

Adam and Hannah



We Love Serving our Community, all things Disney, and our Dog, Tianna

Hello

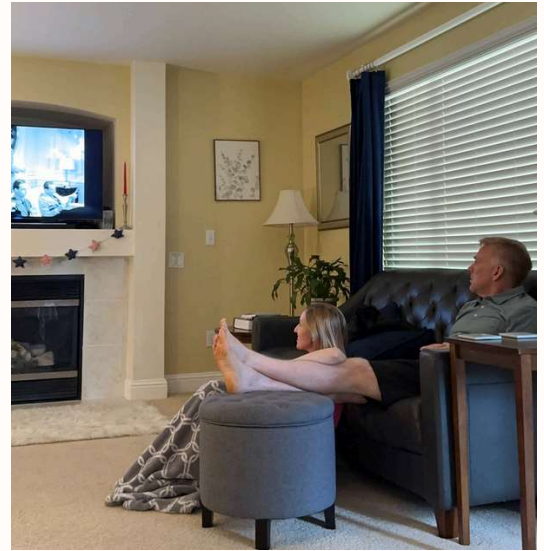
We really appreciate your time meeting our family through this book. It has been a challenge to translate our family's personality to paper, but we hope you can see how much we love and value life.

We believe that what you are considering shows that we already have something in common with you; your commitment to life deserves the utmost respect and we are praying for you during this journey!



This Is Us

We enjoy black and white movies! We can't name many current actors or actresses, but we have watched most of Cary Grant's and Jimmy Stewart's movies (plus numerous other stars from Hollywood's Golden Era!). In our first year of marriage we couldn't afford an expensive television package, but we did have PBS. Every Saturday night they aired an old movie, so that was our date night. This cemented our love of old movies. Every time we watch an old movie, we remember it doesn't take money to enjoy our time together. Your baby will learn how to create special moments regardless of the circumstances!



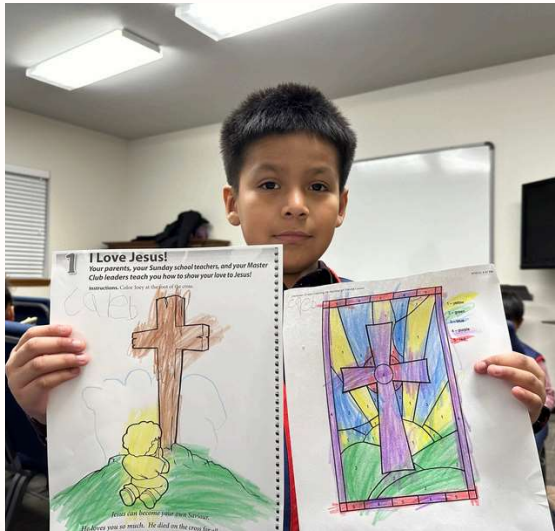
Hannah will be a stay-at-home mom and has already held and cherished this role for our now adult daughter. She knew this was her life's calling when she was a young girl enjoying picnics at the lake with her stay-at-home mom while her big sisters were at school. Her mom packed her Sesame Street lunch box so she could feel like her school-aged sisters and would eat their lunch at the neighborhood lake. It didn't cost her mom anything but time, but it created lifelong memories. Being a stay-at-home mom was amazing, except that our daughter Isabelle grew up too quickly!

We like to try new things together. Last Christmas we were given a smoker and we started trying new recipes and making rubs, then we were put to the test! Hannah's parents purchased a whole cow, but it ended up being practically inedible because the meat was too tough. We decided we could salvage the meat for them if we smoked it, so we researched ways to tenderize the different cuts of meat. We loaded the smoker to the brim, then nervously waited. Once we pulled everything out, a windstorm caused a power outage, so we had to sample everything by candlelight that night! Everything was delicious, and we were grateful to help Hannah's parents in this small way because they have always been her biggest supporters.



Meet Hannah by Adam

Hannah **loves to use her imagination!** She says it is her job to add a bit of whimsy to our lives. Last summer the children of our friends came to stay with us for an extended weekend, so she surprised them as the Queen of Hearts with an *Alice in Wonderland* themed tea party. She even remembered to queue the *Alice in Wonderland* music to coordinate with the tea service. This was the first time they had ever tried hot tea before, and they ended up enjoying it so much that they took some tea home with them to enjoy with their parents.



Hannah is a **natural teacher.** She homeschooled our daughter and her love of teaching continues every Sunday night when she teaches first through third graders at our church. This year she felt extremely blessed to work with a first grader from our church's Spanish Ministry who was recently diagnosed with autism. With his unique needs and the language barrier she wasn't sure how to communicate at his level, but she prayed about it. She found an old kaleidoscope that kept him focused during the story time, then found that dot-to-dots worked for his book time! Your baby will always have their unique needs met!

Hannah's dad gave her the nickname of **"Family Cruise Director"** because **she loves to plan family celebrations and gatherings.** During the Covid pandemic, she wanted to celebrate her birthday with her extended family, so she planned a picnic and hike around a local state park. Hannah's niece has severe food allergies, but Hannah found a Chinese restaurant that could accommodate them, so she picked up take-out that everyone could enjoy. She felt especially blessed to see an owl in the wild – a bucket list item for her – and even got it to "photo bomb" her!



Meet Adam by Hannah



Adam **loves to fix things!** He is the “**Youtube Wonder**” of the house because he has learned how to do many things himself from Youtube tutorials instead of hiring someone. He first became interested in building things himself when he was a teenager. He helped add a room to a church on a mission’s trip to Mexico. With the completion of the room, he realized how gratifying it is to build something with his own hands. When we bought our current home it was a foreclosure and so many things were broken in it. We couldn’t afford to pay a contractor, so Adam figured out how to put together cabinets and hang them himself. Last year he learned how to build a wall on our patio and hang shiplap to finish our patio cover. Your baby will be encouraged to learn and try new things!

Adam is **compassionate** and because of this there isn’t a dog that doesn’t love him! I discovered this the first time he came over to my house and met my childhood dog (a chihuahua named Cinnamon) who couldn’t stop bringing the ball to him. Then I realized it happened wherever we went and any new dog that he met instantly loved him. When we finally got our own dog, I woke up in the middle of the night to an empty bed. I came downstairs and found Adam on the couch with our puppy wrapped in his arms. He said she was lonely for her litter mates. It was one of the sweetest things I’ve ever seen!



Adam is **a humble, servant leader**. In his career as an officer, he has volunteered to take school children, who would not otherwise receive Christmas presents, Christmas shopping. Now that he is the Chief of Police, he has the privilege of helping to organize the event. Last Christmas he took a teen boy shopping who had just been relocated to his aunt’s house and needed basic necessities like underwear. Adam helped him pick out all of the essentials and reached the allotted amount, but then he surprised him; he gave him an additional gift card so he could pick out something fun for himself! He then helped him shop for the wireless headphones the boy secretly wanted. Adam came home so happy that day because the boy was truly happy!

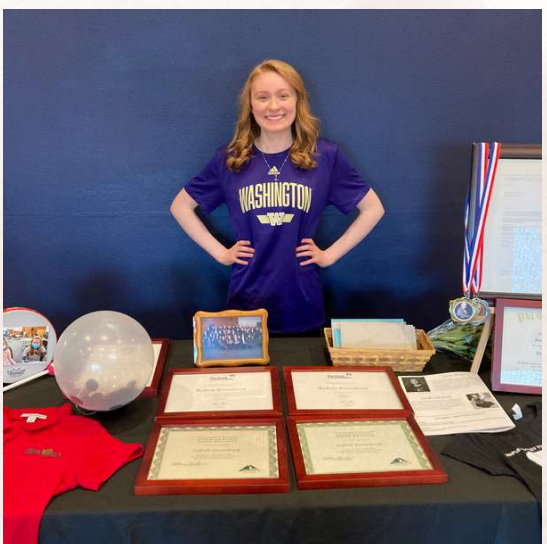
Our Beginning



We were introduced by our best friends. The summer after Hannah graduated high school her best friend was dating Adam's best friend, so they asked us to go play mini golf together. Neither of us had ever dated, but even on that first night we each felt that the other was what we were waiting for in a husband and wife. When we married a few years later our friends served as the Maid of Honor and Best Man, but they were no longer dating. They decided the purpose of their relationship was to bring us together.



We were still in college when we got married, so **we learned to be resourceful** with our time and limited money. Hannah learned to cut Adam's hair and Adam learned to use box hair dye (she is still blonde at heart even though her roots have gotten darker over the years!). Our craziest experience happened early on; Hannah was almost done with Adam's hair and touched up a small section with the electric razor but forgot to put on the guard. She had to shave his whole head to make it even! Thankfully, she never made that mistake again and we continue our home hair salon tradition to this day!



After getting married, **we were blessed to become parents.** Isabelle is a precocious kiddo and just graduated with her bachelor's degree in biochemistry at 18. She now works at a medical research lab in the city and lives nearby. Unfortunately, things never worked out for us to have a second child, but we have so much love and time to pour into another child. Isabelle is looking forward to the idea of adding to our family, but will probably take the role of a cool younger aunt because of her stage in life. We have learned that life is full of many unexpected twists and turns and are hopeful to join you on this journey!

Isabelle and Tianna

Isabelle is passionate about music! She plays both the piano and violin (and a little ukulele!). She also enjoys composing and arranging music. Throughout Isabelle's childhood, Hannah tried to make the car rides to various lessons and orchestra practices exciting by listening to audiobooks, so good memories were made before and after the lessons. When we told her we were considering adoption she immediately volunteered to give free music lessons to her future sibling. Along with music, **your baby will have the opportunity to pursue their passions!**



Isabelle is the oldest (and coolest) cousin! All of her younger cousins look up to her. In college, we were camp counselors during our summer breaks, so we learned about every version of tag and passed this down to Isabelle. A few weeks ago, at a family birthday party, she played “**toilet tag**” with her cousins in our backyard. In this version of tag, if you are tagged, you have to put out your arm in the shape of a handle and wait to get “flushed” by another player to rejoin the game. Although Isabelle is technically an adult, she enjoys making her cousins happy, so she always joins in whatever they find fun.



Tianna is the princess of the family! When we got her, Isabelle named her Tianna from *The Princess and the Frog* as she was Isabelle's favorite Disney Princess at the time. Because of dog allergies among family members, we chose to get a hypoallergenic dog. **Her sweet personality wins over everyone who visits our house -especially our smallest guests.** She is the favorite of our close friend's son Clint. The two have been known to share cheerios together and Clint is so enamored with Tianna that he asks to see pictures of her on Hannah's phone every Sunday and Wednesday at church.



Our Home and Neighborhood



Our home is situated in a small suburban town in Washington state. **Our favorite gathering place is our covered patio!** Our backyard backs up to a greenbelt, so in addition to hosting, we like to watch the birds, squirrels and bunnies run around our yard. Just a few weeks ago we celebrated Hannah's birthday by roasting hot dogs on our patio with our propane fire table. Our normal dessert after a cookout is s'mores unless it is a birthday. Isabelle helped put in a mini putt-putt in our backyard, so our nieces rushed to eat so they could play with it.

Our neighborhood is literally our family! We live five doors down from Hannah's sister, brother-in-law, and two nieces. Hannah's parents live three blocks away, so everyone is within easy walking distance of each other. This proximity has been so helpful over the years. Hannah's dad likes to say his truck is the family's truck, so it gets used by the three households whenever there is a need. A few weeks ago, when our water heater suddenly broke, we were able to take the broken tank to the dump, pick up a new tank and Adam installed it. We had warm water by the time we went to bed with our family's help. Your baby will have a support system built into their neighborhood along with daily walks with grandparents and playtime with cousins!



We are surrounded by wildlife. Our neighborhood is connected to a former golf course that has been turned into a community garden, wildlife protected area, and trail. We try to take daily walks on the trail alongside the protected area to spot birds. Ducks are there daily, but often we see Red Winged Blackbirds in the marshy area. About a month ago, on a walk over to Hannah's parents' house, she saw 12 deer grazing. It is common to see a few, but 12 was a new record. The best part was when **one came up close to the fence to be admired!** Hannah raved about how she was able to actually make eye contact with the majestic animal.

Our Community

Our hometown was named one of the safest cities in the state. Although we are a commutable distance to large cities, we have maintained a **small-town identity**. For Christmas every year our town hosts a community event at the town square. A few years ago, Isabelle played Christmas music in a local store and across the parking lot our niece sang in a Live Nativity, so our whole family was able to walk from one performance to the other. On our walk between the two performances, we were greeted by real reindeer!



We love a day at the zoo because no two days at the zoo are the same! We live less than an hour's drive from three different zoos and at different times have had annual passes to each of them. On our last visit we saw a pudu fawn! Pudu's are the world's smallest deer variety and deer are one of Hannah's favorite animals. To see a baby version of the baby variety of deer was almost **too much cuteness to behold!**

We are in God's Country! We have the privilege to live **an hour away from a mountain and the beach**, so we have easy access to an assortment of outdoor adventures. On our last trip to the mountain, we found a hot spring! We have visited a number of times, but this was a first for us. This reminded us of our trip to Yellowstone when Isabelle was little, but this time she was old enough to enjoy the novelty. It was exciting to experience something similar on our local mountain. Your baby will have the opportunity to enjoy God's beauty from the beach to the mountains!



Family

If you choose us, in addition to a big sister, your child will have 2 great-grandparents, 4 grandparents, 5 uncles, 3 aunts, **6 cousins**, 2 dogs, 2 cats, and 9 chickens in their family!



Our supportive family is **close by**. Last month, Hannah's parents randomly surprised her by including her in their pedicure date! Sharing pedicures with her police detective dad was a memorable experience. As their relationship has matured over the years, she appreciates her parents even more. After the pedicures we all ate lunch together when Adam came home for his lunch break. Adam has yet to join in on the pedicure fun, but he enjoys the family mealtime. Your baby will always have family to share the big and small moments of life

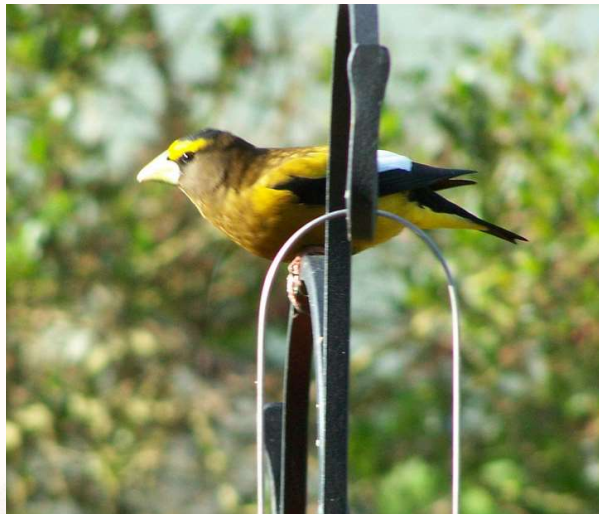
Our family **values fun!** A few years ago, we decided to surprise our nieces with a Grinch Day. Hannah read *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* to them and then the story came to life! Adam appeared as the Grinch, Isabelle as Cindy Lou Who, and Tiana as Max! It was unforgettable to see the girls' reaction when Adam entered the room. They weren't so sure what to think at first, so they stared at Adam a few minutes to figure him out. After a thorough examination of his costume and confirmation that indeed it was their beloved Uncle Adam, they couldn't get enough of his great grinchy tricks. They enjoyed him even more than their annual visit with Santa!



Animals are important members of our family too! Grandma and Grandpa's beloved dog Charlie is adored by all of the grandchildren, but their chickens get the most attention. Their nine chickens supply each household daily with fresh eggs. Caring for the chickens is a family affair because we have helped add to the homemade coup and chicken run. Right now, we are contributing to the egg effort by saving our watermelon rinds for the chickens to supplement their diet. This is a favorite of theirs, so they go crazy for them.

Traditions & Hobbies

Growing up, each summer Hannah's mom bought annual passes to a local amusement park, so she has so many good memories of riding rides with her mom and two sisters. She didn't realize it at the time, but once she got older, she found out how special it was that her mom could enjoy the rides along with her. This is **a tradition our family continues, often at Disney World**. Once the three generations rode the Expedition Everest Rollercoaster at Animal Kingdom 10 times in one day!



We love to bird and keep our eyes out each day to spot them! **We have a life-list** that we use to keep track of every bird species and catalogue where and when we spotted them. It is also exciting to find new bird species wherever we visit, so it adds a fun element to any vacation. Although some birds can be seen every day, it is exciting to track the migrating birds. We discovered that the Evening Grosbeak migrates through around Isabelle's birthday every year! Our backyard is currently filled with American Robins because they love eating the cherries off of our cherry trees.



We are on **a quest to explore the National Parks!** Years ago, we purchased a National Park Passport, so our goal is to get all the stamps. Our latest stamp came from Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park. We really wanted to see lava, so we hiked out to a viewing spot and waited until dark for the lava to appear. The flash of bright orange made the hike and the wait worthwhile! The dark hike to the parking lot by flashlight was equally memorable. We look forward to learning about your favorite traditions to include in our gatherings for your child.

Holidays and Seasons



We have so many Christmas traditions, but one of our favorites is our **Advent Dinners!** Every Sunday from Thanksgiving to Christmas we have a special dinner to anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. At the center of our dining table we have an advent wreath and we light a new candle each week until Christmas dinner when all of the candles are burning. Each candle has a special meaning with a special Bible verse and on Christmas we read the complete Christmas story from Luke 2. Each dinner is themed differently and corresponds to a different culture. One of our new favorite recipes came from a Mexican themed Advent Dinner: homemade Mexican Hot Chocolate!

Some traditions have evolved and improved over time! Our Easter egg hunts have become a lot more exciting now that we do them at night. We have **glow in the dark egg hunts!** The backyard is transformed by glowing eggs and it is a sight to behold. In addition to finger lights to make the eggs glow, Hannah enjoys finding new things to put in the eggs each year as prizes. This year it was Disney trading pins for future pin trading at Disney World. Thankfully, she found them all and was delighted! Your baby will get to take part in and help make new family traditions!



For the two weeks leading up to Valentine's Day we have **"Love Bags"** tied to our chairs at the dining room table. Then we secretly add notes and sometimes special treats to each other's bags at random times. Adam knows that Hannah thinks flowers die too quickly, so he thought he was pretty clever when her found her a chocolate flower to put in her love bag this year. Although, the chocolate didn't last longer than the flowers would have! Chocolate is delicious, but Hannah's favorite part of the season are the thoughtful handwritten notes that Adam leaves in her bag! Your baby will get showered with love all year long!

Our Church Family



We consider our church community our family! Along with Hannah's parents who attend with us, we call our church family brothers and sisters in Christ. After our evening services we have outdoor games and snacks, so everyone hangs around and fellowships. Last week it was roast beef and pickle ball, so everyone left full and happy. At a recent dinner and game night we learned there was more to love about one of our brothers in Christ. We were playing Loaded Questions (a get to know you game) and found out he not only marched with Martin Luther King Jr. but also was jailed for participating in a sit-in!

Our church is diverse! Our brothers and sisters in Christ come from a variety of races, backgrounds and cultures. Through our friends from the Philippines, we have learned to love to eat lumpia, but stay away from balut (a boiled fertilized developing egg embryo!). Through our friends from our Spanish Ministry, **we experienced our first Quinceanera.** It was so impressive to see the whole family come together to welcome our young friend to womanhood. The service was done mostly in Spanish, but there were moments that needed no translation. Our favorite part was watching her baby brother present her with her first pair of high heels. Your baby will be taught to value and cherish all people- from all races and cultures!



Our church gives us **the opportunity to serve** and we love it! Adam is a deacon and teaches our small group class every Wednesday night. Hannah helps in the nursery, the Children's ministry and the Widows' ministry. During the last widow's luncheon Hannah helped surprise a widow with a birthday cake, but the best part was the fellowship that took place as the women shared their life stories and learned commonalities.

Our Weekdays



With Adam's schedule as a police chief, it is like a holiday each week because he has a **four-day work week**. We love the extra day to devote to family time! We celebrate the beginning of these long weekends with Friday Pizza Night. We make homemade pizza. One of our favorite recipes is white pizza. We use half cream cheese and half Boursin cheese instead of red sauce. Often an episode of *I Love Lucy* is watched while we enjoy our pizza. Adam's convenient work schedule will give us the **flexibility** to attend all of your child's doctor's appointments, or swim lessons, or other special events as a family.



Each day of life is a blessing, but Hannah loved her days as a **Stay at Home** Homeschool Mom. Weekdays were opportunities to find learning everywhere. Measurements were learned by baking bread. Insects and plants were learned by nature walks. Playtime with the sand cart doubled as a phonics lesson because Hannah buried toys for Isabelle to dig up, and then she learned how to spell them. We're firm believers that learning can take place in the physical world, not just inside a schoolroom. Hannah would love to devote her days to teaching your child. Your child will have a mom to love and adore them full-time, creating endless lifelong memories!



We enjoy all of our meals together! Our day always starts with a warm breakfast! No matter how busy we get or how early we have to get up, we prioritize this time together. Often these breakfasts include fresh eggs from the family chickens. This is a tradition Hannah cherishes because it is something she learned from her mom. Even when Hannah went through a cold cereal phase in elementary school, her mom made her hot chocolate, so she had something warm to go with it. Our dog, Tiana, takes part in our breakfast tradition too. She practically flies over to Adam when Hannah brings his plate of eggs and bacon to him. She then proceeds to lick the air while Adam eats his breakfast! Your child will have quality family time every day.

Thank You!

No words seem sufficient to express our gratitude to you for considering us as adoptive parents for your child! We believe giving life is the greatest gift anyone can give. We can't fully understand how difficult this situation might be for you, but please know that we are praying for you and your baby. If you choose us, we will continue to pray for you and honor you. **We look forward to sharing pictures and updates** with you of your child to your desired comfort level. In our family, your child would be cherished as would your sacrifice. Thank you again for taking your time to learn about our family!

ADAM & Hannah

