MARYKATE and ANDREW



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A B O U T U S

We met on a farm when Andrew took MaryKate on a tractor ride, and it wasn't too long before he won her over and she fell in love. We were married the next summer; fast forward 13 years, MaryKate is a fifth grade teacher at a local charter school and finds so much joy in teaching! She also loves being in nature, enjoying coffee and conversation with friends, and reading. Andrew is a truck driver for a local beverage company and while he drives he listens to audiobooks from favorite authors like John Grisham. He loves to be outdoors as much as he can, fishing, hunting, and hiking. While MaryKate is more of an introvert, Andrew is the extrovert; Andrew is the free spirit and MaryKate the planner. We have three boys ages 9, 7, and 4 years old who are involved in various sports and outdoor activities. We attend church on Sunday, lead a home group (Bible study) during the week, and make sure we always end our busy days with family dinners around the table.

OUR HOME & PET

We live in a lovely subdivision next to a large nature reserve. There are walking paths, parks, and playgrounds all around us. Our neighborhood feels safe, friendly, and lively. We know all our neighbors; they are our friends, babysitters, and children's playmates. Many of the older neighbors treat our boys like their own grandchildren, playing baseball with them, giving them popsicles on a summer day, and always having a watchful eye on them as they ride bikes around. And MaryKate's school, where the older boys attend, is an extended family for us. Having taught there her whole career, students, teachers, and parents know and love our family well. We also have a rambunctious 10-year-old German shorthair named Genny. She was our first "child" and is a very tolerant dog that the kids love to play with.

WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

After we had our third child, we learned there were some biological obstacles in our way to getting pregnant and having another healthy baby. We didn't feel like our family was complete; we love our children so much and know there is space in our lives and hearts for another child. We are surrounded by friends and family who have walked the path of adoption: Andrew's sister and brother-in-law have adopted their two children, he has two cousins who are adopted, and MaryKate has an uncle who was adopted. Our family and friends have offered the utmost support and encouragement to us in this process. We know an adopted child will be in good company and be loved completely by our family and community!













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GET TO KNOW MaryKate

Race: Caucasian Occupation: Teacher Education: Master's degree Religion: Christian Sport: Soccer Hobby: Reading Musical Group: For King & Country Movie: The Proposal Dream Vacation: Traveling around Europe TV Show: The Office Subject in School: History Tradition: End of school year traditions





GET TO KNOW Andrew

Race: Caucasian Occupation: Truck driver Education: Some college Religion: Christian Sport: Football Hobby: Outdoor activities Musical Group: Garth Brooks

Movie: Back to the Future Trilogy Dream Vacation: Cabin in the woods TV Show: SEAL Team Subject in School: Math Tradition: Cutting down our Christmas tree



our family & TRADITIONS

Andrew's older sister and brother-in-law live within a mile of us with their 14-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter. Their kids and ours all play sports throughout the year, and a lot of weekends find us at someone's sports game. Andrew's younger sister, brother-in-law, mother, and stepfather live 30 minutes away, and we see them at least once a month for family dinners, birthday celebrations, and holiday get-togethers. We believe Christmas falls on whatever day we can all be together as a family rather than December 25th.

Andrew's dad and stepmom live six hours away, but we make the drive to see them 3-4 times a year and they visit us every few months as well. The same can be said for MaryKate's mom, dad, brother, and sister-in-law. We travel to see them for Christmas and a long vacation in the summertime. MaryKate can't be away from her niece, who is 6 and nephew, who is 4, for too long, and the boys love to play with their cousins in the pool, on the Grandpa-made swing set, or using their imaginations to play pretend!

We have always had the love and support of our extended family as we've been raising our children, and we can't imagine it any other way.







To A Loving Mother,

We are in awe of your courage and strength. We are so grateful for your selflessness. Thank you for your generous heart and thank you for choosing to love your child before they are born. Now we may get the privilege and responsibility of loving you and your child, and we will never take that for granted.

We have dreamed, hoped, prayed, and anxiously waited to grow our family for a long time, and you could be making our dreams a reality. We want to assure you, if you bless us with this gift, your baby will be so incredibly loved; he or she will be doted on, protected by three older siblings, and nurtured into the amazing human being they were created to be. We will raise your child with diligence, thoughtfulness, and unconditional love.

We want to walk alongside you in this journey and continue to provide you with support and love for as long as you'll have us in your life. You are an incredible woman who has made an incredible decision. We are praying for you and your baby every day. There won't be a day that goes by that we won't thank God for you and the fact that you've given us the gift of this precious child. Thank you for considering us.

With grateful hearts,

MaryKate and Andrew

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