

# Brian & Ashley





# Hello & Welcome



WE ARE BRIAN, ASHLEY, & DALTON



# Our letter to you...

---

We appreciate your time to get to know us through this profile book and considering us to adopt your precious child. **If chosen, we make a promise to you that we will love and cherish your child as our own. That we will provide your child with a loving home and safe space to grow and thrive.** That we will protect your child from everything we can while also giving him/her the freedom and opportunity to experience life to the fullest. **We promise to you that we will tell him/her about you, about the love that you have for your child, about the sacrifice you made, and for the admiration we have for you.** But more than that, we want to thank you. Thank you for giving your child the opportunity of life. Thank you for considering adoption. Whether you choose us or another loving family, we thank you for the love you have for your precious child. **We pray that whatever family you choose for your child, they give him/her the life you dream for them. We pray that your life is filled with happiness and peace.** Thank you again for considering us. We appreciate you more than you will ever know.

Brian + Ashley

# Our Hearts *for adoption*

Brian and I struggled with infertility issues for over two years. Those two years were some of the hardest times of our lives. We then sought professional help from a fertility clinic and after multiple attempts, we became pregnant with our son. Due to our infertility journey, we decided it was best for our mental health to grow our family through adoption. We both loved our experiences growing up with our siblings and we look forward

to giving our children that type of important relationship. We both have a heart for children and love so many who aren't related to us. We know it will be completely natural to love a child who is biologically different from us. My sister-in-law was adopted at birth and has given us insight into the beauty of adoption. She talks highly of her birth mother for giving her the gift of life and of her mom and dad for filling the parental role.





We both have a heart for children and love so many who aren't related to us. We know it will be completely natural to love a child who is biologically different from us.

# Our Love Story

August 2016

Met

July 2017

Started Dating

April 2018

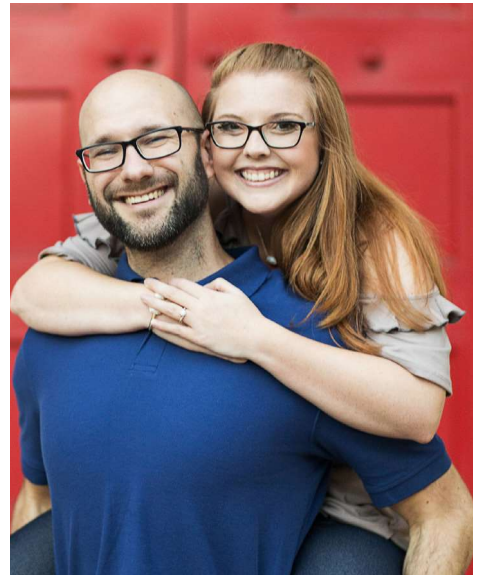
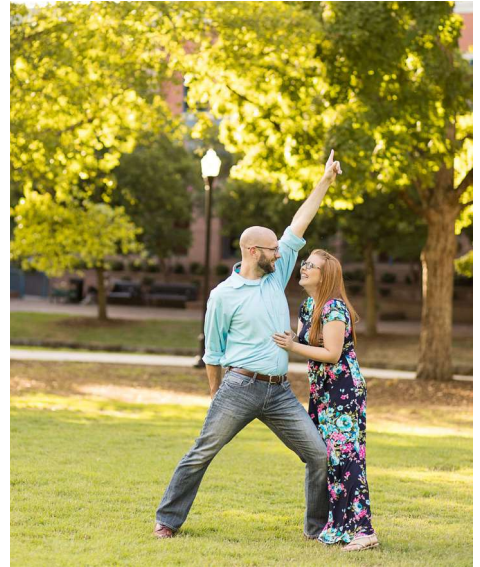
Engaged

October 2018

Married

“Our marriage is strong and remains strong because we are very supportive of each other.”

Brian and I met at a local retro arcade in 2016 when his friends began “commentating” on our racing game as if it was a real race on a sporting channel. After the game, it was an instant connection, and I’m convinced Brian fell in love with me at that moment, although he likes to disagree. However, instead of giving the relationship a chance, I chickened out and friend-zoned him. After talking for over a year, I realized that I really liked him and looked forward to seeing his messages. I didn’t want him to become the “one that got away,” so I asked him out almost a year after meeting, and we’ve been together ever since.



Brian proposed through a scavenger hunt with clues that led us down memory lane to multiple places which held special meaning to our relationship. I honestly could not have dreamed up a better proposal, but even more special than the proposal is the man that I get to spend forever with. He shows up like that for me daily and I am beyond blessed.







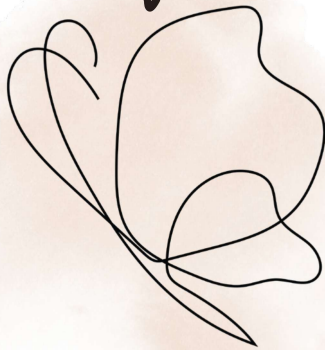
## OUR WEDDING

It was the Best. Day. Ever. We had all our best friends by our side. We also had a couple of uninvited ducks join us in our vows! Then, during the reception, we surprised everyone with a choreographed dance to Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" and "Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars. We went on our honeymoon a year later to Australia, where we swam with the sharks and got to pet kangaroos!

## OUR MARRIAGE

Our marriage is strong and remains strong because we are very supportive of each other. In the first few months of being parents, we asked each other – "How is your mental health? How is your sleep health? How can I support you?" Even now, we continue to ask each other, "How can I support you?"

# Meet Ashley



WRITTEN BY BRIAN

**Ashley is probably the most caring person I've ever met, always thinking about others and how she can best support them.** In her case, it's all about the little things, and there are millions of them! She finds creative ways to make Dalton happy, gets a fun little toy for the nieces if she sees something when we're out shopping, and makes little snack bags for her friends' kids. She takes care of our family by always making sure we have delicious meals, clean clothes, and a healthy environment. The list goes on and on. **She's extremely clever and quick-witted, and there's never a dull moment when she's around.** She's also very crafty, constantly making something to better our family, whether it's a baby quilt or matching shirts for all of our adventures or vacations. I absolutely love and adore her.

Ashley is the best mommy to our son and our nieces love her too. Every other Friday, Ashley is off work and goes on a little mini adventure with Dalton and our nieces, taking them either to a kid's gym, a children's museum, or something equally as fun. **She plans adventures filled with laughter and wonder, ensuring that every outing becomes an unforgettable experience for Dalton and her nieces.** Every time they see her, they run up yelling, "Aunt Ashley!" I think the most notable thing is her affection for Dalton, as well as for the children of our friends and family. **Her love radiates brightly, and it's not just a feeling, they can sense it.** She has a song for every child in our family expressing how much she loves and cares for them. She is the perfect mother and aunt.



*my hobbies:*

- Sewing
- Painting
- Reading
- Designing

**My Career:**

**I am a Contracting Officer** for Army contracting. I receive twelve weeks of paid maternity leave, which allows me to spend the first three months at home bonding and settling in with a new addition. My job is very family friendly and flexible and allows ample amount of time off, including every other Friday. Although I typically work from home four days a week and go into the office one day a week, we have a childcare plan in place for Dalton and for any additional children. The daycare is directed by my mom at our home church. My mom started the daycare over 30 years ago, when I was only four years old and my brother was one year old so that she could spend more time with us! We love that Dalton has that same personal care.

**My friends describe me as:**

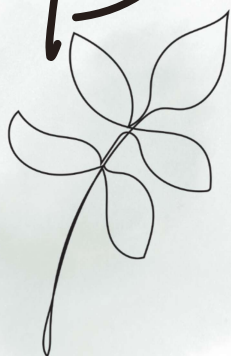
My friends describe me as supportive and non-judgemental. They know I will take the time to understand their perspective and share my thoughts in a loving way. They describe me as outgoing and adventurous and always up to try something fun or new with them. They know I am available for them anytime and for anything. They are the best friends and one of my biggest blessings.

**My greatest accomplishment:**

My greatest accomplishment was my career. I started as a student trainee at the age of 18-years-old and have since climbed the ladder to my current position, which I truly enjoy. I have always been very proud of this accomplishment; however, the day I laid eyes on my son, my greatest and favorite accomplishment became being a mother. Watching Dalton grow and learn is my favorite thing. And growing into my new role as a mother, while not always easy, has become my favorite.



# Meet Brian



WRITTEN BY ASHLEY

My husband is the best person I know. **He is easy-going, fun, loving, nerdy, and goofy (in the best ways).** There is never a dull moment with him and he is constantly making me laugh. With our personalities being different, him being go-with-the-flow and me being let's-plan-everything, he keeps me grounded, and being with him allows me to enjoy the little moments that I would typically miss. **People gravitate to him because of his bright personality. He loves all people and enjoys the things that make us all different.** He makes me feel like the most beautiful person in the world, whether I'm all dressed up or in sweatpants and messy hair. But most of all, **he makes me feel safe, loved, and cherished.** I truly hit the jackpot with him.

Brian is wonderful with children. Our nieces have always loved him the most and enjoy playing with him any chance they get. They love freezing him, doing his "hair" (although he is bald), and turning him into all types of things. And Brian goes along with it all! **Brian is the best uncle and an even better father. He is so patient and loving with Dalton.** Dalton likes to join Brian on the disc golf course even though he can't really throw it or understand the rules, and now he's starting to kick around balls, too! He likes to be tumbled around on the big padded cushions we have, doing things like standing on his head, doing front rolls, or being gently thrown around. **Watching him with Dalton is one of the greatest things.**



## my hobbies:

- Playing disc golf
- Board games
- Video games
- Playing with Dalton

## My Career:

**I work as a Program Management Specialist.** As a government employee, I receive twelve weeks of paid paternity leave, which allows me to spend the first three months at home if chosen as an adoptive parent. My job is very family friendly and flexible and allows ample amount of time off to stay home with a sick kid and have plenty of time for family vacations. I telework from home three days a week and go into the office two days a week, which also gives me flexibility to be present with our family

## How my best friend describes me:

"I would describe you as the single most important friendship I've ever made in my life. You're the person everyone wants around because you make things more fun. I've learned a great deal from you and am proud to know and support as you grow your family."

## I look forward to:

I love teaching Dalton new things and watching him play and grow up. I'm personally amazed every time he learns something new or progresses on something he already knows. I can't wait to add to our family to teach our chosen baby new things and watch him/her grow as well!

## Growing up:

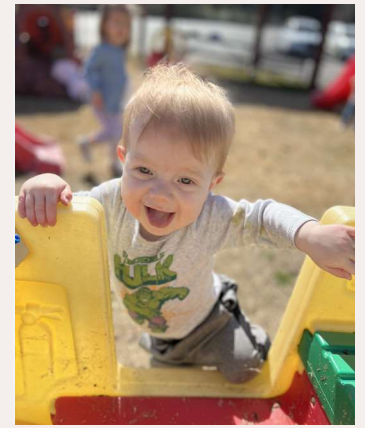
My dad was constantly deployed for the ARMY or on travel. My mom did a great job of raising me, but I missed out on a lot of things because he just wasn't there to help. Because of this, I plan to always be around for our kids and be present in their daily lives as much as possible.



# Meet Dalton



**Even though Dalton is only one, he already has a big personality. He loves listening to music and singing and dancing** (his favorites are “Wheels on the Bus” and “If You’re Happy and You Know It”). Although, Dalton regularly tricks Brian and me into doing most of the signing while he sits back and listens. He loves walking around and exploring all over the house and outside. **He is already a little jokester, too.** One of his favorite things to do is instead of saying “Mama” when asked (which he can and has done) is to say “Dada” and then laugh. Dalton isn’t old enough to give his thoughts on a new sibling, but we are certain that he will love him or her. His favorite person right now is his younger cousin, Mayla. She was born in November 2023, and anytime she is around, he is constantly hugging and kissing her.



**Our parenting style is a balance of setting boundaries and allowing independence.**

We like giving space for Dalton to figure things out on his own, but are there to help whenever he needs/wants. When faced with bad behavior, we quickly address it and then redirect. We understand that children don't intentionally give us a hard time; but likely are just having a hard time themselves. Our favorite thing about being parents is watching Dalton's progression. We cherish all the moments we have together, and each new phase that he grows into becomes our favorite. **Our parenting style is reflective of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, which says: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." We do our best to follow this and ensure that our children always feel loved and protected.**

# OUR FAMILY VALUES



## HONESTY

We believe it's important to be both honest to others and to ourselves.



## KINDNESS

We treat everyone with kindness because you never know what they've gone or are going through.



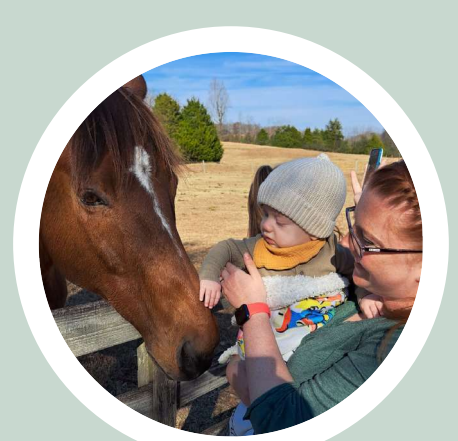
## QUALITY TIME

Time together is a priority, whether it's with those in our family or anyone we choose to do life with.



## CREATIVITY

We value being creative, both in play and in figuring out solutions to any problems we may face.





# Family Time

On the weekends, we typically spend time with our friend group and their children. We will go out to eat together or have a cookout at one of our houses. The kids love playing together and are close in age. We also enjoy spending a relaxing night at home, where we will play outside in our backyard and play board games. We love experiencing all the things our local community offers, including plays, musicals, restaurants, music, shopping, sports, and parks. We've seen Bluey the Play, Disney on Ice, Aladdin, Harry Potter the Orchestra, and hockey, soccer, and baseball games in our local area. For vacations, we love taking quick trips to Gatlinburg, Helen, Chattanooga, and the beach.



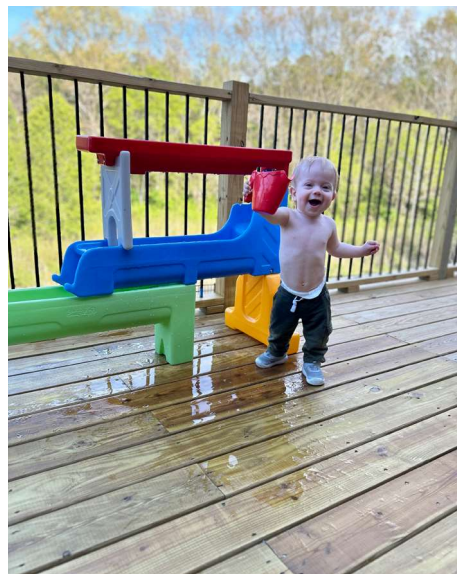
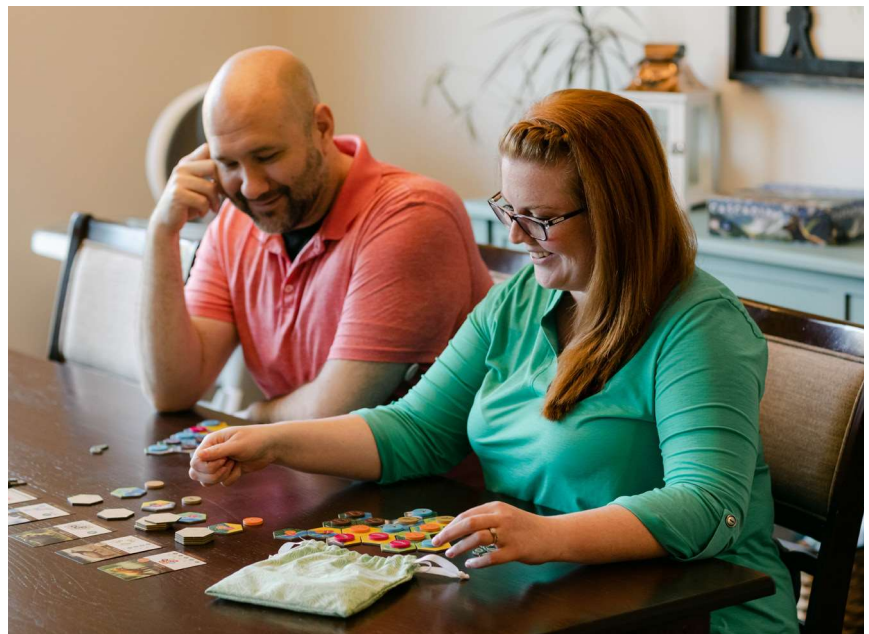
# A Glimpse into *Our Home*



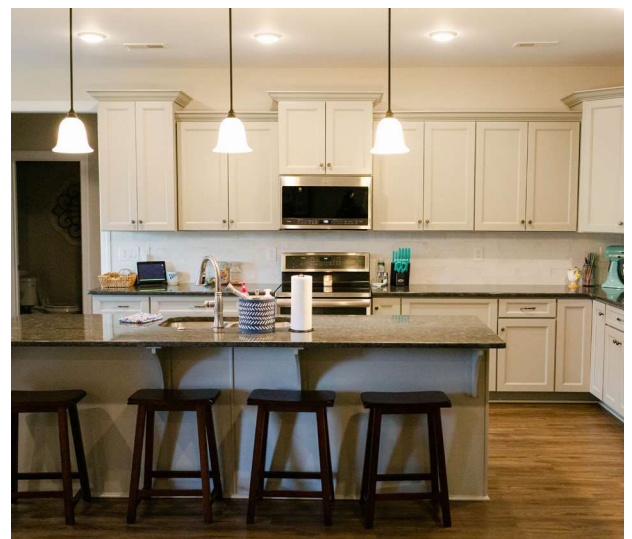
We built our home in 2020 with dreams and plans of filling it with children. We have a full, unfinished walk-out basement that we plan on finishing in the future, which will include a playroom and more bedrooms. Our home currently has four bedrooms and two and a half baths. Our backyard is fenced-in with lots of room for activities. We have a spacious deck that overlooks the backyard, where we spend a lot of afternoons with Dalton, playing in the water and running around with the dogs. We spend a lot of time in our living room, where we build forts, dance to songs, and play with toys. At dinner time, Brian or I will cook dinner while the other one plays with Dalton, then we eat at the table together.

# OUR PETS

We have two dogs. Khloe (13) is a West Highland Terrier. She is an old lady who loves to cuddle and get treats. She loves all kids, especially ones that occasionally drop food! Prime (13) is a Golden Retriever mixed with Beagle. He doesn't act his age and loves to play and get belly rubs. He loves all kids and will play with them when they are active or cuddle when they aren't.



We live in Alabama. We have great hiking trails nearby and local sports teams. We have a great variety of family activities, like children and art museums, indoor playgrounds, trampoline parks, climbing gym, arcades, and putt putt. We often enjoy playing kickball, disc golf, and playing at the playgrounds. There are lots of opportunities for kids to play a variety of sports! We live within a short distance of a few major cities that have zoos, aquariums, children's museums, and amusement parks. We have a core group of friends that we spend a lot of time together with, which is filled with lots of children of all ages. We love our village surrounding us.





# Our Families





## Brian's Side

My parents, Evelyn and Bill, were married in 1981. I have one younger sister, Jennifer. My dad was in the Army, which caused us to move around a lot. When I was 18, my dad died in Iraq while serving our country. Growing up, we had friends who were living in unideal conditions, so our home became a safe space for them, offering food, support, and a place to stay if needed. We also have an unofficially adopted sister, Heather, who Jennifer and I both call sister. We see my mother and Heather about every other week, going out to eat with them or doing some sort of fun activity. We've recently started doing a lot of 5ks with the entire family— usually all having matching outfits!



## Ashley's Side

My parents, Ellie and Jim, are high school sweethearts and have been married since 1985. My younger brother, Jake, is married to Alyssa, and they have three girls: Hadley (7), Reagan (5), and Mayla (6 months). Alyssa was adopted at birth and has two loving parents. My extended family all live in the same area and spend time together at least once a week. We also get together at least once a month for swimming or cookouts. Additionally, every other Friday, I have a day off from work that I spend with my mom, dad, Dalton, and two youngest nieces. The entire family is thrilled to add another child to our family and have lovingly named the future adopted child as "chosen baby."

# A Bright Future

**We built our forever home in 2020 and planned out bedrooms with the prayer that we could fill them with children one day.** We chose the location of our home to be close to our families, our friends, and amazing schools. **We hope to continue growing our family however God allows, whether that's adoption or biological children.**

For future travel plans, Brian and I have a scratch-off map of the US and plan to visit every state together, which now includes Dalton and future children. We want to make sure our children get to experience the beauty within the US as well as outside the US. We love cruising and plan on taking our children on as many as we can, including Disney cruises. We take annual vacations with our parents, siblings, and nieces that always include great family activities that we all enjoy.



Our greatest prayer for our children is for them to be happy, healthy, and to pursue their dreams. We hope they find joy in everything they do, and that they love life and people. We pray they grow up knowing how loved they are by us, their birth family, and everyone around them.





## HOPES FOR EDUCATION

We plan to send our children to public school. **We have highly rated schools in our community,** which Ashley attended all twelve years. **The schools have great opportunities for kids to receive a quality education, sports, and extracurricular activities.** Ashley's mom works at the elementary school and has a great relationship with all the school staff, which will give our children advocates and support as they already love our family. **We want our children to pursue their dreams,** whether

or not it involves college. **We believe that success is not measured by how much money you make but by the impact you make.** Ashley and I both ended up choosing career paths that ended with a degree, but it took me until my early 30s to choose that path, just recently graduating in 2020. We're thankful for our experiences and choices that led us to where we are now and plan to support them physically, mentally, and/or financially in their own personal journey.





A photograph of a brick wall with a stone pillar and a small green dinosaur figurine in the foreground. The dinosaur is a T-Rex, colored green with blue and pink accents. It is standing on a concrete surface next to a stone pillar. The background is a brick wall with a white pillar and some potted plants.

# Before You Go...

We are so excited to add to our family and thank you for taking the time to learn about us. **If you take away one thing from our book, let it be this: we would love your child with our whole hearts for the rest of our lives. We would do our very best in caring for them, helping them grow, and do everything in our power to help them reach all of their hopes and dreams.** He or she would be surrounded by friends and family who will cherish and support them completely. We promise to honor you in our home and in the way we parent your child. They will always know how much you love them. **If chosen, we would look forward to hearing about your vision for this adoption** and finding a level of openness that everyone feels comfortable with. We admire your strength and courage.

Brian + Ashley

You are so loved





