



Melanie and Austin
#2092485

Hi there!

WE ARE *Austin, Melanie and Easton*



We are so excited to be able to share a little bit about our family, and at the same time we are so humbled that you are looking at our book.

The decision that you are making is so complicated and difficult. We can't imagine the emotions you might be feeling and hope that if anything our book will bring comfort in your decision. We are an easy going family and enjoy time together. Whether we are able to go to our favorite spot in Florida, or we are just hanging out at home with our huge dogs, we love being a family. Adoption has been the bridge that made us a family and brought one of the biggest blessings to us, Easton. We are all anticipating the joy that will come when we welcome another baby into our family. **Thank you for looking and reading to find out a little more about our family.** We are grateful and happy to share this with you.

OUR Story



by melanie



HOW WE MET

We met at a local country concert in 2005. We are both tall people, so initially I was attracted to Austin because of his height. As soon as he talked to me, I liked him. He made me laugh and was a gentleman. He asked me to dance that night at the concert and from then we became friends, dated and were married in September 2007.

OUR PATH TO ADOPTION

We have learned to love, give and ask God daily to help guide us through life. We discussed having children and both wanted to adopt as well as have biological children. We were married about 3 years when we found out that we would probably not be able to have biological children. At first it hurt to find out this news, but we had the strong desire and hope to adopt. **In 2013 we got the news we were chosen to be the parents to our awesome son Easton.** We are so blessed by him.

LIFE TODAY

We continue to laugh together, stand by one another, as well as enjoy life as a family. **We can't wait to add another child to our family through adoption.** We have so much love to give and know that God has a beautiful plan. We enjoy going to the mountains, car shows and taking a ride on Austin's motorcycle. We are both very close to our families, and can be found spending the holidays, birthdays and just day-to-day experiences with them.



Always up for an adventure together



Our little family is excited to grow!

MEET *Melanie*

Written by Austin

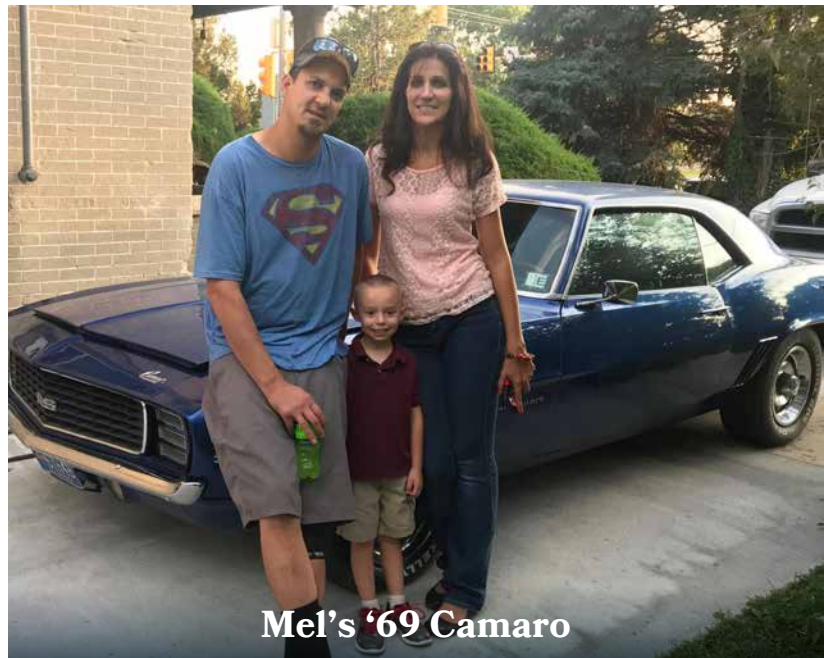
Melanie is the most beautiful person inside and out-truly. You won't find anyone nicer than Mel.



One of the things I love about her is what kind of Mom she is to Easton. She would do anything for him or me and gives more than she receives. Melanie is constantly caring for others, whether it is our 90-year-old neighbor/friend down the street from us, our family, or the many kids in her life. If kids are around, they are sure to find her, as she loves to be around kids and they love to be with her. When we brought Easton home, she told her job at the elementary school that she was leaving to be a stay-at-home mom. **She had always said that if it were possible she wanted to be home to raise our children. She LOVES being a mom!** Mel likes to do things with our family and always sees to it that time is set apart for family time. She enjoys going to the mountains, and likes to go fishing. She isn't a competitive person at all, but when it comes to catching the most or the biggest fish, that competitiveness can come out. She likes to work in the yard and loves to work in the garden. She enjoys growing tomatoes, jalapenos, green peppers and cilantro so that we can make salsa to eat.



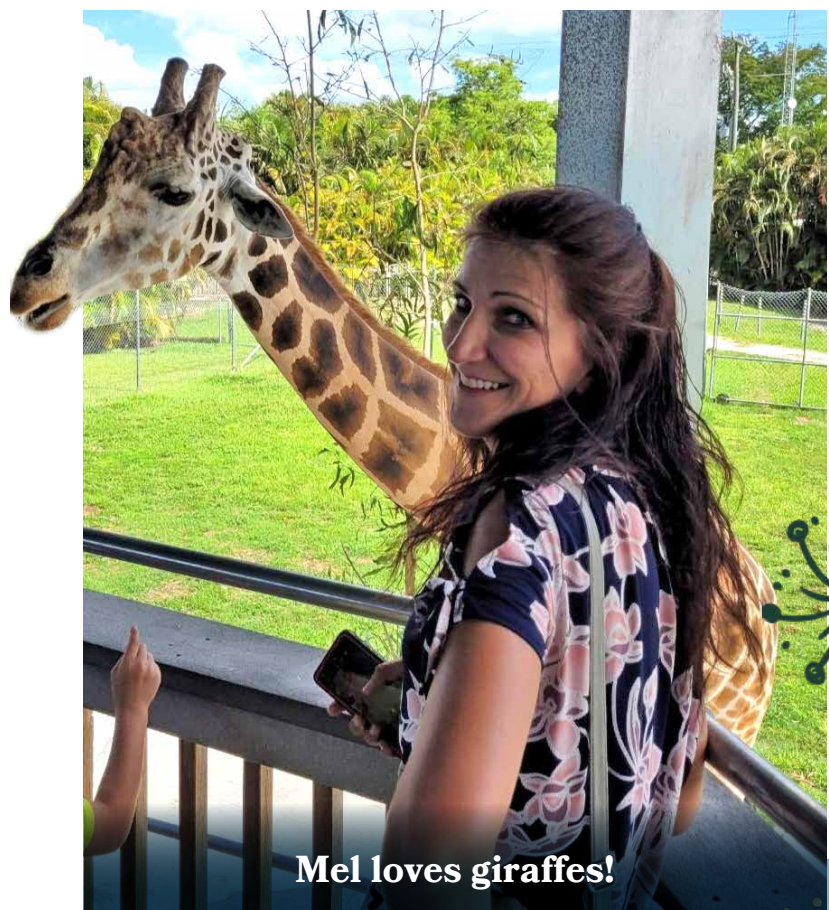
Mel has played the piano since age 7



Mel's '69 Camaro

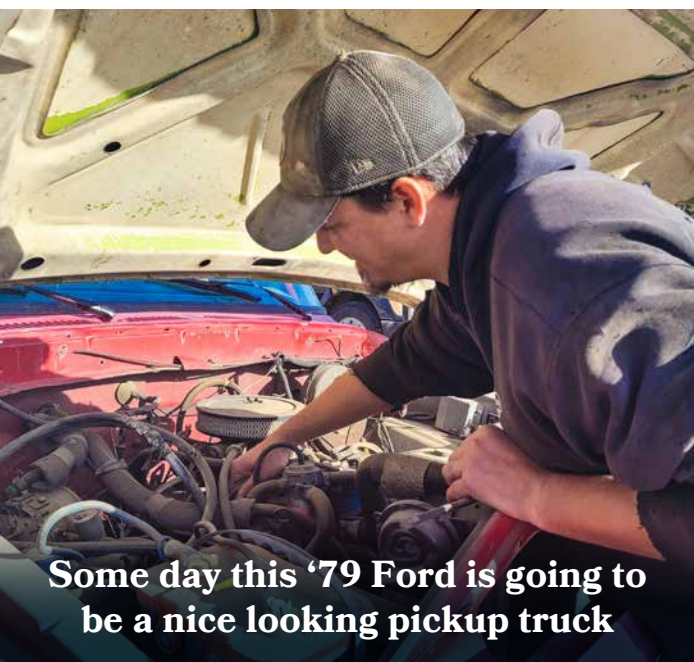
My Fun Facts ♡ ♡

- **Vacation:**
Cape Coral, Florida
- **Place to Take a Child:** Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo to feed the Giraffes
- **Musical Artist:**
George Strait and Elvis Presley
- **Instrument I Play:**
Piano and flute
- **Children's Book:**
You are my I Love You by Maryann K. Cusimano
- **Dessert:**
Sopapillas
- **Seasonal Activity:**
4th of July Fireworks!
- **My Collections:**
Mickey Mouse, Elvis, giraffes
- **Accessory:**
Toe Rings
- **Sport:** I don't play sports, but I am a great sports mom! I love to go watch and cheer!





Austin can't wait to be a dad of two!



Some day this '79 Ford is going to be a nice looking pickup truck

MEET

Austin

Written by Melanie

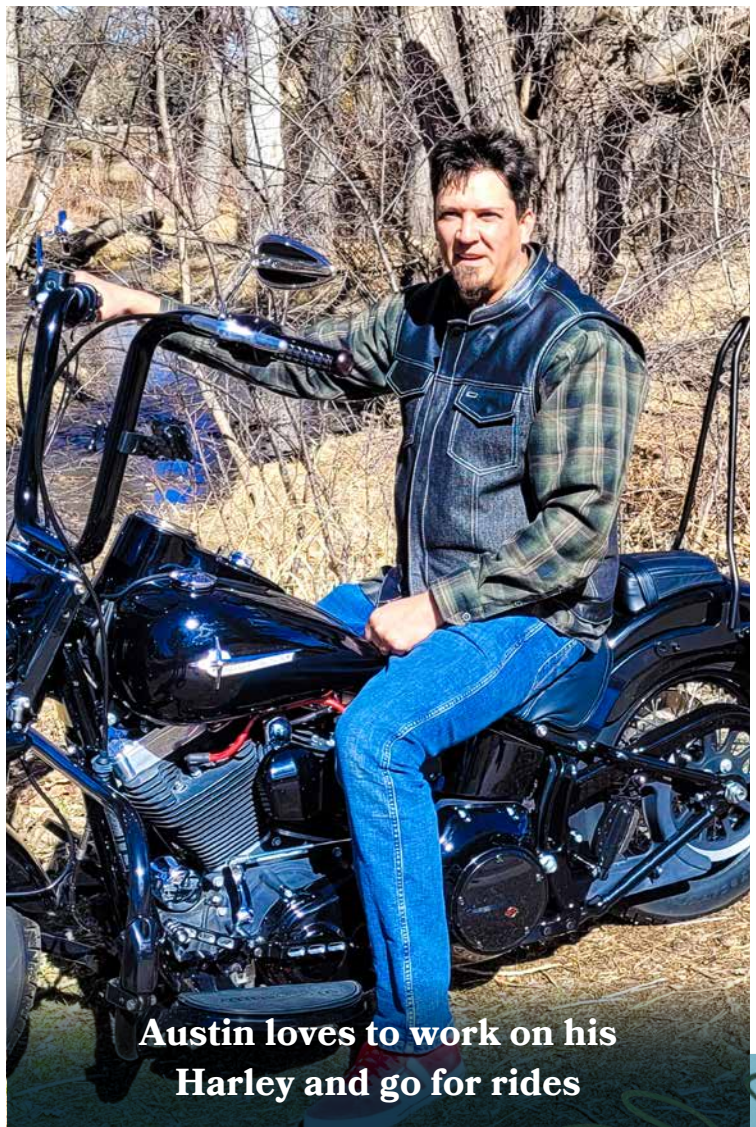
The first thing that most people notice, and even I did, is how TALL he is. He is an amazing 6'7" and every inch is full of fun, laughter and love.



Austin is someone you can meet one time and feel very at ease. I like how easy it is to talk to him and know that he is listening to what I have to say. I know that he is there to make me laugh, but also there when I need to cry. He is my protector and my best friend. One of my favorite things to do is to watch him with our son and the other kids in our family. **He is a big kid at heart, and likes to play with kids. He is so much fun, playing hide and seek, basketball and playing fun little pranks.** One time we were driving down the highway and there is a part that has a big bump so if you go fairly fast, the passenger will lift off the seat. Austin had done this to me numerous times and would laugh each time. Then one time he did this with his dad in the truck. I could feel the truck going faster, so I slouched in my seat. His dad had NO idea, and when we went over that bump, he popped up and down in his seat and said a mouthful of things to Austin...we had so much fun laughing. **He loves dirt bikes, motorcycles and old cars. He also enjoys his job being a tow truck driver and is blessed to have a boss who wants to give time for us to be a family.**



Austin's love of dirt bikes is being passed down. He loves to help our son learn about dirt bikes



Austin loves to work on his Harley and go for rides



Although this is his job, Austin does enjoy driving his tow truck

My Fun Facts ♡ ♡

- **Vacation:** Florida
- **Hobby:** Motorcycles
- **Can't Live Without:** Milk
- **Accessory:** Sunglasses
- **Musical Artist:** Tom Petty
- **Ice Cream Flavor:** Chocolate
- **Dessert:** Cheesecake
- **Sports Team:** Denver Nuggets
- **Seasonal Activity:** Camping
- **Sport to Play:** Basketball



MEET OUR *Son,* EASTON



Easton is a energetic, outgoing 9-year-old who is a funny and kind-hearted kid. He likes to make people laugh and is quick to help others. Easton loves to ride his dirt bike, play his saxophone, play baseball and basketball. He loves being a cowboy and even won 1st place at the rodeo riding a sheep (Mutton Busting).



Easton plays the saxophone and we enjoy attending his band concerts

Easton is excited to teach his little brother or sister all the things he knows, especially how to do tricks on the trampoline and how to throw a baseball really fast.



Easton loves being a cowboy





Home and COMMUNITY

Our home is a 3-story house that sits on about a fourth of an acre of land.

Inside you can find each room decorated with different collections we enjoy. Our kitchen is filled with antique Mickey Mouse cookie jars and other Mickey things. Austin likes Superman, and our son collects anything John Deere. Elvis Presley memorabilia can also be found. **Our community is diverse and has many things to do. Down two blocks from us, we have a park that includes three baseball fields, a water park, skate park and a playground.** A wildlife refuge that we often go to is only three miles from our home. You can fish there, see bald eagles, deer and we have had buffalo within a couple yards from us when we go on the scenic drive. On the 4th of July, near the refuge, our city hosts a huge firework display. It is AWESOME to watch and see all the beautiful colors.



We enjoy cooking together



Let's fly a kite!



**Parade time then
our annual BBQ**



We also have one of the state's largest Memorial Parades that goes right by our house! We have family and friends over for a BBQ after the parade.

OUR Loved ones



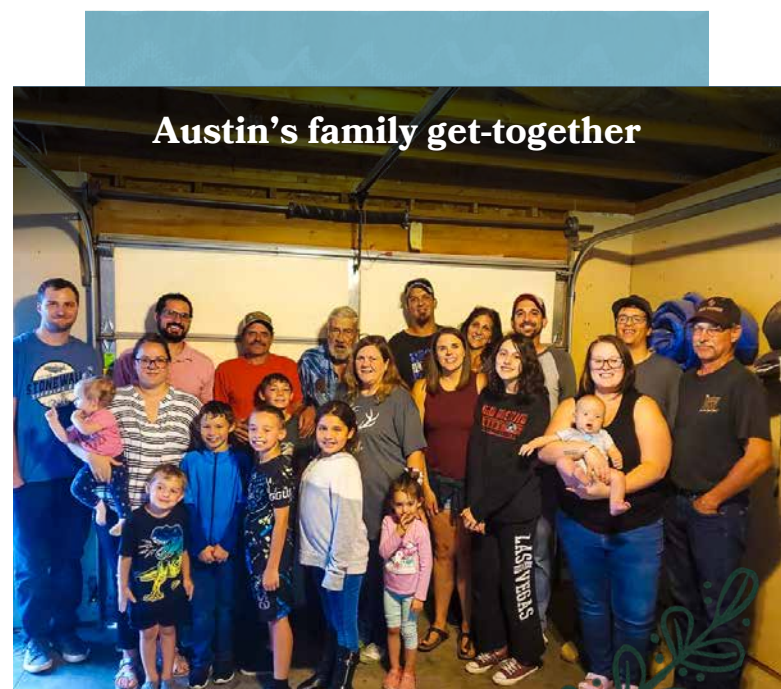
Lets go to the county fair! Austin's grandpa and siblings all join in the fun

Our families are very similar- we love to be with each other and we are very close to them. Diversity is a part of our family and we embrace all our different backgrounds. Adoption is not only a part of our family at home but also is a part of our extended families.

Austin's family is one that likes to tease, laugh and have fun. His two brothers and sister-in-laws love to play with the nieces and nephews and often find themselves playing cars or having pretend tea parties. Austin's grandpa is another one who likes to tease and will even get on the floor and let the kids climb on him and play. A lot of Austin's family lives in Southeast Colorado so we go there for the county fair, spend time on the farm, fishing on the pond or hanging out with his mom.



Austin, his brother, Easton and nieces spinning as fast as possible



Austin's family get-together





Celebrating Christmas with family

Melanie's family can always find a way to get together and spend time with each other. Usually her brother, sister, and all their families gather at her mom's house. Her mom will have a breakfast where everyone can bring their favorite breakfast item to share. Holidays and birthdays are both big celebrations for her family. Sometimes it's a Nerf gun party, a color powder ball battle, or just a gathering for cake and ice cream. Whatever it is, it's enjoyed by all who come.



Color battle and then tie-dye shirts after

MEET OUR
pets



Our Irish Wolfhound, Clyde

We love our pets!

We have a 4-year-old Irish Wolfhound, a 3-year-old Great Dane that looks like Scooby Doo. We also have a 15-year-old gray and white cat, and a 7-month-old black kitten who has a white mustache.



Andy, our Great Dane is just over 6 ft tall!

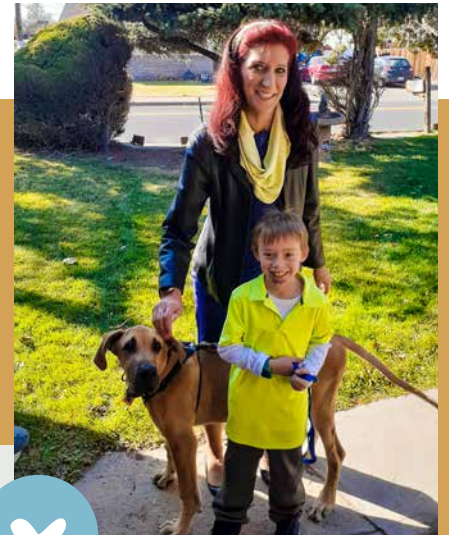
OUR family traditions

Family traditions in our family are special to us.

Holidays like Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving gives us a time to thank God, and be with our families! We love our time going to the pumpkin patch, driving around to see Christmas lights and waking up to find Santa has come to our house! 4th of July fireworks are a must and the Monster truck Jam is right up there too!



Austin's family headed to see Santa at the North Pole



Happy Halloween from Daphne, Shaggy & Scooby Doo →



36th Annual Sock Hop! Melanie's mom and siblings ↗

For over 35 years, Melanie's parents have had a 50's Sock Hop.

As you walk up to their house you will see hot rods, and old vintage cars parked on the lawn. You can hear a live band playing songs from the 1950's and 1960's. Everyone is asked to bring something to share to eat, and a six pack of pop. Family and friends come dressed in poodle skirts and ponytails, rolled up jeans and slicked back hair. All ages are welcome from a tiny baby to our beloved seniors. It has become a family tradition and is known by many in the neighborhood. It is one of our favorite times of the year and is something that we hold very close to our hearts.



OUR Thoughts ON PARENTING

by melanie



“MY DREAM AS A
CHILD WAS ALWAYS
TO BE A MOM.”

As I got older, that desire grew deeper and deeper. Once I met Austin and I watched him with our nephews and when our niece was born-I knew he would be an amazing dad. We knew that we wanted children and wanted to raise them knowing God and about his many blessings. We believe that with God being the foundation of our family, our children will grow up with good morals and values. We believe that as we teach our children, that they often teach us things too. We are excited to share with them about adoption and what it has meant to us. **From the beginning we are going to talk about their story and be open with them about how they came into our lives.** We know that our family may not all look like one another, and we will celebrate that with them. God made each person differently, and that's what makes us special. **We will do our best to learn about their heritage and bring that into our family with open arms.**



We look forward to meeting you and learning about who you are.

We want you to know that we think you are making a such a big, brave decision and that it is amazing. We have been praying for you and want you to know that we love you and support the decision you make. We would like to know about you, so that we can share about you from the very beginning. **Our child will grow up knowing their story and the love that you have for them. We want to embrace who they are and their background.** With that, we would love if you shared with us some of your traditions, and your hopes for them.



Family INFORMATION



Father's name: Austin
Occupation: Tow truck driver
Education: Jr College
Religion: Christian
Date of birth: January 18
Hair color: Dark Brown
Eye color: Brown
Height: 6'7"

Mother's name: Melanie
Occupation: Stay-at-home mom
Education: Some college
Religion: Christian
Date of birth: August 23
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Green
Height: 5'11"



Date of marriage: September 29th, 2007

Children: Easton, July 16th Adopted. Easton is a very outgoing, funny, caring and kind-hearted kid. He loves to ride his dirt bike, play basketball and baseball, play the saxophone and go to the Monster Truck shows

Interests and hobbies: As a couple, we like to go to the mountains and just walk around. We enjoy playing in the streams, gold panning and fishing while in the mountains. We like old cars and hot rods so we often go to car shows. Melanie has a '69 Camaro and Austin is restoring a 1979 Ford Pick-up truck. Melanie enjoys gardening, crocheting blankets, and being a stay-at-home mom. Austin loves motorcycles, dirt bikes and teaching Easton to ride dirt bikes

Home: Our home is a 3 story house that is cozy and a place you feel like you can kick your shoes off and be yourself. Our kitchen is decorated with vintage Mickey Mouse cookie jars and all sorts of Mickey things. We have a game room that all the kids in our family or friends enjoy when they come over. Our neighborhood is a somewhat small community and is very diverse. We have a big ball park, water park, skate park and recreation center within walking distance. We have a wildlife refuge that is about 3 miles from us where you can see buffalo, bald eagles and we are able to fish there. We have one of the largest Memorial parades that runs right in front of our house! For the 4th of July, our city hosts a huge fire work display that we love to go watch.

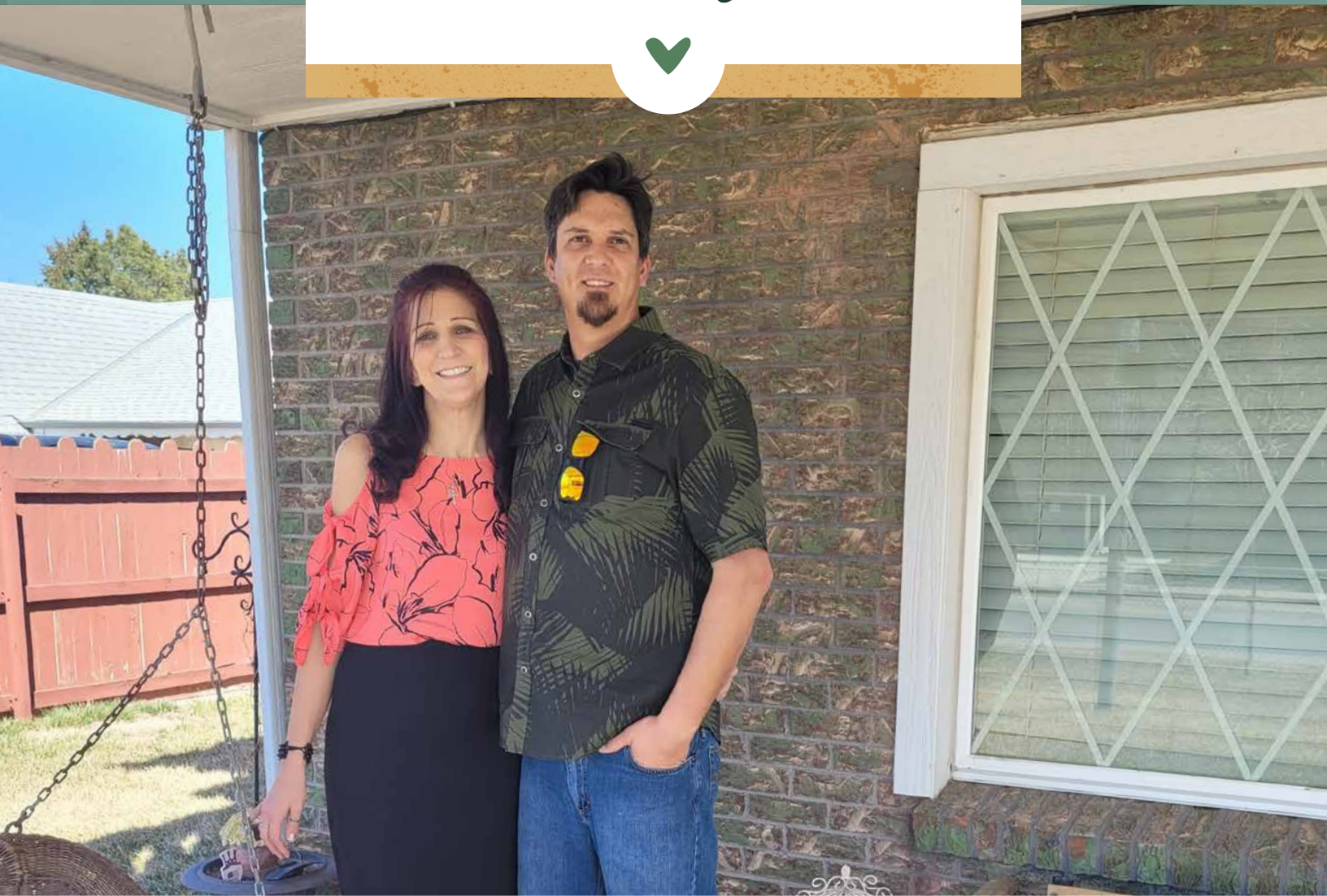
Pets: We love our pets! We have a 4-year-old Irish Wolfhound, a 3-year-old Great Dane that looks like Scooby Doo. We also have a 15-year-old gray and white cat, and a 7-month-old black kitten who has a white mustache.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption? We met in 2007 and waited a year to start our family. We had planned to have biological children but also said from the beginning that we would like to adopt. Several years passed and we were not able to get pregnant. With the pull of adoption on our hearts, we opted not to try fertility treatments and began looking into different agencies. In 2010 we found a Christian agency and began our journey. In 2013 our world was forever changed when we got a call about our son, Easton. He was born in July 2013. We watched as he grew and knew that we wanted more children. We love family and being around children and have been blessed beyond what words can say in our journey as a family. As a family, we have a desire to adopt another child and give all the love we have.

Openness to birthparent(s): We are a pretty easy going couple and look forward to learning about you, your dreams, wishes and what you want to share with us. We want you to know of the love we have for you. If you would like pictures and letters, we would love to share those with you. We would be willing to meet up for visits at a park or maybe some ice cream. It is important to us that we share their adoption story with our children and share with them who you are.

Childcare plans: Since Easton was born, we wanted Melanie to stay home with him. We feel it is important to raise our children with our morals, values and love that a mom has to give. Although Easton is now in school full time, Melanie continues to stay at home and watches little ones during the day in order to still stay at home and see to the needs of the family. If Easton is sick, has a doctor appt. or sports events, she is always able to take him. This is what we plan on doing when we add another little one to our family.

Thank you!



With all that was said throughout our book, above all else, we want you to know that you are so brave and special. We want you to know that we support the decision that you make and that we carry you in our thoughts, our hearts and our prayers. Your child will grow up knowing their story and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are loved by us, by you and by so many others. We will embrace our relationship with you

and are open to visits, phone calls and/or letters if that is what you would like. We will teach your child to be respectful, kind and compassionate. They will learn of God's love and they will see the evidence of His love through our family and friends.

We are anxious and excited to meet you and truly look forward to talking with you.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions
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