extended family

In Steven's family, we have Grandma and Grandpa (Keith and Beth), and his three siblings - Andrew and his wife Candace, Timothy and his wife Randi, Gregory and his wife Brie. Timothy and Randi have two daughters, Olivia (9) and Vivian (5) who our kids love to play with.

In Brittney's family, there's Mimi and Pappy (Brian and Lisa) and Brittney's siblings: Beau and his wife Kaitlin, and their kids, Jordy (6), Cece(4), and Cal (2), Joel and Megan and their kids, Charlie (8) and Brie (6).

DNA doesn't make a family, love does

We see Brittney's family a lot as they all live locally and we share schools, churches, sporting teams, and friends. Our kids love their cousins so much. When we're all together we are often at Mimi and Pappy's house, swimming, and watching football games in the fall and winter, and the kids all playing together. We also have a family farm we all like to enjoy together, and this is where we spend many holidays.

Most of Steven's family live two hours away. When his family gets together it's generally with all his Mom's extended family as well, including dozens of cousins! When we all get together we watch the kids play, have a big meal, play outside, and play pool or yard games.

Our family is so excited for us to adopt and we know they will be just as supportive of us as ever. **We are thankful adoption is already woven into the fabric of our extended family** though cousins on both sides.



our home

We adore our home. **We live in a brick house with five bedrooms and five bathrooms, each room feels cozy and comfortable.**

We love to bake with the kids in the kitchen and have family game nights in the living room with the fireplace on. **We enjoy very frequent family dinners together in the dining room.** We love the conversation and community that happens around the dinner table. Our backyard is big and fenced in, the kids spend a lot of time playing in the yard. **We have countless memories of playing, snuggling up, making s'mores, watching family movies, and loving all the moments of life in our home!**



Our town is very diverse and we have friends and neighbors of various ethnic backgrounds.

Our community is small enough that we see people we know often, but big enough that there is always something new to do. We have several playgrounds where we love to go to play or have picnics, a pool/tennis center that we frequent in the summer months, and a lake where we often go fishing. Because there is a University here, there are always lots of family events - parades, firework shows, homecoming events and so much more. We belong to several groups in our community that put on events and shows and make the most of taking the kids to all the fun activities.

We love our town in the Midwest!



our values

faith

We are raising our children in our Christian faith. As a family, we attend church together and spend time praying. We remind each other often how blessed we are and that we trust God's plan for our lives. We are a part of a small group with other families, all including several children of different ethnic backgrounds, some adopted. This small group is our daily support and we enjoy dinners, games, and sometimes even holidays together. We take care of each other when life gets tough - praying, sending meals, carpooling kids - it really is the strongest community support and they are so ready to love our newest child with open arms!



grace

We remind each other often to give people lots of love, grace, kindness, and acceptance. We try our hardest to be accepting and kind to all and to reach them where they are. We want our family to be a light in the world of accepting people for who they are and passing on the grace and compassion God has given us. We value learning and supporting each other through this process.



We work to plan for our hopes and dreams and support each other so we can each grow to be the best version of ourselves.



education

Two of our children are grade school-aged and attend a diverse, private Christian school. We love our school and the community so much. The community at school is very strong and the families and teachers make this truly the best place we could imagine. We also support our kids' ongoing education, whether that be sending them to college, supporting their choice to attend trade school, or taking advantage of other career opportunities. We want to support our children in achieving their dreams. We'd love our children to be able to have fulfilling careers that bring them joy in adulthood, and we are so happy to help them get there, whatever that may look like.



joy

We stop and enjoy the little things in life, we try to choose joy every day! We love to be playful at home and are always coming up with silly things to do. We make a big effort at home to create a comfortable and restful environment where we can rest and then take kindness, love and joy out into the community!





thank you

Thanks for taking the time to get to know us! We are so grateful you have taken the time to consider our family for your child and we hope you have gotten a good glimpse of what life in our family is like.

We want to take this last chance to encourage you in your journey, to affirm that we have a heart for you, and to respect the decisions you are making for your child. We want to support you in whatever ways we can as you carry on in this journey and life. **We want you to know we will always speak lovingly of you in our home, and we will teach your child to know and love you.** We hope to have some level of openness in our adoption whether that is updates or visits, and want you to be a part of your child's future however it is comfortable for you. Of course, we will respect your wishes of privacy moving forward if you desire a less open adoption.

We are so grateful for you and the time you have spent reading about us.

with love,

*Steven, Brittney,
Gwen, Beckham, and Crew*



our promise

to you

Our family will support your child with all our hearts, and give them everything they need to grow and thrive into a beautiful person.

We promise to...

- Make sure they grow up in a home with a loving and stable environment.
- Encourage them to go after their every dream.
- Encourage them in their personal growth and faith.
- Encourage them to love, be confident, and give grace to others.
- Foster healthy and loving relationships with us, their siblings, and you.



some journeys
take you farther
from where you
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ron franczell