



Leigh + Celia Mac

Hi! We're Leigh + Celia Mac

Thank you for taking a moment to meet our family. We are honored you would consider us to love your child forever.

I am grateful for you. You have such strength, bravery, and determination. The decision you're making for your baby's future shows your thoughtfulness and love. I understand this is likely a stressful time for you, and I want to offer my support as you make your journey.

I am pursuing adoption as an independent mother. While I'm not sure if marriage is in my future, I feel strongly that God has led me to adoption. I am confident and proud of our little family.

I have always loved caring for children and have dreamed of being a mama for as long as I can remember. Motherhood is my calling and the center of my heart. My daughter, Celia Macrae, was adopted in 2018; raising her has been the greatest, most joyful adventure. She will make a fantastic big sister.

Please know that we truly love you and your baby. I pray that this book lets you see a snapshot of our family and dreams for the future. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have after learning about us!

Leigh

I grew up in a small, rural town but now live in the suburbs of a large city. I like having access to everything while still enjoying a quiet, homey neighborhood. As a family, we enjoy taking part in all our city offers: from trails to parks, mom & pop restaurant to farmers' markets.

In my free time I enjoy cooking, singing, smocking, sewing, podcasts, and learning about new topics. I also freelance graphic design projects.

My life has always been centered around children: I'm the oldest of 14 cousins, was an in-demand babysitter, taught Vacation Bible School & Sunday School, taught and made costumes for Christmas musicals, taught art and ballet, volunteered at a daycare, worked as a nanny to three children in college, and am now an aunt to several friends' children.





TOP L CLOCKWISE: at the wedding of a girl I babysat • snuggled up tight • testing the sand on her first trip to the beach

Favorite Memory

Mama • When Celia Mac really laughed for the first time.

Celia Mac • When Pop Cop snuck me my first taste of ice cream!

Suprising Talent

Mama • I'm like Bob the Builder. I've taken apart & fixed a washing machine, rewired fans, built a compost bin, and roofed a Habitat House.

Celia Mac • I can climb anything lickety-split.



Mama's Favorites

Must Haves • a good pillow

Favorite Foods • Crawfish &
Sno-cones

Color • Aqua

Books • "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"

"A Darker Shade of Magic"

"The Great Gatsby"

Animals • Otter

Happy Jam • "Sir Duke"

by Stevie Wonder

Show • Great British Baking Show



T: enjoying the beach

B: dressed as a baker & cupcake for Halloween (I made our costumes)

Celia Mac's Favorites

Must Haves • Lovey & Pig

Favorite Foods • Yogurt & Noodles

Color • Yellow

Book • Go Do Go

Animals • Dogs & Cows

Nursery Rhyme • "5 Little Monkeys"

"The Itsy Bitsy Spider"

Show • Sesame Street

Favorite Toy • Ride-On Car





L TO R: Celia Mac's Valentine party at school • the night Celia Mac was born • trying to take a picture with the wiggle worm

10 Things I Want to Teach My Family

1. To cherish a great story
2. To draw and paint
3. To genuinely care for others
4. How cool the zoo and aquarium are
5. To love God fully
6. How much fun learning is
7. How to create their own costume
8. The importance of balance
9. To cook and bake - especially Cajun treats
10. To enjoy music and tell different singers apart

At Work

I teach art to 800 students each week in public elementary schools. I also teach art therapy for students with special needs. Teaching art is wonderful because you get to see each child's thought process as their work develops. I also like to incorporate history, math, and science in my lessons.

My job provides great health insurance, and I have days saved up for both maternity leave and when baby gets sick. When I return to work, baby will be attending a wonderful learning center with my daughter.

My colleagues are incredibly supportive; they held a massive shower for us when Celia Mac was born and several have volunteered to babysit afterschool if I needed any help.

As a teacher, I have the same basic schedule as my child. That means we get to spend our holidays and summers together. Once they start kindergarten, they'll come to school with me!

L CLOCKWISE: in the "photo booth" at school art show • my students at work • taking students outside when we got snowed in at school





Home Sweet Home

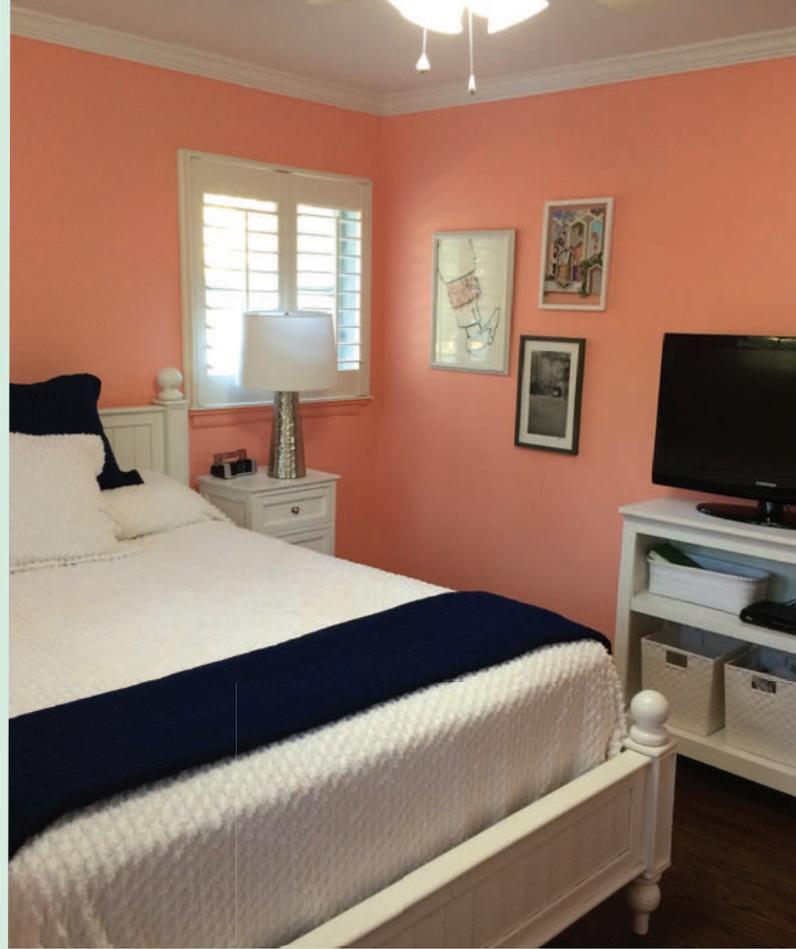
We live in a precious house I bought and renovated. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. The backyard has lots of shade and space for play complete with a patio, screened porch and large lawns. Together, CeliaMac and I have planted tons of vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

Our neighborhood has lots of families and children. It's typical for folks to catch up while the kids ride scooters and play. The entire neighborhood has a Halloween cook-out where everyone eats and plays games before Trick-or-Treating.

Amazingly, our little block has fifteen people who are adopted; they range from toddlers to adults in their 60's.



- Screened-In Back Porch
- The latest backyard obstacle course



- My Room
- Celia Mac's Nursery





TOP L CLOCKWISE: my precious neighbor and friend, Cindy • hanging out with Cindy and her two youngest children • neighbors drop by for popcorn & coloring • with "The Popsicle Lady" at Davis' baptism • daily driveway chats with our nextdoor neighbor



Neighborhood

Our house is down the street from a newly renovated community park. We're excited about the brand new community pool, 2 playgrounds, a dog park, and a sports complex. We also live a few blocks from a fantastic city library and top-ranked public schools.

The community hosts many of family-centered events: an outdoor symphony concert with food trucks; a July 4th celebration with inflatables, food, and an outdoor movie; a holiday tree lighting and Christmas celebration; Community Night Out; a spring arts festival with children's art show.

TOP L CLOCKWISE: rendering of the new playground • library nook • the new pools • "Community Night Out"



Family Ties

Mama, Celia Mac, Nana & Pop Cop



L CLOCKWISE: goofing off at the beach • leading the singing at Christmas vigil • posing at our town's Christmas village

My family is close-knit. My parents live 2 1/2 hours south of me and we get to see each other often. A few times a year we meet at the Gulf Coast. It's fun to catch up on the porch, read, and play on the beach. When we're not together, Celia Mac talks to her grandparents on FaceTime.

One of the things I've come to appreciate most in my family is that everybody pitches in for everybody else, no matter what. When I got my first classroom, Dad and Mom helped me paint and build shelves. When Dad's group at work was decorating their hall I helped make a 3D door. We've moved classrooms, built floats, and fixed food for special occasions. We got my younger cousin's first classroom set up and ready to go for her first year teaching.

My parents dote on Celia Mac. They'll get in the baby pool, climb up the slide, and play on the floor. She is as obsessed with them as they are with her. I can only imagine how much fun everyone will have as our family grows.

B: Outside church this summer





Nana

My mother is a preschool director and music teacher. She runs the summer program at the community center and makes a first-rate fudge.



TL CLOCKWISE: Celia Mac's forever day • playing at the beach • Celia Mac with her Pop Cop as Santa • cracking each other up



Pop Cop

Dad is an OB/GYN and high school softball coach. He plays Santa for the local hospitals and daycares. He is always ready to be silly.

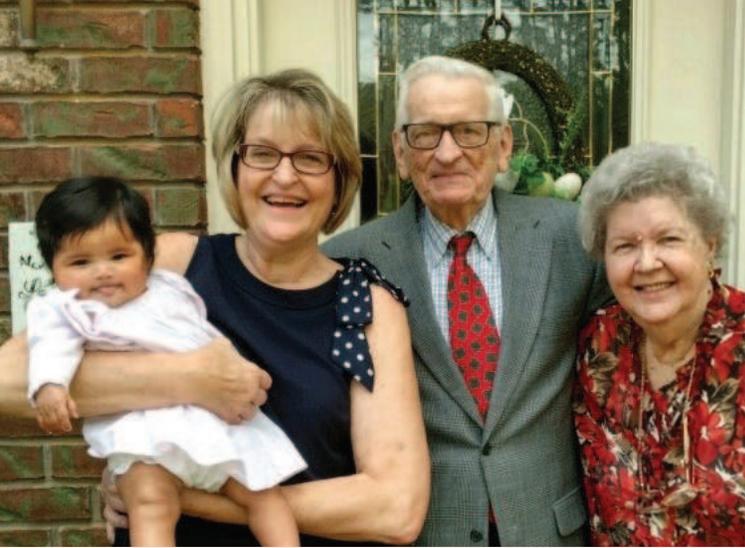


Tuttle + Harold

Tuttle and Harold are our miniature dachshunds. They are family dogs and have been to parks and preschools. Celia Mac has put them through the ringer with all her love and they adore her.

Tuttle • 13 Harold • 6





MOM'S SIDE - L TO R: Grandma Kitty & Grandpa Travis • part of Mom's side at Celia Mac's baptism

Extended Family

Mom is the oldest of three. On this side, I'm the oldest of four grandchildren; Celia Mac is the 1st great-grandchild. Everyone on this side has played an instrument or been in a choir/band.

Dad is the oldest of four. On Dad's side I'm the oldest of ten grandchildren. There are lots of little ones; Celia Mac is the 8th great-grandchild out of twelve. This side has great gardeners, extraordinary Cajun cooks, and lots of dachshunds.

DAD'S SIDE - L TO R: Big Grandma (who's 5' and barely 90lbs soaking wet) • part of Dad's side gathered for New Years





Fall

When temps go down we like to make gumbo. Celia Mac loves to play in our ridiculously intense leaf piles.

We plan and make our own Halloween costumes.

Winter

Christmas is a joyful time in our family. Celia Mac and I have a "Rudolph the Reindeer" set up, complete with the Abominable Snowman. We cook goodies for the hospital staff to show our appreciation. For decades, Mom and I help organize and sort donations for the county Angel Tree. Celia Mac and I continue this tradition in our home. On Christmas Eve we go to midnight vigil with my parents and lead the music as a family. This year Celia Mac joined in singing.

Spring

We attend Easter service at our church, then have a special lunch with our best friends. We also hunt eggs and visit with the Easter Bunny. Our family has always been gardeners, from Big Grandma down to Celia Mac. We have lemon & cherry trees, blueberry bushes, vegetables, herbs, and flowers of all kinds.

Summer

We head to the Gulf Coast for family time and cook out with goodies from our garden.



Faith Family

I plan to raise my family in the church and bring them up with a deep love for Christ. I hope to teach them how to follow his example of putting others first, offering aid to those in need, and giving thanks. We'll be attending church and Sunday School each week not just to deepen our faith, but to be with our church family. Our Sunday School group has a tight bond. We've welcomed new babies, volunteered, celebrated promotions, enjoyed cookouts, and eaten tons of birthday cake. I cannot imagine life without our squad. We have many other church friends of all ages, including the little ladies who check in on Celia during coffee hour. At church I help with community outreach and hospitality.

TOP L CLOCKWISE: Sunday School mamas at the Super Bowl Party • Celia Mac with her buddy at a birthday party
two of our pew buddies at Celia Mac's shower • at dinner with the mamas • packing meals for an overseas mission



My village

I'm thankful to have a large village of support made up of families I grew up with, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, friends old and new, and my church.



Misfit Family

I grew up alongside two other families. We were always in and out of each other's houses during childhood. We eat Christmas dinner together at "Misfit Christmas," talk regularly, and are godparents to each others children. we talk regularly and are godparents to each others children.



Ashley + Jim



Ashley is my best friend and our families are very close. Every week we share a meal & the kids play. Their older daughter has shown Celia Mac all the "big sister" tricks. Their youngest daughter was adopted 4 months after Celia Mac. We are so blessed to have them as our "chosen family."

Words with Friends

Leigh is a true and loyal friend, neighbor, and mommy! We are lucky enough to live across the street so we play in the yard and go on walks often with Leigh and Celia Mac! They are a blessing to us in so many ways! SO thankful for the day we became neighbors/FAMILY! We are excited for their little family to grow and welcome him/her/them home!! There will never be a shortness of love, care or **FUN** with those two!!

Cindy • Neighbor

Leigh is a **dedicated** mother as well as a **kind-hearted** and **fierce** friend. Her family is her life's passion and it is immediately evident the moment you meet her. Celia Mac is a spark plug: full of energy, joy, and light. We are beyond blessed to call them our "chosen family" and together with our girls we have built a strong foundation of faith, love, and unwavering support. Leigh and Celia Mac are truly special friends and we couldn't imagine raising our kids without them!

Ashley • Friend

Larger than life and sweet as can be, Leigh steals your heart from the very first smile and southern "Hello." A best friend through and through, Leigh is a shining example of **love, compassion, & kindness** in good times and bad. Having personally been a "patient" of Leigh's many times, one could not ask for a more loving, nurturing and maternal person by their side during hard times. It has been magic to see their family grow; an overflow of joy, warmth, and inspiration. We can't wait for the newest member!

Marissa • Friend

Hopes for the Future

I look forward to teaching my child how to swing and ride a bike.
I'm excited to cheer them on at their first ball game or do their hair for dance.
I cannot wait to bake, make messes, and trick-or-treat as they grow.

I am committed to being the best momma I can
and creating a loving, happy, and healthy home.

Education

Learning, in and out of school, is important and I plan to make it an exciting adventure in our house. I want my child to feel successful and will teach them how to plan for and achieve their goals. Since I am zoned for one of the highest ranking public school systems in the state, I plan to send my child to our neighborhood public school.

When they finish high school I will support them in their dreams of further schooling whether that means college, specialty school, or an apprenticeship. My greatest hope for them is that they find their calling and are happy.

Knowing Their Story

I am going to create a book for my child, describing the amazing place that he or she came from and the wonderful gift that they are. I plan to share it with them, along with age-appropriate story books. We'll seek the guidance of counselors and others who have adopted along the way.

I am in awe of your grace and strength. Know that you will always be prayed for, appreciated, and loved in this home.

