



**SAM + DEREK**

*our story*





## ABOUT US

Hi, we're Derek and Sam, and we're so excited to be on this journey. We met in 2010 when Sam was serving at Outback Steakhouse and Derek happened to be sitting in her section. He left his phone number on a coaster, and from that moment on, everything changed. We bonded over our shared love of music and have been together ever since. We got married in November 2018.

Derek works in the supply chain industry as a Distribution and Transport Manager, and Sam works in software technology as a Data Project Manager. Sam is fun and outgoing, while Derek is more quiet and reserved—but we balance each other perfectly.

We love music and going to concerts, traveling (we hope to see all 50 states!), and spending time with family and friends. We also enjoy game nights, sports, and cozy nights in. Sam loves true crime, puzzles, and reading, while Derek enjoys sitcoms.

## OUR HOME + PETS

We live on a family farm with my parents and grandparents, spread out across 25 acres in three separate homes. Living in the country, close to family, gives us the opportunity to spend a lot of time together—whether it's cooking meals or playing games.

We have three dogs, all rescued or adopted: two Boxers—Letty (7) and Ripley (2)—and a Pitbull named Tuck (12). We found Tuck on the side of the road, Letty was rescued from a family who could no longer keep her, and Ripley came to us through a Boxer rescue.



## WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

We are excited to start our family, as it has been a long journey getting to this point. In 2020, we were told we wouldn't be able to conceive biological children. We turned to God and prayed, asking Him to show us what our next steps should be. We asked for a clear sign, and I even said, "I know it won't be on the big screen at church or anything, but just show us something."

Then, during the announcements on the big screen at church, we saw that a new class was starting—it was called Chosen, a support class for fostering and adoption. We looked at each other and immediately knew this was the path we were meant to take.



OUR  
*photos*





# SAM

**OCCUPATION:** Data Project Manager  
**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's Degree  
**RACE:** White  
**RELIGION:** Christianity  
**FOOD:** Italian or Mexican Food  
**HOBBY:** Going to concerts  
**TRADITION:** Thursday game nights  
**MUSICAL GROUP:** A Day to Remember  
**MOVIE:** Guardians of the Galaxy 1,3  
**DREAM VACATION:** Bora Bora - Tiki hut  
**TV SHOW:** F.R.I.E.N.D.S  
**SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** Algebra



# DEREK



**OCCUPATION:** Dist. & Transportation Manager  
**EDUCATION:** High School & some college  
**RACE:** White  
**RELIGION:** Christianity  
**FOOD:** Ribeye and Mac n Cheese  
**HOBBY:** Watching & Coaching Basketball  
**TRADITION:** Going out to eat  
**MUSICAL GROUP:** Dashboard Confessional  
**MOVIE:** Cable Guy, Major League  
**DREAM VACATION:** Boston (Fenway Park)  
**TV SHOW:** Modern Family  
**SUBJECT IN SCHOOL:** English







## OUR FAMILY AND *traditions*

Derek has a brother and a sister, both of whom are married. His sister has two stepchildren, and his brother has one stepchild and one biological child. He also has two cousins, although they don't live nearby. Sam has two younger brothers whom we spend time with weekly. She also has three cousins who live somewhat close and usually sees them on holidays and birthdays. We also have close couple friends who have twin boys that we consider family. We spend a lot of time with them doing fun things like bowling, movies, or visiting the arcade.

We're fortunate that both of us still have our parents, and Sam also has both sets of grandparents. We spend every holiday together and see each other at least once a week. While Derek doesn't get to see his side of the family every day, they stay closely connected through a family group chat and talk frequently.





# dear

## EXPECTANT MOTHER

We hope this letter finds you surrounded by love and support during this incredible time in your life. First and foremost, we want to express our deepest gratitude to you. The decision you are considering is one of immense strength, selflessness, and love—an act that has the power to forever shape and bless our lives in ways we can't yet fully comprehend.

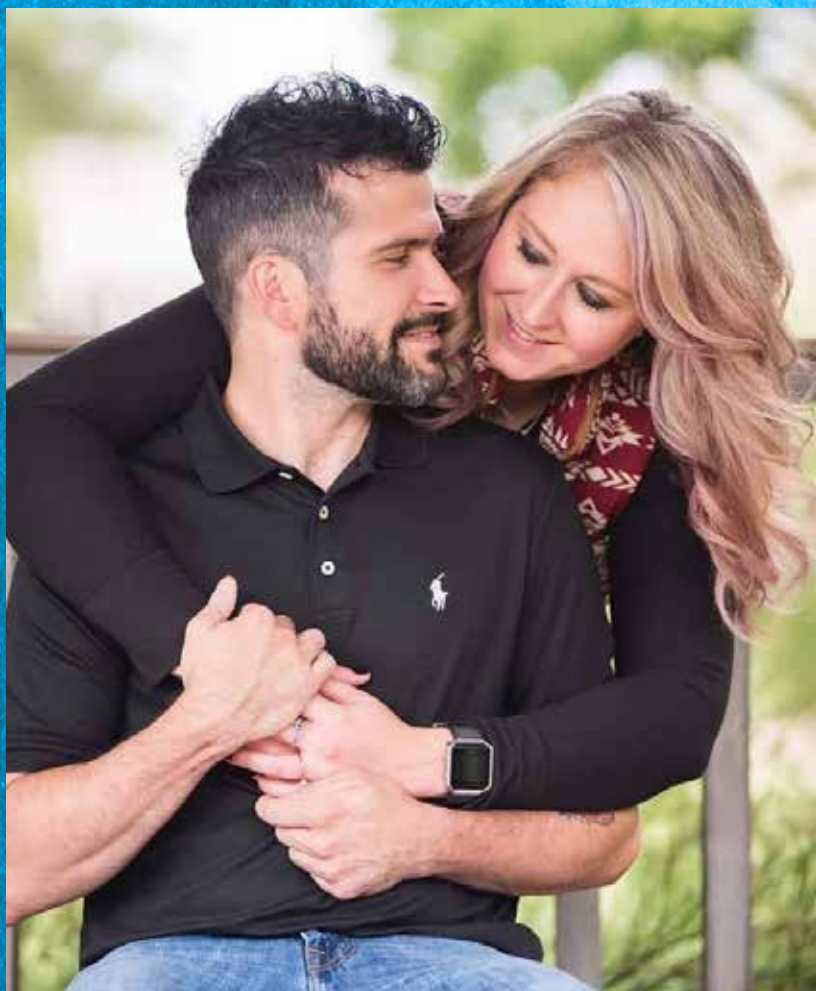
While we cannot imagine the emotions you may be feeling, please know that your bravery and compassion will always be honored and appreciated in ways words may never fully express.

We have the utmost respect for you and the journey you're on. The gift of trusting us to raise and love a child is something we will cherish every single day. If chosen, we promise to honor the love and courage behind your decision by providing your child with a life filled with unconditional love, stability, and opportunity. They will always know how deeply they are loved—not only by us, but by you as well.

Please know there will always be a special place for you in our hearts and lives. Thank you for your trust, your love, and the incredible gift you are considering. We will never take it for granted and are forever grateful to you.

With heartfelt gratitude,

**DEREK + SAM**



[www.angeladoption.com](http://www.angeladoption.com)