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PATRICK & TRACIE





Dear Expectant Mother,

Hello, we are Patrick and Tracie.

As you read through our book, we want you to know that we love you and are praying for you. You are facing a very hard decision, and whatever you choose, just know that we believe in you. Our hardest choices in life have been made out of love. And that is the trait we see most in you - love. You are making a plan for your child because you love them. And that kind of love is the best thing you can give a child. We also see you as brave. Giving your child to another to care for, love, and raise is a very courageous thing to do.

Know that God gives us grace, as we also need to give ourselves grace. In whatever has led you up to this moment, give yourself grace.

Our prayer for you is that you have wisdom and peace of mind in your decision.

Patrick and Tracie

OUR STORY *meeting*

We actually met in 2004, back when message boards and chat rooms were the way to talk to people online. We met on the Harry Potter message boards and found each other really easy to talk to. That October, Tracie invited Patrick to a Halloween party she was hosting, and Patrick came from a state over to see her. And then she kept inviting him back.

We just clicked. We each found our person. We're both pretty awesome people, have the same sense of humor, and have a lot in common, so it made sense that we would be drawn to each other and fall in love. In 2008, we got married, and we have been a team ever since. We are best friends, we split the work, and we work to make each other happy.

In 2018, we moved to Los Angeles so Tracie could pursue a film career. We adopted our first child, Skylar, in 2022. We love our little family and are excited to expand it.

Every five years, we try to do something meaningful but fun for our anniversary. For our fifth year, we renewed our vows in Las Vegas in front of Elvis (because Tracie wanted to be walked down the aisle by Elvis). For our tenth year, we went to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, and for our fifteenth, we went to Catalina Island, off the coast of Long Beach.



OUR FAMILY'S VALUES



Skylar's baby dedication at church



July 4th celebration at a friend's house!

"And now these
three remain:
faith, hope, and love.
But the greatest of
these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:1

Tracie learned about love and family from her grandmother. She didn't have in-laws, or ex-in-laws, or step-children, or step-grandchildren. She had sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren. We were all family to her. Because of her, we know that family isn't limited to biology or color or distance. Family is only limited to love. We hope to carry on that legacy.

We value our relationships with God and want to love everyone as Christ loves us. We love each other unconditionally and work to show it every day. We teach our daughter to show others love through kindness.

We put our hope in Jesus, and because of that, we have joy. This is what gets us through every day. In the sometimes chaos, we have moments of peace.

Our faith forms our values and actions. We strive to be kind, to help those who need it, to be humble, to be generous, to be grateful, to be gracious, and to be forgiving.



Tracie about me

My favorite Disney movie:
Tangled!



Disneyland 2021

I grew up in Chicago. It is still my all-time favorite city in the US. I love the culture, the museums, and especially the food. I am a big foodie. I could talk to someone for hours about my favorite foods. Chicago style pizza and hot dogs, italian beef, cheese fries, and gyros are my top five. I also love Chicago sports, especially the Cubs. I played t-ball when I was 5 or 6, and then went to my first Cubs game when I was 5, and I was hooked.

I love movies. I got my film studies certificate right before we adopted Skylar. My dream is to be a producer, but I'm hoping to be an executive assistant in the near future to get my foot in the door.

My favorite movie genres are science fiction, fantasy, horror, and occasionally romcoms. (I always have a running commentary on super cheesy Christmas movies. Some of them are terrible but they're so great.) I do also love a good series. Currently, Buffy the Vampire Slayer is my favorite, but I also love Psych, The Office, Friends, and Parks and Rec.

I love to be creative. I love writing, crafting, reading, painting, and anything else that gets those juices flowing. I can play viola. I am currently working on writing a science fiction fantasy novel.



The wizarding world of Harry Potter!
(2018)



MY WIFE TRACIE

by Patrick

Tracie has one of the biggest hearts I know. She helps and volunteers when she sees a need, whether it is helping with the youth group at church or dressing up for kids to participate in a Trunk or Treat. She is very close with her sisters and loves our family deeply. She is a great mother to Skylar, whether it's going on play dates, doing crafts, playing dress-up or even just coloring. For nearly as long as I've known her she has always wanted to adopt several children. When something is on her heart she dives in and holds nothing back.

fun facts

FAVORITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER

Luna Lovegood

MY FAVORITE MUSICAL ARTIST

Kelly Clarkson

MY FAVORITE HOBBY

Playing board games

MY FAVORITE PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD

The aquarium

MY FAVORITE BOOK

Harry Potter Series



Our chosen birthday activity in 2024



PATRICK

about me

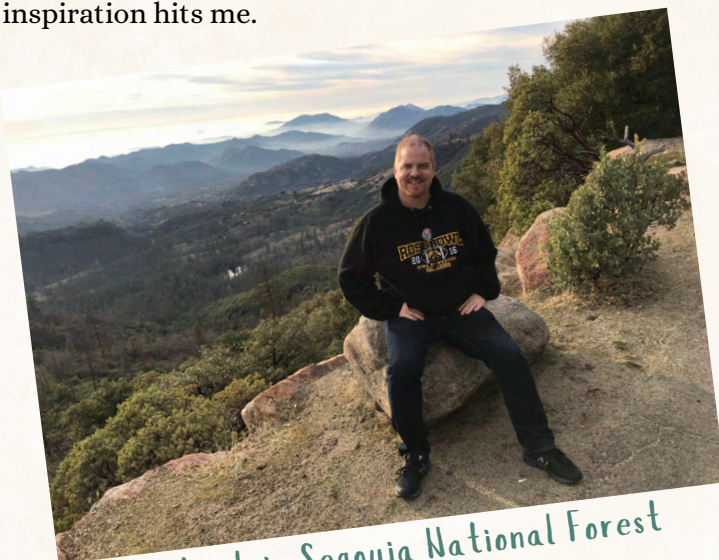
I grew up in Iowa, and I am the youngest in a family of six. We spent holidays and summers with my extended family going camping and going on canoe trips. I was very active playing multiple sports along with participating in concert choir and show choirs in high school.

I like to build things. I've helped my dad with renovation projects, I worked for a construction company one summer in high school, and I helped build a house for a high school construction class. I received my Associates degree in architecture, and I am a Senior Designer for an Engineering Firm.

I enjoy board games, tabletop RPGs, and spending time as a family with Tracie and Skylar. I also enjoy a round of golf with extended family and doing home projects when inspiration hits me.



Hollywood in
September 2023



Patrick in Sequoia National Forest



In Catalina Island for our anniversary



MY HUSBAND PATRICK

by Tracie

Patrick is one of the nicest, kindest, most generous people I know. Sometimes I have to force him to do what he wants to do because he's always so focused on making others happy. He has backlogs full of dad jokes and cheesy lines. He loves our family, and he's a terrific dad. When we first adopted Skylar, he fell in love right away. He always takes time for her and loves playing with her. He just has the biggest heart.

fun facts

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Noah's Ark Waterpark

MY FAVORITE SPORT'S TEAM

Iowa Hawkeyes

FAVORITE DESSERT

French Silk Pie

MY FAVORITE PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD

Theme Park

MY FAVORITE BOOK

Harry Potter Series

LOVING,
GOOFY,
KIND



Our chosen birthday activity in 2024



MEET SKYLAR (Skye)

Skye loves wearing princess dresses, but also loves skeletons. Her favorite holidays are Halloween and Christmas, and we celebrate them year-round. She loves going to the zoo and the aquarium, as well as the various theme parks we take her to. She's a little fish. Her favorite activity is going to swim class. She is energetic and loves to laugh. She has just gotten into make believe and tells us all sorts of stories.

SWEET,
FUN,
SMART

Skye and the orangutan at the zoo!



Trick or treating Halloween 2025



Playing dress up as a cat

WELCOME TO OUR HOME & COMMUNITY

We live in Los Angeles, California. Our favorite part of living here is that there are so many things to do. We have memberships to the aquarium and to the zoo, and season passes to Six Flags. We live 15 minutes away from Universal Studios. There are tons of museums here, and some of them are free. We live 45 minutes from the beach and a half an hour from the snow in winter.

Every other Friday night, we have family movie night, where we eat dinner and popcorn and watch a (usually animated) movie. If we aren't spending our Saturdays at the zoo, aquarium, or at a theme park, we are probably at the playground with Skye. Sundays we go to church, eat brunch, take a nap, then chill. Skye goes to daycare on weekdays while we work. Every Wednesday night, we have a community group through church, where we eat and have discussions about God. In our group, we have three families with children age 4 and under. Our church is our village. They all supported us through our first adoption.



Our church family!



Skye and her best friend
at the park!



At Clockshop's Kite Festival



Tracie's Y2K birthday party

OUR HOBBIES

We love playing board games together and with friends. Our personal favorite is one called Hogwarts Battle. Patrick also plays DnD with friends through church.

In our free time, Patrick plays video games and Tracie reads books. Sometimes we watch a TV series together. We also love watching movies. Now, since we have Skye, she picks out a movie for us all to watch together on family movie night.

We usually spend weekends together doing things as a family, doing one of the many things LA has to offer. There are children's museums, observatories (also one of Skye's favorites!), shows and concerts for adults and for families, the renaissance fair, the LA county fair, and all sorts of events. Last summer, Burbank had a whole summer series for families where they showed movies, had concerts, and did carnival games for kids.



OUR TRADITIONS

Holidays are big at our place. Every year, we look forward to the holiday season, starting at Halloween. In September and October, people start putting up their Halloween decorations, and we go see all of them. We have done a trunk for trunk or treat the past several years in a row. Then, in November, we mourn the loss of Halloween lights until we celebrate Thanksgiving with friends. After that we get to see all of the Christmas lights. At the end of December, we travel to the Midwest to see our families and to celebrate Christmas with them. Patrick's family always does Christmas Eve service and then opens presents. Tracie's family does Christmas Eve tamales and chili and opens presents in the morning. We, the three of us, have started a tradition of wearing matching pajamas at Christmas.



Matching Christmas pajamas

EXTENDED FAMILY

Most of our extended family lives across the country. Our closest family is Tracie's sister and brother-in-law who live in Las Vegas. Tracie's other sister is planning to move to the west coast in the next few years. Patrick's family is in Iowa, Texas, and Pennsylvania, and the rest of Tracie's family is in Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. We see everyone twice a year, but Skye talks to her grandparents over the phone frequently.

We both have large, fun families and keep in close touch with them through text messages and pictures. We still sometimes see Patrick's cousins and aunts and uncles, and part of our Christmases are spent with Tracie's aunts and uncles.

Eating ice cream with Tracie's sister and brother-in-law in Las Vegas



Skye playing pool with her second cousin



Tracie's family at Christmas time!



Patrick's family at his sister's wedding



Us with Tracie's aunt, uncle, and dad

ADOPTION & PARENTING

Tracie has always wanted to adopt, so when we were dating, she told Patrick. He had never considered it before, but he thought about it, and came back and told her, "Yeah, you know what, that sounds like a good idea." And then a few months later, he proposed. Maybe even then, God was preparing us for not being able to have our own biological children. We tried and failed, but said, "Great, we can adopt even more kids." We adopted Skylar in 2022 through domestic adoption, and we could not be more grateful.

We want to raise our children with Christian values, and we want them to be joyful and learn to love life. We are intentional about being patient and kind, but remember to apologize when we make mistakes. As soon as they are old enough, we are putting our children in self-defense classes, so they gain independence, self-confidence, and the strength to stand up for themselves. We want our kids to grow up to be amazing, independent adults who believe in equality, give generously, and help those who need it.

Part of the reason we want to raise our children in a big city is so that our children can be included in a variety of cultures and races. From peers to doctors to role models, whatever race our children are, they will always have people that look like them that they can look up to or relate to. We are also looking forward to putting our children into language immersion schools, where they can gain fluency by learning all of their subjects in a different language.

We are open to many different open adoption scenarios - as little or as much as you are comfortable with. Currently, we have a very open adoption with both of Skye's birth parents. They see her at least once a year, usually when we come out to the Midwest for Christmas, and they will probably start coming out for her birthday parties. We created an instagram account for Skye's birth parents so we can share her pictures and videos with them. We love how everything is going. Obviously, how often we can do visits depends on where you, the expectant mother, lives, but we can always work something out. We love having an open adoption, and it gets easier the more we get to know Skye's birth parents. It's important to us because we want Skye to have answers to her questions about where she comes from and hope it will help her with her identity down the road. We love that she gets to have more people to love her. And that's all everything comes down to. Love.



Hot chocolate night at home

FAMILY INFORMATION



Father's Name: Patrick

Occupation: Senior Designer

Education: AAS in Architectural Engineering

Religion: Christian

Date of Birth: 3/12/1982



Mother's Name: Tracie

Occupation: Personal Assistant

Education: BA in Mathematics and Secondary Education

Religion: Christian

Date of Birth: 3/11/1983

Date of Marriage: 12/13/2008

Children: Skylar, adopted and born in 2022. She is joyful and funny and loves playing at the playground, swimming, riding on rides at theme parks, seeing Christmas lights, wearing princess dresses, planets, and skeletons.

Interest and hobbies: Together, we love watching movies, playing games, watching Cubs games, and going to fun places around LA. Patrick loves golfing and sports. Tracie likes learning other languages and writing.

Home: We live in a suburb of Los Angeles in a very walkable, safe neighborhood. We can walk to the park, the mall, the grocery store, the dollar store (very important), and several restaurants. We are currently in a two bedroom apartment with lots of closet space, patio space, and hardwood floors (all major selling points for Tracie). Our apartment building is a gated community. Our neighbors are all really nice, and a few children even live in the complex.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption? Tracie has always wanted to adopt, so when we were dating, she made sure to get Patrick on board. Together, we enthusiastically embraced the idea, and later on, when we discovered we couldn't have biological children of our own, we realized now we could adopt more than we had originally planned.

Childcare plans: We have a great daycare where we have been sending Skye. It's an in-home daycare, and the woman who runs it has started going to our church. She's great. Skye's been learning so much. We plan on putting future children in the same daycare.



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We promise to encourage our children, to teach them to be kind, to keep them accountable, to love them, even their faults, to keep them safe, to equip them for the world, and to build our family based on love and trust. If you choose us, we will raise this child with patience, unconditional love, and lots of laughter.

We love you and are praying for you.

Patrick and Tracie