





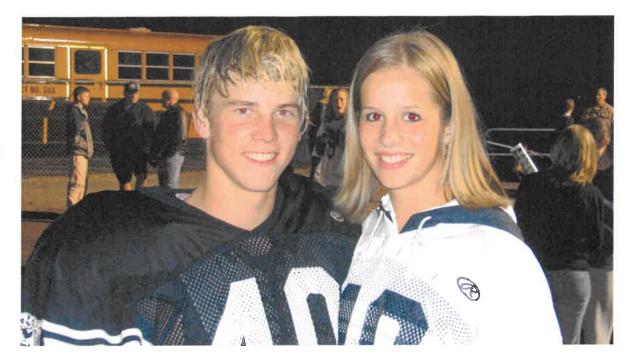
We feel so incredibly grateful for you to be considering us to raise your child! We may not fully understand the deep weight of this decision that you are considering, but just want you to know that you are loved! Whatever decision you make for your child, we pray that you may find peace within it. We love and respect you for this courageous decision you are making and hope you feel seen and supported in the most authentic ways as you walk this journey. Every life is a precious gift from our Lord. We will never claim to be the perfect parents, but rest assured, we will love you and your child with everything we have. Not a single day will pass where we will miss telling them how loved they are, along with the biggest hugs possible. We have prayed for you and your little one and will promise to continue to do that. We are an open book and if there is anything you want to know more about our family we would love to connect and talk with you. We would be so honored to be chosen by you and we would never take your loving sacrifice for granted. We will create a

life for your child where they can thrive, be safe, feel incredible love, and be encouraged to grow into who they uniquely are. If you choose us to be your child's adoptive parents, we promise to raise them to know who they are and where they came from and to always know their value as a child of God. We hope to get to know you more soon.

WITH MUCH LOVE,

rett & leglie





flow we met

WE MET IN HIGH SCHOOL!

The first time I remember seeing Leslie she was walking home from school across the baseball field while I was at practice. I looked at one of my buddies and asked him who the cute girl was! It wasn't until a couple of years later that our paths really crossed again and we started hanging out. A couple of weeks later we even made our relationship official on AOL instant messenger— wow, that makes us old! We started dating when I was in 11th grade and Leslie was in 10th grade.

Leslie was a girl with a good head on her shoulders and came from a great family. I knew that if I was going to date, I wanted it to mean something and not just be a high school fling. What attracted me to Brett was that he was cute, a good guy but kind of shy, he was always happy and smiling in the hallways and it didn't hurt that he was a three-sport athlete so he was also very athletic. It was a typical high school attraction that grew as we got older and matured together.

In high school, it was your typical high school love. She wore my jerseys at sporting events, we spent a lot of time together, and I ate dinner at her house most nights after practice. We had many adventures from snow sledding on the big hill with our friends, to camping trips at the lake, to wakeboarding and many bonfires. We also didn't mind just hanging out and watching the latest episode of The Office. It didn't take us long to know we didn't ever want to be apart from each other. We dated for a total of four years until I finally built up enough courage to ask her parents if I could ask her to marry me. Little did we know that love that started as teenagers would become the deepest friendship and foundation of our family.



66

We have been married for thirteen years and are still going strong. It seems like we've been together for so long (in a good way!) that we can't imagine not being together! We have a marriage built on a strong foundation, we trust each other, and love and care for one another. We have been through many hard times that have brought us closer together. We hold each other up and always look out for each other. When one is down, the other is strong. We feel like we have the communication thing down pretty well. We value and respect each other's opinions and remind ourselves that we make a better team





The Proposal

Our marriage proposal took Leslie on an epic scavenger hunt around the county that we live in. It was all the places of our "firsts." She drove around looking for clues to the first place we met, where we had our first kiss, our first date, where we worked together for the first time, and it ended in our first house that we had just bought together. In the master bedroom was a ring with roses I had picked, then I came around the corner, got down on one knee, and asked her to marry me. She said yes!! After the proposal, we drove around in our friends' 1950s flower delivery truck telling all our friends and ended it with a bonfire at one of our friend's houses. I had taken her parents over to our new house a couple of days earlier to ask their permission. After I had shown them the house I took them outside and asked if I could have their daughter's hand in marriage. Her dad looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Can you give us some time to think about this one?" I almost fainted! Only to have him say fifteen seconds later "Yes of course, we're just kidding!"



Our journey that brought us even closer together

We started talking about adoption seven years ago. We aren't quite sure when the seed was specifically planted but we knew we always wanted a bigger happy family. We were blessed to have two biological children and our world was kind of rocked by the diagnosis of Angelman Syndrome for our second son, Preston. It wasn't something we had ever envisioned, or even heard of, and now needed to figure out what the next steps were for our family. We kind of, without saying it, put growing our family on hold. We had to learn how to care for Preston and we also learned that in some cases Angelman Syndrome could happen again if we were to have any more kids. Preston was two when we got the diagnosis and we didn't know up from down at that point. Slowly, God realigned us and gently laid certain things in our path that would lead us down the road toward adoption. Our perspective of what our family could look like really started shifting. We know you love your child fully, and we hope would find peace knowing we will love them fully as well.

OUR HEARTS FOR

Adoption

We always knew we wanted to become parents. We had no idea where the path to that would take us. We had one miscarriage before our first son, Kaden, after trying for a year to get pregnant. It was a faith-stretching time for us, but grew us closer together as a couple than we could have ever imagined. Around that same time, our pastor and his wife shared in church about their infertility and how it had affected them. It's crazy how God can bring certain people into your life at certain times to speak to exactly where you are. We did gain a new appreciation for the miracle that is a child and were able to have two sons later on that we thank God for.

We've really looked into our hearts and found that we have a deep desire to help, in any way, shape, or form. We both work at jobs where we get to help and serve people on a daily basis. A lot of how we spend the rest of our time revolves around helping or serving others as well. Nights and weekends are usually spent helping our friends on their farm, our uncle on his farm, helping the neighbors with projects, or helping coach boys basketball at our school. Christ has called us to love and serve those around us and it is not always easy and can be very tiring, but we honestly wouldn't want to have it any other way.



OUR HEARTS AS PARENTS

and what we value

We are parents of young children, so right now most of our activities revolve around quality family time. We love watching Kaden play sports and sitting at basketball tournaments with him. We also love taking the kids to the park for dinner or bike rides and 4-wheeler rides to our uncle's farm. Our family is our priority and your child will be our priority in life as well. When we do get a chance to get out on a date night we usually head out for dinner to one of our favorite burger joints, some ice cream, and just have great conversations. We usually end up at Lowe's plotting out the next home project. It wouldn't be a good date night without a trip to Lowe's!

We love our kids unconditionally. We want to be there to show our kids how we want them to live, not always just tell them. Being able to model for them what it looks like to love and serve others can have a bigger impact on them than just flat-out telling them the "rules." Christ came down to earth to show us how we were to love and serve others and we try to take that same approach with our boys. We try to encourage and mentor our boys and be the loving support that they need throughout the day. We challenge them to try their best and to always be nice kids. We are not afraid to be stern if needed, but always try to follow that with explanations of what is expected of them. We love helping our kids see their value and discover what they can do if they put their minds to something! We have two very different kids, with two very different needs. Parenting a special needs child requires different strategies and comes with lots of learning at times, but the love and support for each child remains the same. We know that raising an adopted child comes with intentionality in honoring their biological story. We will always be open to answering their questions, honoring and validating their feelings, and give them a listening ear when it comes to wanting to know more. We will always keep your child connected to you if you feel open to that.



Promises

We will never quit or give up on your child

Curveballs will come and hard times can be there, but we will always be there for your child and will never back down from a hard situation. We will be there to help our kids through it.

We will have open communication about their story

We will make sure your child knows the story behind their adoption and your courageous decision. We promise to never shy away from any questions they might have and always speak with love.

We will give them room to grow

We will give our children the space to be safe and grow inside their Godgiven talents and abilities. We want your child to realize what they have been blessed with and to grow into strong people who can use those talents to help others.

We promise to keep our word on openness in this adoption

We promise to honor what your heart's desire is for connecting to your child. You will always be family to us and will be treated with kindness and love.

We promise to love them and care for them for the rest of our lives

We promise to always fight for them and never give up on them. We promise to always be their biggest fan, confidant and best friend. We will always respect them and who God created them to be.

We promise to love them fully and completely throughout their life

We promise to always love your child unconditionally and to be the support system that they need to succeed in life.

What we do FOR FUN

Our family loves to be home hanging out outside. We do anything from taking 4-wheeler rides around the neighborhood to playing basketball, baseball, soccer, and football in the yard. We love to be a part of our uncle's farm when they need help, driving tractors and feeding the cows. We love to take trips to the park to eat dinner and ride bikes. Our favorite family vacation is a trip to Eastern Washington to a lake house we rent over there. It's like a week-long huge family party with tons of cousins. We spend the week on the lake, tubing, wakeboarding, and swimming all day long. We've been going there for 18 years straight so its filled with lots of memories with family. We love to go camping in the fall with our friends and their kids as well. We also love a good family movie night cuddled up on the couch.



We cannot wait to create a home for your child filled with love, adventure, fun, intentionality, and so much care.



FUTURE

Our family hopes to stay at the same property for a very long time. We love where we live and have worked hard to create a great place for our family to grow up in. We are very involved in the family welding business, which is located right down the road from our house so the location works great for us! Our future plans are to buy the welding business and hopefully work side by side with our kids just like I did with my parents. We have lots of families that live all on the same street and we have great neighbors so it works out well. We love being able to have our kids grow up around their cousins, friends, and grandparents. We look forward to adding another kiddo to our family.

When we think of your child

We think of them not just as a newborn and baby, but as a toddler, child, teenager, young adult, and into adulthood. We see your child as a forever part of our family and making sure they feel seen, heard, known, and above all else loved. We will always keep our word on our promises to you and will prioritize that in our future.



I am an account manager/customer service representative for a local, family-owned insurance company. I currently work two and a half days a week. The company ! work for is very family-friendly and flexible. Our boss is always encouraging us to make sure we make it to as many of our kids' activities as possible. I have a great team that helps cover for me when I'm gone and vice versa. I will be able to have family-leave time off for the adoption. My childcare plan after the baby arrives is to take a leave to stay home with the baby for as long as needed, and when it's time to go back to work, this child will be cared for by each of our moms during my work days.



I love to bake and try new recipes for my family and friends to try. I enjoy spending time outside in the flower beds or working in the garden. I love to be home with my family and plan special moments together. You can find me on summer nights in our yard playing catch or soccer or jumping on the trampoline just laughing with our boys. In my free time, I enjoy reading and finding a great book. I also love a good girl's night with my girlfriends when I'm able and just catch up on life and motherhood.



In Brett's words ...

My wife is one of the strongest people I know. Between losing her Dad in 2015 and finding out Preston's diagnosis, there have been many tough days. She has shown me that love never gives up. I admire her for her strength, the way she sees life and all the beauty it holds, even in the hard times. She is a fighter. She is very passionate and sticks up for what she believes in. I love the passion and energy she puts into raising and taking care of our family. She understands the importance of our family unit and the need to spend meaningful time together. She is the one that always plans fun family outings. She is so kind and compassionate and loves to help people, whether that's through work or anywhere else. I do not doubt that God created Leslie to be strong and to be the type of mom who never gives up and has such a deep level of patience. My wife loves the Lord and has a huge heart for caring for others. She recognizes when friends are struggling and will go out of the way to ask her how she's doing. She puts her words into action in how she cares. Leslie will often times bake a batch of cookies, bring it over, and make time just to sit down and chat if her friends need her. Her ears are always open to listen. Leslie takes time to be a mentor to others. She shares with them from her own past experiences. It may seem small to check in with someone and just be a listening ear, but I know firsthand that it is so impactful and meaningful. She's not just surface level, but willing to go deeper and be the friend that someone might need in hard times.

My wife deeply loves our kids and shows it every day. She selflessly serves our kids with any need that they might have. She is the first person they run to when they get hurt or something is wrong. She lifts them up when they are down, stands up for them when they can't, and has their needs in mind before her own. By default, she always eats last, only because she is taking care of everyone else first. Our boys know she is their safe place and she will always go above and beyond to make sure they know how loved they are. Leslie is a great auntie and loves her nieces and nephews just as her own, always around for a great big hug. I know she is looking forward to raising another child and growing our family. She has such a huge heart and so much love to give. She is also the best auntie to our nieces and nephews. She loves them just as her own and has a special connection with each one. She is the fun auntie.



I am a welder at our family's welding shop. Our business is a small family-run business that we feel so lucky to be a part of. There is a lot of flexibility for needs that come up within our family. I will be able to take extra time off for anything adoption related whether that's phone calls, doctor's appointments, or extra travel time.

WHAT I LOVE...

I love to spend the extra free time that I have helping out on our friend's dairy farm and my uncle's calf-raising farm. I love late nights in the tractor and taking our boys out there with me. It is an awesome thing to be able to share my love for farming with my family and see them love it just like I did when I was a kid. Also, on a few occasions a year, I to hit the lake and love wakeboarding. Other than that, I just love to be at home taking care of our property and enjoying it with the family.



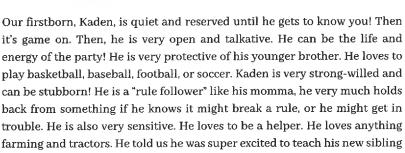
Inleslie's words...

Brett is an amazing person and I've loved getting to grow up with him. Being together since high school means that we have faced everything together. We have overcome many challenges together, but getting to work through them with Brett has made our marriage stronger. He is funny, handsome, athletic, and such a hard worker. He doesn't just say he puts our family first, he shows it daily in his actions. He's always thinking of our family and doing what's best for us and making decisions that benefit us. Brett will take a day off or get off work early if we need to spend time as a family. If we're getting too busy, he makes sure we have time to spend together at home. He'll have Kaden come hang out and work with him at work, and he recently took him out for lunch as a reward for working so hard in the shop. He is a go-getter and loves to be able to fix things. He has built both of the boy's beds which are both wood bunk beds. He loves to help others, and his friends and family know they can rely on him. Every spring he helps his friend with dirt work and chopping grass on their farm. He also helps his uncle on his farm whenever he can. Brett loves to be a farmer and drive a tractor whenever he gets the chance. He has a servant's heart and shows that daily through his work, but also through helping out at home. He'll help me clean or fold clothes and load and unload the dishwasher. He lovingly gives me his shoulder to lean on or a listening ear. He is my constant and is always there to lift me if I'm having a bad day. He has served as a deacon at our church and did that so well. He has a passion for helping others and has been on multiple teams to Guatemala to serve on mission trips with our church. Most of all I love how he loves the Lord and is always working on being who God made him to be, striving to be better. His faith encourages me and pushes me to do better. His desire for a happy, healthy marriage and family life is beautiful to see.

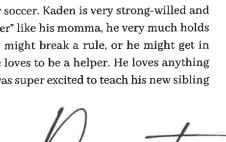
Brett is great with kids and always has been. He is patient, kind, and willing to get down on the boys' level to explain things to them. He is stern when he needs to be but also so great at being the fun parent! The boys love to wrestle with Brett and play with him outside. They love it when they can ride the lawnmower with him doing yard work or help him with bigger projects in a tractor. He is amazing with Preston and loves him with such patience, care, and tenderness. Parenting a child with special needs can be challenging but Brett faces each day head-on with strength and confidence. I know Brett will be an amazing dad to our next child, and will love him/her with the same protective and loving heart he has.

MEET OUR





everything he knows!





Our second born, Preston, has a smile that can bring joy to anyone. He is a very happy boy by nature. Preston has Angelman Syndrome, and always being happy is one of the major common traits of those with Angelman Syndrome. This is a rare genetic disorder that affects only one in 15,000-20,000 people. It usually means they are non-verbal and have developmental delays. The severity can range quite a bit from person to person. Some have more physical limitations like needing a wheelchair. So far, Preston's physical abilities haven't slowed him down; he can walk and run but sometimes has trouble with his balance. He loves to be outside and anything to do with water! Anything from swimming to bathtubs to spraying with the hose outside, his brother included! He will hand out a smile and a hug to almost anyone. Although he can't talk, everyone knows when he's happy by his contagious happy squeal. Preston also loves anything farming and tractors and loves anything fast and loud! Preston can't necessarily tell us he's excited to be a big brother, but oh man, he will love his new little brother or sister so much. We just know it!





WE WANT OUR HOME TO BE A PLACE WHERE OUR FAMILY CONNECTS, BUILDS MEMORIES, AND FEELS LOVED.

We bought our eight-acre property in 2010 before we got married, it was run down and neglected with a small little mobile home on it. We spent many years fixing the home and yard all up. We spent many hours making it a home where we loved to be. We were blessed to get to build a new home on our property two years ago. The house has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and a huge bonus room upstairs that has tons of space for the boys to play and have friends over. As great as the new house is, we think we love the yard the most! We have over a half an acre of lawn which is perfect for baseball or football or soccer games.









We live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Our community is a farming community. We have dairy farms, raspberry and blueberry farms, apple orchards, and hazelnut orchards. We live in an area that very much embodies the "small town" feel, where most people know each other and you always see someone you know when you go to town. It is a place where people show up for each other when needed. You always feel like your neighbors have your back if you are in need. In the summer there are plenty of tractor shows, parades, a big three-on-three basketball tournament, and the local county fair. We also live about a 45-minute drive from both the ocean and the mountains. There are tons of opportunities to go hiking in the mountains or to the beach by the ocean or go fishing or water skiing on the lakes around here. Camping is a big thing to do on weekends as well. There are many campgrounds by the lakes and rivers or up in the mountains around here. We love going camping at a nearby river bar with our neighbors! In the winter there is also a big snow skiing area 45 minutes away. There are parks for the kids and trails to go walking and biking as well.



What We Value



AS A FAMILY

01

Love the Lord

It's important for our kids to know that loving Christ and having a relationship with him is the most important thing in our lives. As much as the world tries to steer us away from that, it's important to be a light and keep Christ central.

02

Love and serve others

Christ came to this earth to love and serve us, so in turn, we show that same love and service to the community we live in. We have been called to this as Christians, to be a contributing members of the community we've been placed in.





Treat others with respect

Everyone has a story and journey. We want people we meet to feel respected and seen no matter what they have been through.

04

Quality time together

Life can get busy, but what matters most is family. We will always make decisions on what helps our family as a whole. We value putting down our phones and being present with our kids.



How we grew up

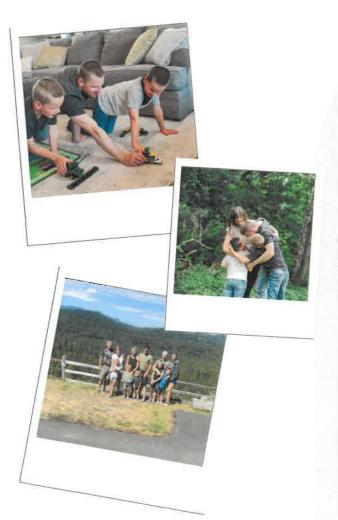
AND OUR HEART TO SEE OUR KIDS HAVE A BEAUTIFUL CHILDHOOD

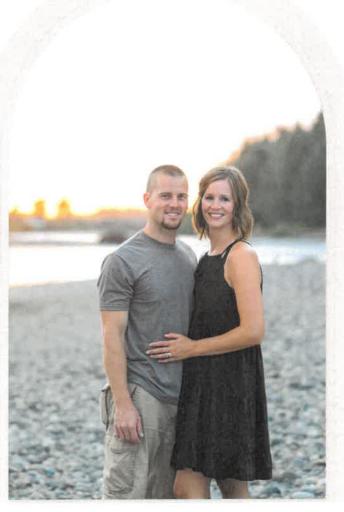
Leslie's childhood

The way I was raised has helped form me into who I am today and the way that I parent. I grew up in a close family and we had a fun but simple life. I remember growing up with neighbor kids and playing outside all the time. I played with Barbies, made forts, and played youth sports. We loved to go camping as a family with lots of friends while growing up. My parents were always around and supportive and loved us no matter what. My parents were fairly easy-going but strict in our values and morals, making sure we used our manners and respected those around us. They taught us about what was right and wrong and showed us how to be Christian parents and have a God-honoring marriage as well. They showed us what it was like to be hard-working and be thankful for our blessings, and they taught us how to bless those around us in return. I think this all ties into how we parent our children now and with any future children. We strive to give our children the best life possible and teach them how to be respectful and honor those around them. We try to be an example of how to bless others and how to treat all people with kindness and love.

Brett's childhood

Much of how Leslie and I bring up our kids is a direct result of how we were brought up. I had a very simple and balanced upbringing. I spent lots of time at my grandparent's farm, learning how to take care of the cows and driving a tractor. I also had plenty of time to play outside with all the neighbor kids, playing sports, building forts in the woods, and swimming in the creek. I also remember playing youth sports with my dad as the coach. My parents were always very present with us and gave me and my siblings an awesome childhood. We were always taught and shown the importance of hard work and the importance of loving, helping, and serving those around us. I would like my kids to be able to grow up in the same way. There was a poster once that I saw with a little boy and his dad sitting on a gate that said, "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." I think that actions can speak so much louder than words. I was always around, from childhood to teenage years with my dad, watching as he lived those things out. My parents walked the walk and didn't just talk the talk, and I hope to be able to do the same for our kids.







OUR FAMILIES ARE
SO SUPPORTIVE
OF OUR ADOPTION
PLAN, AND WILL LOVE
YOUR CHILD
THROUGHOUT
THEIR LIFE.



Our family loves well

We have a great relationship with all our extended family. We work together with Mom and Dad at the family business and live very close by. We also live very close to Ty and Erin and their kids. We see them quite often. Karen lives right by the kids' school so we are often at their house before or after school or events in town. Our boys go to each grandma one day each week while Leslie goes to work. We are very involved in each other's lives. Brett's sister Colee is the only sibling who lives far away, so we don't get to see her family near as much as we would like, but we do get to see them once a year. When our families get together it's usually for lunch or brunch after church on a Sunday morning or for nachos or an easy dinner on a Sunday evening. Most of those meals are shared at grandparents' houses, but we love to host our families and have our home filled with those we love as well. All of our family is very supportive of our adoption journey, and are more than willing to help us out and be around for whatever we might need. The cousins can't wait to have someone else to play with!



Our big family

We have an awesome extended family on both Leslie's side and Brett's side. Leslie's dad, Les, passed away in 2015 from ALS. We miss him so much and can't wait to see him again in heaven. Leslie's mom, Karen (MiMi) has since then remarried to Jim. Leslie has one brother, Kris. He lives about twenty minutes away. Kris married Hannah and they have one girl and two boys, Dallas (8), Cash (5), and Tripp (3). Dallas is the only girl cousin that our boys have on either side, there are a lot of boys around here! Brett's parents are Alvin and Lori (Pa and Choo Choo) and they live right down the street from us at the shop that I work at. Choo Choo got her name because she was the grandma with a train table that the boys always play with. She forever became Grandma Choo Choo. Brett has two younger sisters, Erin and Colee. Erin and her husband, Ty, live right down the street from us also with their three boys, Gordon (6), Pierson (4), and Calvin (1). Colee lives with her husband Josh with their son, Waylon (1), in Minnesota.

















Traditions

We love celebrating as a family! Holidays and birthdays are usually filled with lots of friends and family. Thanksgiving and Easter we alternate every other year between our parent's houses. For Thanksgiving, it's a big turkey and ham lunch and for Easter, it's just ham and all the fixings for lunch. Christmas Eve, we go to church with Pa and Choo Choo and have ham balls for dinner after church, After dinner, we open presents with all of the family. Then Brett and the boys always sleep by the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. Christmas morning usually looks a little chaotic in our living room with the boys opening their stockings and usually a little gift before it's time for breakfast. We love when the living room is full of toys and wrapping paper and the memories made on Christmas morning. One tradition that we've always had on Christmas morning was finding our stockings. Our stockings are always hidden around the house somewhere, and we have to find them before we can open them. Later on Christmas day, we head over to Jim and MiMi's house for more family time. We always cook prime rib on the smoker and have a great big lunch.

For the boy's birthdays, Leslie decorates the house and makes the boys feel super special. Usually, Kaden has a few friends over to celebrate with a little pizza party and games. There are usually lots of stinky sweaty boys in our house after that party! His birthday is near Christmas so sometimes there is snow or ice on the ground for his birthday and that is always a hit for the boys!





Our views on

EDUCATION

We send our children to a private, Christian school—the same one both of us attended growing up. We choose to send our kids there because we want their education journey to be the most intentional when it comes to teaching not only curriculum but also character. With everything our kids will encounter in their lives, we feel it's important to take every step to ensure they are raised with a good foundation. Our kids' school is a great place for them to build upon the principles that we teach at home.

For college, it all depends on whether it is something they think is necessary or not. College is not necessarily for everyone, but if that is something they want, then by all means we will help our kids get there. We hope to be able to help our kids find an industry or calling that fits their talents, abilities, and passions. That way they can make a difference in the world around them! We want our kids to be able to thrive in the place that God has designed them to be in, using the gifts and talents that He has given them.







Our hearts on FAITH

We work hard to model and teach our children how to love Jesus with everything that they have. It is important to us for our kids to know that Jesus loves them for who they are and has created them just as they are! We strive to help our kids find their God-given gifts and talents so that they can use those gifts to glorify God and serve those around us. Above all else, we want them to love Jesus and then love those around them. We want the love of Jesus to be incorporated into every part of their lives so that they can turn around and show that love to the world around them. An awesome goal for us would be for us to be able to see the fruits of the spirit within our kids in an everyday setting. We hope that with our support along with the help of our church family and school family along the way we can raise them in that way.

From our heart to yours We feel so grateful for you to be considering our family to join your family. We promise to always love and respect you in this entire journey. We hope you got a real look into our family, and not just in the hopes that you will choose our family, but more in the hope that you will see us for who we are. We are a family with a "special" call. We understand that we need to allow people to have a struggle and then be there to help them through it, as many people have come to us to do the same. We won't pretend to know the struggle you are in the middle of, but we can promise that we will do everything in our power to SEE YOU. To try to understand, if you will allow us, what that struggle might be. We can't claim to be perfect parents, but we can promise to do our very best every day! We hope you can see that we love our family well and are so overjoyed to be growing our family again. As we already do with our two children, we promise to always work hard to provide a life that suits all our kids best. We strive to always provide a safe and loving home where our kids can thrive and flourish within their unique talents and gifts. We promise to be the support they need to get them where they are going. We promise to make sure your child knows the story behind their adoption and your courageous decision. We promise to never shy away from any questions they might have about you. We respect and love you for the decision you have made, and we continue to pray for you on your journey. rett & leslie





You are in our hearts