



Laurel & Seth

HELLO THERE

WE ARE

Seth & Laurel

AND WE LIVE WITH
OUR DAUGHTER,
BLAISE, AND SETH'S
MOTHER, RENEE,
in Alabama.



We know that thumbing through pages of potential parents for your baby must feel at least as strange as writing these pages in hopes of becoming parents. We appreciate your courage and willingness to push through the uncertainty and awkwardness to consider making a thoughtful adoption plan for your child.

&
**thank you for
considering us for
the job!**

Our Story

WE MET IN 2015 AT A MUTUAL FRIEND'S DINNER PARTY.

We were initially attracted to one another because of our shared faith and mutual love of travel. Laurel liked that Seth didn't take himself too seriously and fell for him when he bought her little terrier a Valentine's Day present. Seth liked that Laurel was interesting to talk to and generous to others. We married in a small ceremony with close friends and family in 2017.



HIKING ON A QUICK TRIP TO COLORADO. IT'S SO NICE TO HIKE IN THE COOL WEATHER!



OUR CREW AFTER CHURCH ONE DAY



SINCE WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER,



we have hiked Roman ruins in Turkey, celebrated New Years in NYC, and meandered through Christmas markets in Quebec. We've fostered three beautiful children, added our daughter, Blaise, to our family, and hosted countless dinner parties for friends. We've also been through difficult things – the deaths of both of our fathers, a pandemic, and trouble getting pregnant. Through it all, we have remained best friends who are still excited to do life together.



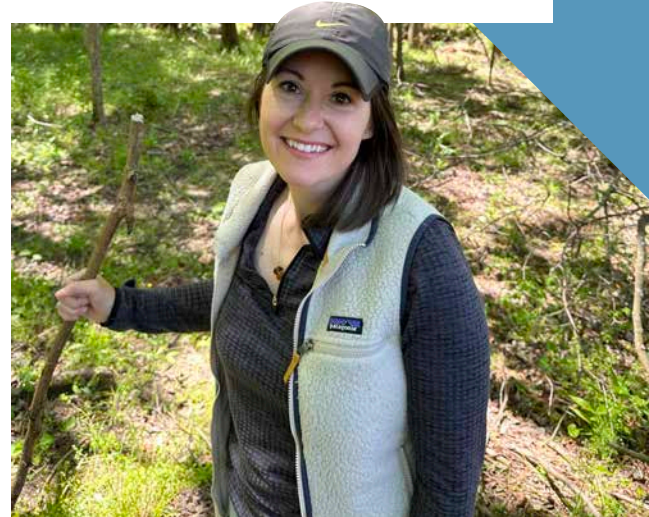
JUST HANGING OUT AT
THE HOUSE!



LAUREL ENJOYS PLAYING MUSIC AND RELAXING ON THEIR BACK DECK

About Laurel

FROM SETH



THERE ARE TONS OF GREAT PLACES TO HIKE NEARBY AROUND THE LOCAL LAKES. LAUREL'S FAVORITE PLACES HAVE PATHS ALONG WINDING CREEKS.

LAUREL IS TRULY ONE OF A KIND. SHE'S KIND, SMART, AND REALLY GOOD AT TALKING TO PEOPLE.



Laurel's super close to her family, and we love spending time with them on trips to the beach or mountains. She's all about family travel, believing it's important for kids to see the world.

Since we started dating, Laurel's heart's been set on adoption. Watching her care for our foster kids made me even more certain. **She's patient and enjoys teaching kids about their emotions in ways that they can understand (usually with a song!).**

After seeing Laurel love and care for our three foster children; our daughter, Blaise; countless nieces, nephews, and cousins; and children in refugee camps and English classrooms around the world on our travels, I am confident she will be a great mom to any future child, no matter the background.

Laurel has a BA in Biblical Studies, a BS in Computer Science, and an MA in Counseling. She has been a campus minister, clinical counselor, and business consultant. **She is now a software developer and works for a small, local company that offers a flexible, hybrid work schedule.**



LAUREL ENJOYING A LAZY AFTERNOON AT HOME IN THE HAMMOCK



WE BOUGHT A CAMPER DURING THE PANDEMIC AND ENJOY GOING FOR MINI ADVENTURES ON THE WEEKENDS!



A FEW OF Laurel's Fun Facts

**Favorite
Vacation:**

Cinque Terre,
Italy

**Instrument You
Play:**

Guitar

Physical activity:

Pickle ball,
tennis

**Place to Take a
Child:**

Quebec City,
Canada (at
Christmas)

**Favorite
Podcast:**

Bible Project

**Language(s) you
speak:**

Beginner
Spanish

**Favorite
Dessert:**

Seth's tiramisu

LAUREL TAKING A BREAK FROM A WALK THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO DO SOME WRITING



About Seth

FROM LAUREL



SETH AND HIS FRIEND, HUMPTY, VISITING PETRA, JORDAN



HIKING NEAR OUR HOUSE

SETH IS ENDLESSLY KIND, HAPPY, AND EASY-GOING.



He is a great cook and enjoys whipping up Indian curry, Mexican street tacos, or Southern home cooking for everyone. He has a quiet confidence and can put almost anyone at ease. With kids, he is gentle and playful – it’s usually his idea to fly kites at the playground or hike a new trail around the lake. He rarely raises his voice and is one of the most patient people you will ever meet. **Whenever we have cared for babies, Seth is up with them at night just as often as I am.** He reads and listens to

parenting podcasts to learn how to be a good dad, which is beautiful. In his spare time, Seth enjoys playing video games with his lifelong friends, going to plays at the theater, and taking Blaise to the park.

Seth has a BS in Computer Science and works as a software engineer for a large company that provides good pay and family benefits, including paid paternity leave. **His work is fully remote, so he is always home during the day, which allows him to cook our meals and care for children when they are sick.**



SETH LOVES COOKING FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS



HOW MANY KITTENS CAN FIT ON SETH'S LAP?!



PUTTING TOGETHER A FLY ROD

A FEW OF Seth's Fun Facts

**Favorite
Vacation:**
Scotland

**Favorite
Podcast:**
Freakonomics
Radio, Language
of God

**Place to Take a
Child:**
Christmas
Market in
Germany

**Favorite
Dessert:**
Grandmother's
Chocolate Cake

Dream Job:
History
Professor

Hobby:
Cooking



OUR Home



WE HOST REGULAR DINNER PARTIES FOR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY AT OUR HOUSE



Our house is set on a slope and is divided into an upper section where we live with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and a separate, walk-out basement apartment where Seth’s mom, Renee (whom we call “Amma”), lives. The back of the house features a large, screened porch that faces a fenced-in, grassy yard and woods. The house is located on 1.5 acres of woods off a cul-de-sac in a neighborhood atop a ridge. Behind our land is another 500 acres of woodland, full of life. We are right along a birding trail and can watch herds of deer from our bedroom windows. Our ridge is just up the hill from a quaint, walkable small town and 15 minutes from the capitol city. The little town is set along a beautiful river and boasts a long riverwalk with a playground, library, sports complex, shops, and restaurants. The town also hosts festivals throughout the year – trick-or-treating and pumpkin patches in the fall, the Charles Dickens Celebration and Christmas tree farms in the winter, weekly art and farmers markets in the spring, and the Jazz and Blues festival in the summer.



OUR CUTE LITTLE DOWNTOWN



OUR CREW ON THE COAST OF MISSISSIPPI FOR OUR YEARLY MARDI GRAS PARADE AND PARTY!

Meet Blaise

BLAISE IS OUR 3-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER.

Blaise is our 3-year-old daughter. She is shy, cautious, and kind. She likes to put together puzzles, fly her kite, go camping, and pretend that she can turn her parents into “Mommy and Daddy Robot” by pushing their noses (we pretend to be robots who do her bidding – but our charge only lasts 10 minutes)! She loves “church school” and playing with cousins. When we fostered a baby for 4 months, Blaise was very sweet to her and liked to give her toys and bottles when she cried. **We know that she will make a great big sister!**



SETH LIKES TAKING BLAISE TO THE LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET AND LETTING HER TRY SAMPLES OF THE LOCAL PRODUCE



LAUREL AND BLAISE AT A LOCAL AIR SHOW!



Our Loved Ones

WE ARE CLOSE TO OUR EXTENDED FAMILIES AND ENJOY SPENDING TIME TOGETHER.



Seth grew up as an only child in a Southern, rural area where his mom, aunts, Granny, and cousins still own farmland. We visit often for the “farm experience”. There are chickens, goats, cows, puppies, and heaps of fresh vegetables and home-cooked meals. The pace of life there is slow and rich, and the people are as sweet as the tea. Seth’s other grandmother visits us a couple of times a month, usually with fresh eggs, tomatoes, and pies to share.

Laurel has an older brother and a younger sister. She was raised in a beach town where her siblings, uncle, and Grammy still live. We visit them often. Her sister hosts a crawfish boil for Mardi Gras, Grammy hosts “Thanksmas”, and the whole extended family attends the Jingle Bell Run each December in memory of her father. Laurel’s family is younger and livelier – there are usually 10 children under 12 at their gatherings, so it is loud and chaotic, but a ton of fun!



ALL THE GIRL COUSINS ON LAUREL'S SIDE WITH HER BEAUTIFUL GRAMMY

SETH WITH HIS GRAMMY, AUNTS, MOM, AND COUSINS DOWN ON THE FARM.



LAUREL'S FAMILY AT THEIR YEARLY JINGLE BELL RUN, HOSTED IN REMEMBRANCE OF HER DAD



Seth's mom, Renee, is our live-in grandmother. She helps Seth cook and watches Blaise on occasion. She is a vital part of our little family and enjoys holding, rocking, and spoiling children!

OUR CREW DRESSED UP AS THE BLUEY FAMILY FOR OUR ANNUAL JINGLE BELL RUN IN LONG BEACH, MS.

THE GIRL COUSINS ON OUR YEARLY BEACH TRIP TO FLORIDA TOGETHER!



SETH'S MOM, RENEE, TEACHING BLAISE HOW TO SOFTEN LEMONS FOR FRESH LEMONADE



Each year, Laurel's family takes a family reunion trip to either the beach or the mountains. Our evenings together often involve singing and storytelling. This keeps our families very close and ensures that we never go too long without a good time!

OUR PATH to Adoption

Adoption has always been part of our plan, but we didn't always know how or when it would happen.

After being married a few years, we fostered two toddlers for a year. They gave us our first taste of being parents and we loved hiking, baking, and camping with them!



SETH'S MOM, AMMA, HELPING OUR PREVIOUS FOSTER TODDLERS TAKE OUR OLD DOG FOR A WALK



WE ALSO FOSTERED A BABY FOR FOUR MONTHS AND GREW VERY ATTACHED TO HER.

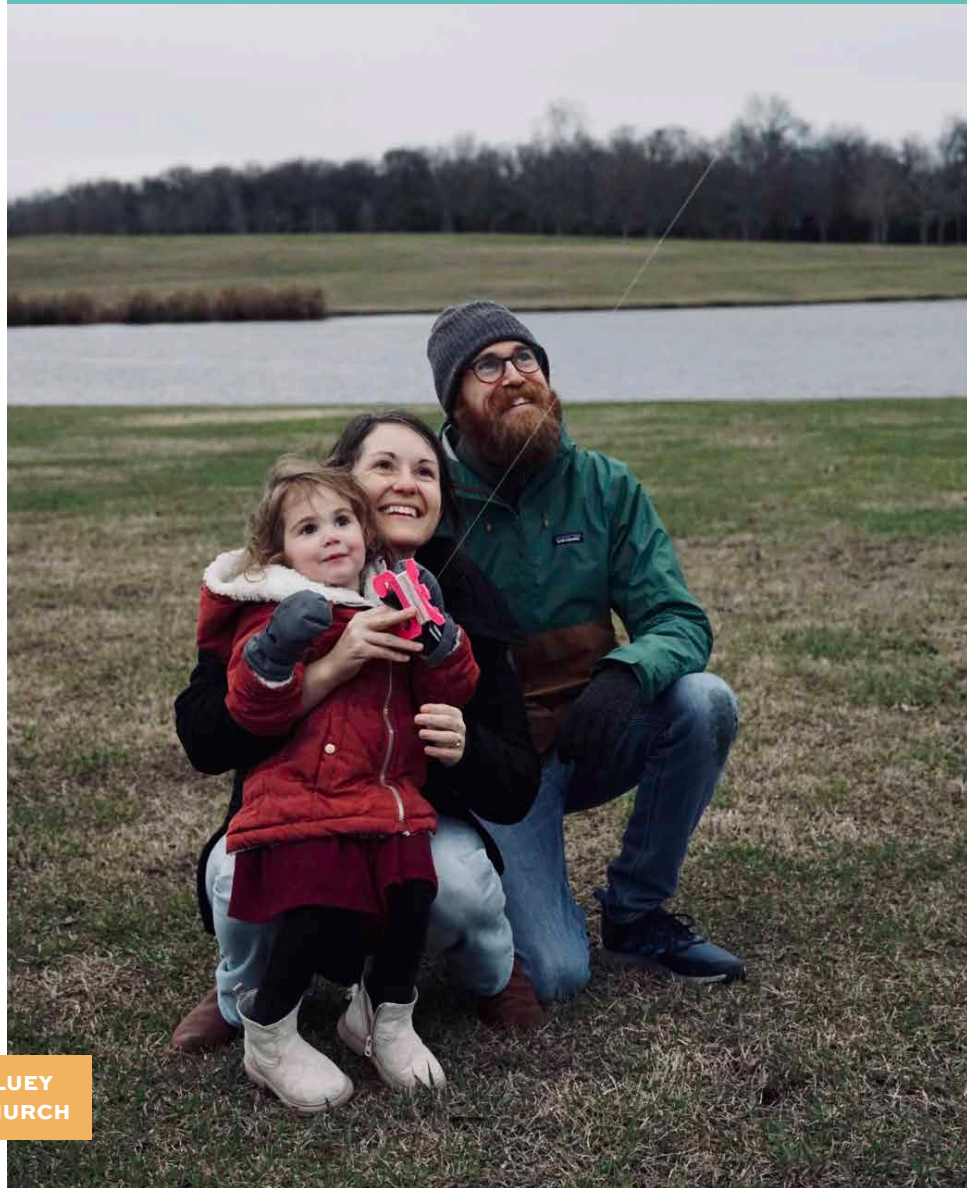


Blaise and Amma quickly took to their roles as big sister and live-in grandmother. Soon after she left our home, we knew our family was ready to add a new child.



LAUREL AND BABY I. DRESSED UP AS THE BLUEY FAMILY FOR THE HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL AT CHURCH

A STRANGER AT THE PARK CAUGHT THIS PHOTO OF US WHILE WE WERE FLYING BLAISE'S KITE ONE DAY AFTER WORK. WE LOVE GOING TO THE PARK TOGETHER!



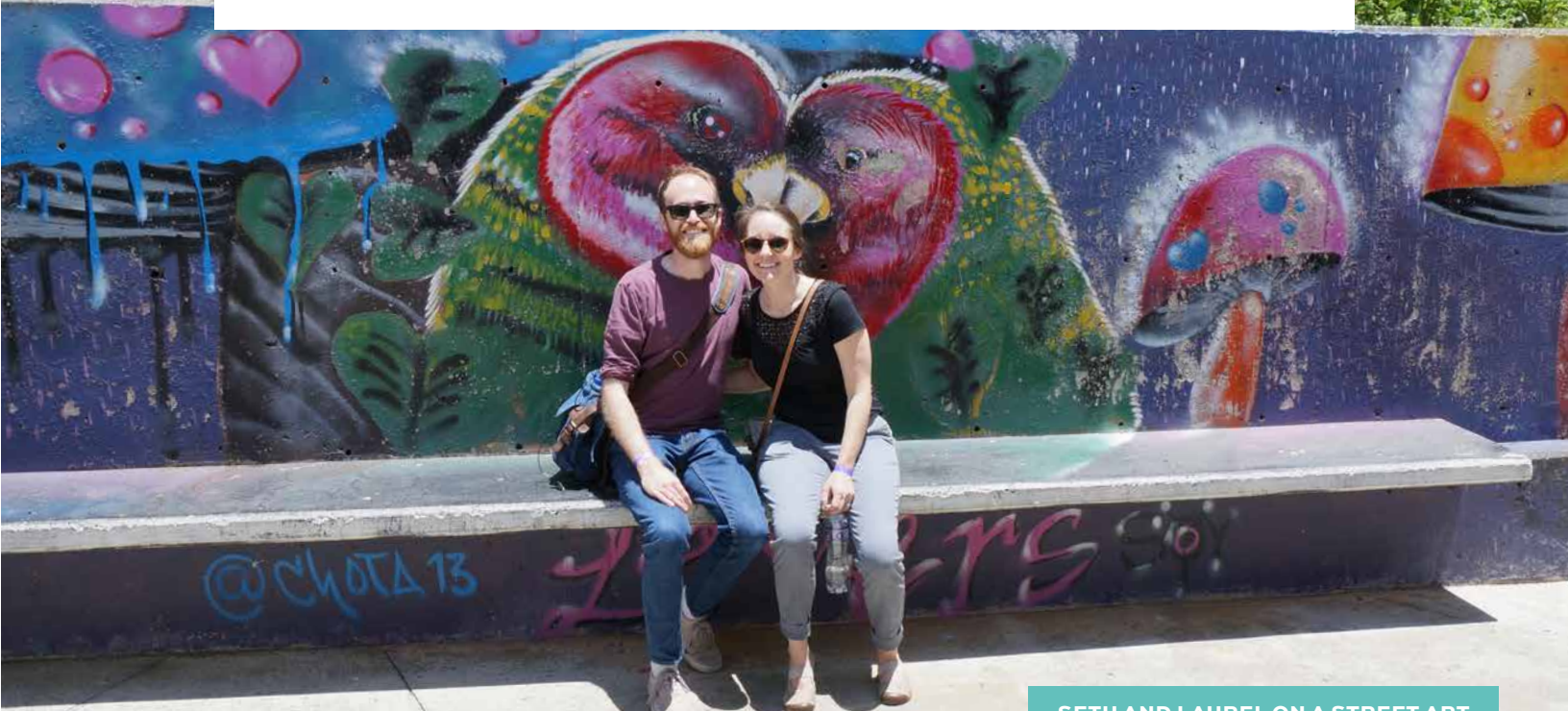
OUR

Thoughts on Parenting

Tucked away in a fire-resistant safe of our most precious documents is a video we took while camping on a coffee plantation in Colombia when we were newly married. The video quality is poor, and our voices are constantly competing with those of tropical birds, but the message we recorded for our future kids is clear and simple:

“We don’t know who you are or where you will come from yet, but we already love you and are excited to show you cool places like this!”

We want our family to have both big and little adventures that teach us how to be loving people. Whether we are traveling internationally or baking bread for a new neighbor, we want to train our kids to be open-minded and open-hearted and to act with courage and kindness towards themselves and others. We anticipate lots of books, laughter, music, and a very messy kitchen. **Ultimately, we want to raise emotionally healthy, happy kids who are well-rounded, fun to be around, and a blessing to other people.**



SETH AND LAUREL ON A STREET ART TOUR IN COLOMBIA!

A NOTE on Diversity

**WE HAVE ALWAYS VALUED
DIVERSITY IN OUR HOME -
different ideas, interests,
experiences, ethnicities, languages,
backgrounds, and hobbies.**

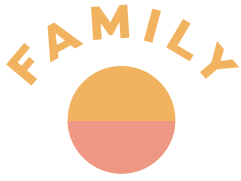


Whether your child is a reserved basketball enthusiast, a talkative video game nerd, or a social justice warrior championing an important cause, we promise to take interest in their interests and care about their cares. If your child's race, ethnicity, or heritage does not match ours, we promise to become good students of their background and connect them with role models who will help them feel empowered. We won't expect them to be like us; we will learn how to be a multi-ethnic home and address any challenges we face together, openly and honestly. **Your child's uniqueness will be both supported and celebrated here!**



& Open Adoption

We also want to assure you that we are committed to providing opportunities for your child to create their own relationship with you. We know that you love them - you wouldn't be reading this if you didn't - and we feel that your child would benefit from having you in their corner cheering them on. We want to respect and highlight your love in your child's life, not compete with it.



Information

Date of marriage: 08/26/2017

Children: BLAISE (08/08/2020),

BIOLOGICAL: Blaise is shy, cautious, and kind. Her favorite things to do are to put together puzzles, fly her kite, go camping, and pretend that she can turn her parents into “Mommy and Daddy Robot” by pushing their noses (we pretend to be robots who do her bidding – but our charge only lasts 10 minutes)!

Interests and hobbies: We were initially attracted to one another because of a shared love of travel. Since we have been together, we have hiked Roman ruins in Turkey, camped on a coffee plantation in Colombia, celebrated New Years in NYC, and meandered through Christmas markets in Quebec. We also enjoy hosting dinner parties. Seth is a great cook and enjoys trying new and interesting cuisines. He plays video games with his friends and likes live theater. Both of us enjoy camping and hiking, reading, and nerdy podcasts. Laurel is an amateur theologian and enjoys writing music and having deep conversations with friends.

Home: We live on 1.5 acres off a cul-de-sac in a neighborhood that is situated atop a ridge. Our land is mostly wooded with a fenced-in grassy yard. Behind our land is another 500 acres of woodland, full of life. We are right along a birding trail and can watch herds of deer from our back porch. We love that our yard is so private, but also just 7 minutes down one side of the hill to a quaint, walkable small town and 15 minutes down the other side to the capitol city. The little town is set along a beautiful river and boasts a long riverwalk complete with a playground, library, sports complex, shops, and restaurants. The town also hosts festivals and farmers markets throughout the year.

Pets: Our dog of 16 years died recently, but we like animals and plan to get another when our kids are a bit older.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption? Laurel has wanted to adopt since she was very young. Before we ever married, we had numerous discussions about adoption. After we married, we got licensed to be foster parents. We

Father’s Name: Seth

Occupation:

Software Engineer

Education: BS

Computer Science

Religion: Christian

Date of birth:

12/23/1987

Hair color: Brown

Eye color: Blue

Height: 6’

Mother’s name: Laurel

Occupation: Software

Developer

Education: BA Biblical

Studies, BS Computer

Science, MA Counseling

Religion: Christian

Date of birth: 05/13/1986

Hair color: Brown

Eye color: Brown

Height: 5’3”

fostered two toddlers for a year before custody was transferred to one of their relatives. After having our biological daughter, Blaise, we knew that we wanted another child. We tried to have another biological child but had difficulty getting pregnant. Wanting to be of help while we waited, we fostered another baby whom we loved, but she also went to live with a relative. After learning that Laurel had some hormone deficiencies that may make getting pregnant especially difficult, we felt like we should go ahead and start the process of adopting.

Openness to birthparent(s): Through serving as foster parents, we have learned that a child’s relationship with their birth family is important, and we want to ensure that any child in our home has as many pieces of their own story and identity as we can give them. When we consider what contact with the child’s family may be like, we imagine regular updates with pictures and videos when the child is young (we have learned that babies and toddlers are not especially good at FaceTime), and then calls, FaceTime, and visits (if feasible) as the child gets older. We understand that the needs of all parties may change over time, but we hope that the commitment to doing the best we can for the child stays consistent. In the past, we have made sure that our foster children got to see and communicate with their parents and/or siblings regularly in a safe, relaxed environment. We hope to build a relationship of trust with our child’s birth parents and imagine them serving a role like that of an aunt and uncle. We realize that this may look differently depending on where the parents are located, but we believe that current technology can help us bridge some of the gaps in distance.

Childcare plans: Seth has 6 weeks of paid parental leave and works from home 100% of the time, so he will be available to care for the child for 6 weeks and will still be home after his parental leave ends. Laurel will be eligible for unpaid parental leave, which she plans to take. She also works a hybrid work schedule, so she will be home a few days a week after the end of parental leave. Seth’s mother, Renee, is retired and lives in our basement apartment, so she will be available to care for the child after Seth and Laurel’s parental leave ends (though they will still be working from home with the child).

First 6 weeks: Seth & Laurel care for the child 24/7.

After 6 weeks: Renee will care for the child in the Davis home with Seth (full-time) & Laurel (part -time) there.

IN CLOSING

Thank You

We know that making an adoption plan requires an immense sacrifice for your child and we are humbled by your courage and your love. We want to ensure that your child has as many pieces of their story and identity as we can give them, and you will always be a huge piece of that. We pray that God leads you with His peace as you consider the best plan for your child. **Thank you for taking the time to learn about us – we are excited about the possibility of starting this adventure with you!**



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