

Scott
&
Melissa





Hello

The first thing that we want to tell you is that we believe you are a courageous woman because we are aware that you are making a difficult decision—a decision that is selfless and full of love! We cannot fully understand how your heart feels considering an adoption plan for your child and we want you to know that we will be in this with you in whatever support you need. Above all else, if we are blessed with the lifelong honor of raising your child we will love and cherish them every single day of their lives. We have been praying for you to feel protected, heard, and seen throughout this journey. Our hope for your child is for them to know how deeply loved they are and for them to have a relationship with you in the future. We hope to show them what it means to live a life full of grace and love. If we are chosen to be the adoptive parents of your child, our dream is that we will raise your child up to know God, to help them discover their unique giftings and purpose, to be confident enough to pursue their passions, and not be afraid to fail because they can trust that we will always be there for them. We want them to have a thriving life knowing they have a family who will be there no matter what might come, always putting them first.



Scott
&
Melissa

OUR STORY

The Proposal



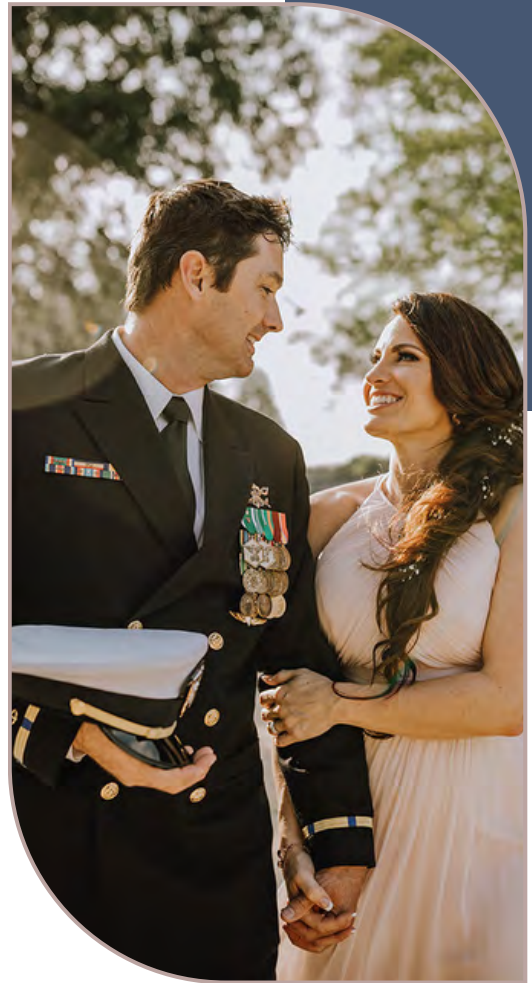
I flew to Rhode Island for Scott's military ceremony. It was truly a weekend I will never forget with so much to celebrate. We decided to head out and go to one of our favorite places, the ocean. We were walking along the rocky coastline when Scott seemed a little nervous. Suddenly, he dropped to one knee with the beautiful ocean in the background and officially proposed! It was the easiest YES I have ever said. We celebrated by taking a picture and picking out an engagement band. Then we went downtown to find one place that was open and had clam chowder. It was simple, meaningful, and such a perfect evening just the two of us. It was a day we will always remember.

We met at church and started having casual conversation over lunches together. We quickly bonded in sharing our personal stories and over our love for different sports, which led to our first "official" date at the motocross track. Friends of ours actually informed us that we were dating when we both thought we were just keeping it casual. But, we were going to movies, spending hours on the phone together, and enjoying activity based dates such as hikes, ice-skating, and indoor skydiving. What attracted me to Scott was his humbleness, kindness, and hysterical sense of humor. What attracted me to Melissa was her openness to allow me to be me, genuine spirit, and warm-hearted personality and the way she naturally took to my daughter, Alyssa. Alyssa was immediately attracted to Melissa's loving company, her warm smile and inviting personality, and her willingness to love Alyssa as her own. This natural family fit really took our relationship from friends hanging out, to finally both of us conceding that we were dating. After that we spent as much time together as possible and little did he know that 11 months after our first date that we would be married.

How we met



Married **5** years and
more in love than ever



Marriage

We have been married for five and half years now and are stronger than ever. One thing that keeps our marriage strong is our commitment and love to one another. Loyalty is big to both of us. We protect each other and seek to serve one another no matter the ups and downs life throws at us—we love hard, communicate well, and both of us keep God at the center of our life together. We have learned to trust that our communication is the key to growing with one another in life and love and has proven to be the miracle medicine that cures disagreement. We have a deep friendship that keeps us laughing and bonded to one another. We know without a shadow of a doubt we are one another's biggest advocates.

Our Heart for Adoption



The miracle of adoption has always been a part of our conversation about growing our family even before our miscarriage. In fact, fostering and adopting has been on our hearts for a while. Prayerfully, we know this is the time. Melissa discovered that she had an older sister, Kathy, that her mother made a closed adoption plan for back in the 1970s. Four months after discovering the information and completing ancestry testing, we met Kathy and our three nephews. Together, we are all growing closer and closer each year that passes. Sharing our stories, we have leaned on Kathy's personal experiences, insight, and knowledge on the challenges associated with closed adoption that have affected both her and her children. She is a large reason that our hearts are for a more open adoption.

OUR JOURNEY WITH INFERTILITY

We did encounter infertility issues over a year ago. We attempted one round of IVF which was successful, but then we suffered a miscarriage. It was a very difficult time. Along with our faith, we are grateful that we had mentors and friends who helped us to keep our eyes fixed on hope and helped to shoulder our heartache. Growing our family is our heart's desire, and we know that our infertility issues are not the end of our story. If anything it has shown us both the deep desire to raise a child together and walk this adoption journey hand in hand.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOUR
CHILD FROM THIS MOMENT ON
FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES



our family's *Values*

"We want to make your important values a core part of your child's life as they grow up."



1

Faith First

We believe that our family is strongest when we stay connected to our Lord and Savior who helps us to live in love and grace. Family will always come first, and we will live exemplary lives for others to model. We do our best to show grace and love to everyone that we meet.

3

Love Hard & Laugh Loud

We are all in with our love and that means in the great times and not so great times. We are also both big kids at heart who love to have fun and we try not to take ourselves too seriously.

2

Respect and Care

Everyone is worthy of respect and honor so treat people how you want to be treated. Take care of things that you have worked for or have been given. We show up for those we love, and we never give up on the people in our lives.

4

Be Committed

We are a family of integrity, we do what we say we will do, and we finish what we start. Building resilience is important. This is often done by enduring hardships and persevering through them to finish well. This means we do not easily give up during difficult times, but we rely on each other and remain committed to each other and our word.

meet

Melissa

- + *Compassionate*
- + *Nurturing*
- + *Loving*



MY PASSIONS IN MY LIFE

I deeply appreciate the simple things in life like a comfy bed, chair, blanket, and cup of tea or coffee! I love cuddling up and reading. Over the last few years, I have taken to “homesteading” like learning to cook and bake from scratch so that my family eats healthier and gets nutritionally beneficial foods. My bonus daughter, Alyssa, and I share recipes through social media as one way to keep building a connection with each other. Then, when she visits, we cook together.

IN BECOMMING A MOM

One thing that I look forward to in becoming a parent is the sheer joy of pouring my love, wisdom, and experiences into a child and watching them grow in wisdom and self-discovery. I have always loved kids and I am simply a big kid at heart. I look forward to being intentional to discover their unique interests, talents, and giftings so that I can nurture their passions. Whether it is sports, academics, dance, acting, or even something creative, I want to help them follow their passions and nurture their hearts to love people and to live a life that they love.



In Scott's words

Melissa has a gift of love and patience that could overflow the Grand Canyon with a heart for people that glows brighter than the harvest moon on a dark night. People are naturally drawn to her welcoming smile and calming presence, and children love to just walk up to her and start talking to her as if they have known her all their short little lives. She can speak to children in such a way that they feel heard, cared for in moments of need, and loved like they are the most important person on earth—it's amazing to watch. She has an authentic approach and the children she interacts with feel it. Melissa has a way of speaking straight into the souls of children to help them see the situation as it is for the purpose of understanding and teaching, and it is truly her God-given superpower.

Melissa has always wanted to be a mother, though she is a superb bonus mom to our daughter Alyssa. Melissa and Alyssa have really developed a genuine love for one another over the past 5 years. From the beginning, Melissa opened up her arms to Alyssa. Alyssa truly views Melissa as a confident and strong woman role model and nurturing mother and seeks her counsel before making life decisions. She values Melissa so much and it makes me so happy to see them grow in their love and relationship with one another. Melissa looks forward to growing our family and sharing her depth of love with another child, just as she has done with Alyssa. Her gift is love and her talent is demonstrating that love to others.



meet

Scott

- + Loving
- + Dedicated
- + Easy going



MY CAREER

I am in the military and have the flexibility in my current role to work from home, modify in-office working hours, and take time off as needed. I have reached a point in my career that I will not deploy ever again, nor do I travel from home often. My seniors understand, and support, the adoption and are allowing me ample time to go through this process. There is no doubt in my mind that my work team is fully behind our desire to adopt.

MY HEART FOR ADOPTION

I look forward to having the attachment of love for another child, there is nothing better than knowing that I have the responsibility for a child, their well-being, growth, and providing the best life possible for them. I also look forward to seeing Melissa have the ability to be a mother to a child, she has so much love to give—a mother's heart full of love.



In Melissa's words

Scott is the most humble and selfless man I have ever known. He genuinely seeks to make me happy and to make our lives as easy as possible. One reason that I love him so much is because I know that without a doubt he deeply and genuinely loves me. I feel safe and secure in his presence. He always tells me that I am beautiful whether I am dressed up or just looking distressed! He is extremely intelligent, and I love listening to how his mind works. He is gifted in building dirt bikes from the ground up. He has a heart to help less privileged kids learn how to ride dirt bikes and learn how to work on their bikes to teach them trade skills. This is so endearing to me. He is also one of the funniest and quick-witted people that I know. But he has met his match with me! What I love is that he doesn't find any of my strengths as a threat. Instead, he encourages me to pursue excellence and lifts me up in front of other people.

He is a true partner in the sense that he listens to me talk in circles about everything and anything, he lifts me up when I am down, he buys me chocolate so I don't break down ☺, and he shares in taking care of our home and running errands with me. He chooses me every single day and chooses to spend as much time with me as possible. He is genuinely my best friend!





Meet

Alyssa

In Alyssa's words...

“When Melissa came into my dad’s life it was after a huge growth period for my dad, a productive growth period. As a youth, it was an overwhelming adjustment alone trying to get used to how the relationship with my dad would evolve after this growth period. Most would say their stepmom didn’t help in that department, I get to say the opposite. My bonus mom, Melissa, has been a huge influence in showing me what living with grace looks like. When she first came into my life I saw she was someone who has a big personality, so with me being a self-declared introvert who did not have a solid foundation of opinions, it took some adjusting to fully appreciate the gifts she has to share. She is a confidant, someone who will always understand the emotional side of a situation. She leads with consideration for herself and others as a woman with strong boundaries and is a woman worth looking up to. With the gifts of discernment, compassion, and grace she is also a strong-willed human. If a situation is not right, she will be the first to speak up and will not be afraid to make people uncomfortable - this takes a strong compass of what is right vs. wrong. In summary, Melissa is a woman worth having as a role model. I am excited for Melissa and my dad to welcome home a child into their life and for me to love on a sibling. I support them and am anticipating all the beauty that is to come in adoption.”

In Scott's words..

I have an incredible daughter, Alyssa, and I have always approached parenting her with a desire for her to excel in all that she does and desires to do. We have a beautifully blended family. My parenting philosophy is that Alyssa would be loved and have my attention no matter the situation. I love being a parent because it is my honor, alongside Melissa, to share my beliefs, my experiences, and wisdom with my daughter. I love to pour my love into my daughter to give her greater opportunities and to help her to continue sharing what is taught for generations to come. She is currently 21 years old living in Pennsylvania and is hoping to start college soon and pursue a degree in horticulture. She is also interested in moving closer to us in the future because she believes that being close to family is important. She currently works part-time with children with special needs in a classroom setting. She is very excited for us to grow our family through adoption. So much in fact she wanted to share her heart below.

OUR FAMILY HAS SO
MUCH LOVE TO SHARE



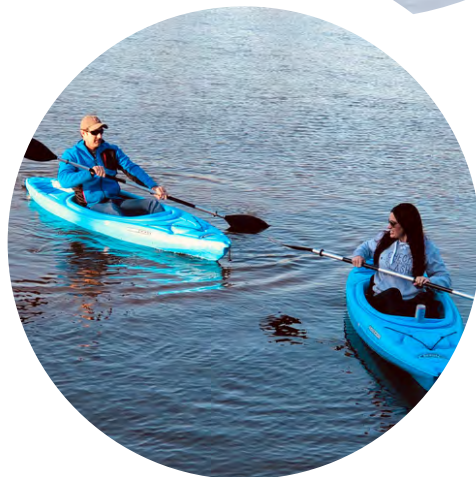
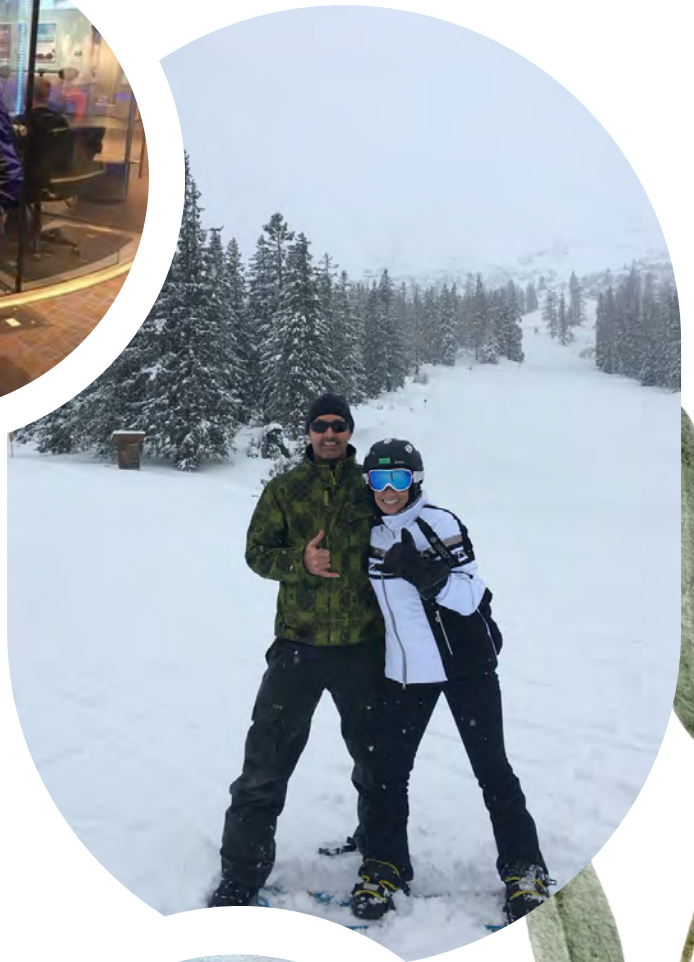
What we do for

Fun



We truly love spending time together no matter if it is a trip, a fun adventure, or just spending the evening at home cooking together.

We enjoy all sorts of competitive sports, but we have learned that Melissa wins at EVERYTHING, and Scott loves it! We also enjoy quality time-based activities: cooking, puzzles, cards, walking, and working out together, oh, and our favorite competitive activity of Mario Kart, and yes, Melissa always wins! Our marriage is strong because we deliberately make time for one another, and we honestly enjoy being in the company of one another, not to forget about our little man-cub, Steel, who consistently reminds us that he has needs too!





Home Sweet Home



We live in a 1700 sq. foot townhome that was built in 2018. It has three bedrooms and two and half baths. Although we do not have a backyard, we do have plenty of safe outdoor space for children to play. We have several neighbors on our street that have eight children between the ages of two and four that are always gathering outside to have the kids play and to socialize together. We are honorary aunts and uncles for the neighborhood kids. We love it!

Love is shared through spending quality time with one another, and we don't miss an opportunity to say the words "I love you" and "I am proud of you." Love is also shared through giving small, surprise gifts and cooking each other's favorite meals or desserts. We are big huggers in this family. We love to personalize our birthday celebrations to ensure each person feels seen and loved. We are intentional to carve out alone time to find rest with one another from this often busy and distracting world. We show our love by caring for the health of one another's soul. We are intentional to ask, "How are you really?" and "How can I help you in this moment?" Some of our best memories trace back to vulnerable and deep conversations that all started because we felt seen by the other person.



We love spending time at the beach as a family. You can find us walking along the shore at the end of our day just catching up. We cannot wait to make this a family weekend tradition with your child. Allowing them to run up the beach, explore the tidepools, and enjoy winding down and savoring the small moments together.



Our Community

We live in a wonderful community just one mile from the beach in Southern California. The best tropical weather in the world! We can wear warm weather clothes most of the year and then bundle up in the winter while the sun remains shining on our faces in the crisp air. The community has a pool, jacuzzi, playpark, and lots of families with kids. We have parks, tennis courts, libraries, and multiple beaches all within six miles of us. We love the great cultural diversity and offers opportunities to explore cultures during different festivals and street markets. A nearby park offers a “concert in the park” series during different times of the year. There is also paddleboarding and other water sport opportunities about five miles from us. There are plenty of sporting events to attend as a family such as pro baseball and football games. We attend supercross events yearly as a family. What types of activities do you like to do that you would like your child to be exposed to and know that you love?

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Melissa's Family I have a very close relationship with my father. He had moved out to California to be near us for three years before recently moving back to Florida. During that time, we all were able to spend a great amount of time together relaxing, having family dinners, and going out to do activities together. He is a very loving and giving person. He personally cannot wait to be a grandfather and has been extremely supportive of us and our entire adoption process in many ways. He gets excited thinking about playing with a baby or playing in the backyard as the child gets older. My sister, Kathy, is extremely excited about our adoption journey and has been intricately involved. I believe that she will be an amazing friend to your child and a great support system.

Scott's Family I have a close relationship with my mother, stepfather, and sister, and they have a deep and invested love for us. We video chat often and speak and message on the phone almost daily to share life situations, adventures, and significant events that are important. We travel to Florida at every opportunity to spend in-person time together. Also, my family, mother and aunt, own family property in Georgia and it is often the place where the entire family can meet for holidays, seasonal celebrations, or a place to just get away from the busyness of life to spend quality time together. Every year the family meets in Georgia to celebrate Christmas and New Year's together—usually about 20 to 30 family members. Of course, you have read about my incredible daughter Alyssa, and I am so grateful to be her dad.



OUR FAMILY WILL EMBRACE
YOUR CHILD WITH SUPPORT,
LOVE AND JOY.





Traditions

We Love

We are a family who makes the small moments feel significant!

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthday months, which means we do something little every week in the month of our birthdays. We also make homemade meals and cakes for each other at the birthday person's request. Fun, messy, and hysterical times have been made watching certain attempts at cake be made!

Christmas

Our favorite time of year is Christmas. We enjoy the yearly experience of going to a Christmas tree farm as a family to banter over— I mean lovingly— pick out which live Christmas tree to get ☺. We always get one that is oversized, and we love it! Scott is in charge of putting on the lights while Melissa is in charge of telling him how to fix them when they are not right! We both love decorating the tree to perfection and filling every empty space under the tree with gifts of love. We look forward to the “pickle hunt,” which is a pickle Christmas ornament hung deep within the tree for someone to find. The finder of the pickle gets a special gift and gets to hide the pickle the following year.

Fall time

For the Fall, we like to go to pumpkin patches to purchase individual pumpkins for us to carve. Even our dog Steel gets his own pumpkin. We tend to cheat and use stencils to try to make the best-looking pumpkin carving ever. That backfired on Scott one year when he tried to stencil a poodle and our family and friends thought that it was a bull...lol! We have lots of fun together!

Puzzles

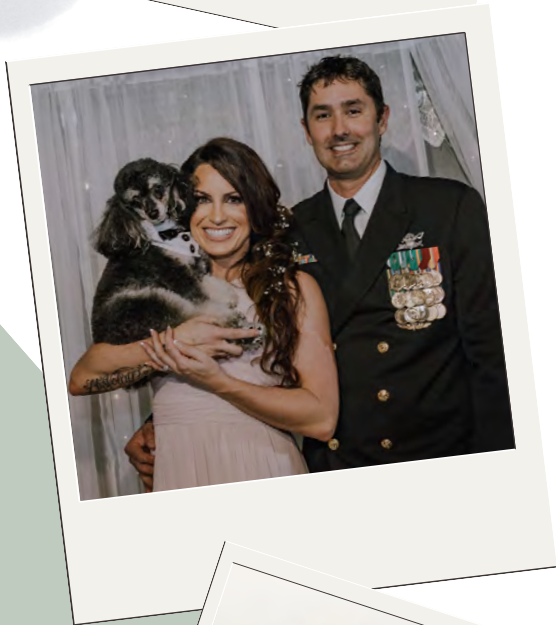
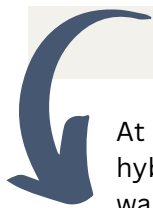
Around the holidays we also like doing puzzles. We recently started the tradition that after we complete a puzzle, we glue it, and then frame it so it becomes our new holiday décor for the next year.

Do you have any holiday or birthday traditions that are important to you and that maybe you would like us to incorporate into ours?





Education



At this time, we are leaning towards home school or possibly a hybrid between home school and private Christian school. We want our child to have the best education in the area that we live in. Academics with a focus on our faith is important to us as a family and our values. A hybrid option would be great if it allows for our child to participate in team sports, arts, or group clubs because it would give them a chance to be part of a team, explore their passions, and develop a strong social network.

If they want to go to college, we will exhaust every means to make sure that happens. When we retire as a military family, our child will have unique funding to attend most state schools for free. If our child does not want to go to college, we do hope that they would pursue education or certifications in areas of their interest to become better equipped and to continue to learn about the subject matter they pursue. We want them to approach life with a learning attitude and will support them in whatever area they want to learn about. We also hope that they will have a work ethic formed in their childhood so even if they don't want to go to college, they will have the desire to be productive in the workforce.

We will be our child's greatest advocate, cheerleader, and support.

We will provide our child the opportunity to be a part of our church community and experience our faith but also allow them to seek Jesus on their own and encourage their own relationship with Him. Our church also has a Christian academy so there is a lot of opportunity to meet other kids and be a part of the kid's ministry. We want our children to be exposed to our friends and other children who can teach them what it means to be a child of God and encourage them in their journey.

Our child will see our Christian faith lived out in our home through our marriage daily. We would love to teach our child how to love well and how to receive love fully. We want our child to have integrity and to feel safe to be honest and to come to talk with us about anything. We want our child to respect everyone no matter what people look like or where they come from. We want our child to have a heart of compassion to see the good in people and themselves.

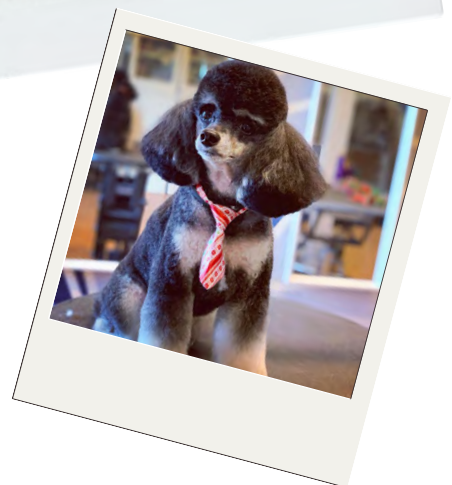
Our Faith



Hopes & Dreams



We are hoping to move back to Florida to be near family after we retire from the military next year and after the adoption is finalized. We would love to have children grow up around family, playing outside in a large yard, getting dirty, and making the best memories like we both did. We hope to have a large enough home and lot where people can gather for fun, food, laughter, and encouragement. Also, we plan to have a family motocross business that will also have a ministry aspect for underprivileged kids to have a safe place to come into the community and receive support and life skills to help them have flourishing futures. We would love to have the opportunity to travel the country via a motorhome and even across seas to experience new adventures and cultures together. We do hope that in the future we can either pursue fostering as another way to grow our family and give children of different ages a loving home and family.



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We promise to love your child
fully every single day of
their life

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We want you
to know

from our heart



to yours

Thank you for taking the time to get to know our family more. This is an important decision for you and your child. We thank you for loving your child so much that you are being intentional about the people you choose to become their adoptive parents. We want you to know that we admire you for the courageous and selfless decision to make an adoption plan.

Through this adoption journey, we have learned about the importance of ensuring we talk to our future child(ren) about their adoption from the very beginning. This is their story and we want them to own it and understand that it is a story centered on love. We want to honor you and share with your child as much as we can about their courageous and selfless mother. We want our home to continue to be a place where openness is the norm and we share our emotions, struggles, and questions as much as we celebrate victories.

We would also love to know anything about you that you would want your child to know so that we can make sure we share it with them. If there are any cultural or family traditions or personal requests from you that you want passed on, then please let us know. We would love to incorporate them into our family traditions—besides, it's about time we get some new ones!

Our hope and prayer is that if we are chosen to be the adoptive parents of your child, then it will just be the beginning of a beautiful lifetime of love and connection between all of us.

Scott & Melissa

WE HOPE TO MEET YOU SOON





Our Promises

We promise to express our love through words and actions so that your child knows that they are unconditionally loved.

We promise to honor and celebrate your child's culture and heritage, so they feel seen and celebrated.

We promise to encourage your child to take risks and follow their dreams because we will always be here to catch them if they fall.

We promise to create an open and safe home environment where your child can share anything with us without fear and judgment.

We promise to honor their adoption story, so they know that they are loved by all of us and will grow up to have a strong sense of identity and belonging.