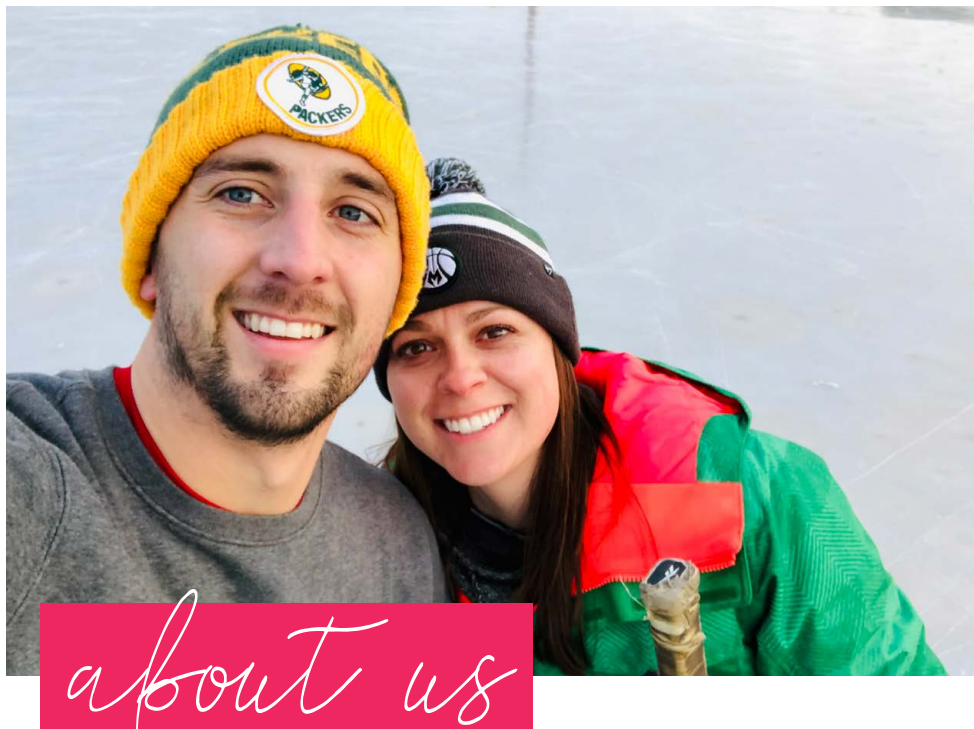




Joel AND Katie



We met in 2018 while out celebrating our college football team's victory at a local pub. Five months later we were engaged, and the rest is history! We definitely balance each other out with our personalities. Joel will always be the cool and calming force under fire, while Katie will be the one to ignite the fire! Joel usually has to remind her to slow down, relax, and enjoy. Katie works full time in the automotive industry as a service advisor and also part time as a tax preparer during tax season. Joel is a store manager for a pharmacy. We love our sports teams, and much of our free time is spent attending games or watching them on TV. Joel's favorite activities include playing with the pups and mowing the lawn then admiring it afterward! Katie keeps busy doing things around the house, all while looking for her next HGTV inspiration. It's important to us to have a healthy lifestyle, so we stay active with daily exercise.

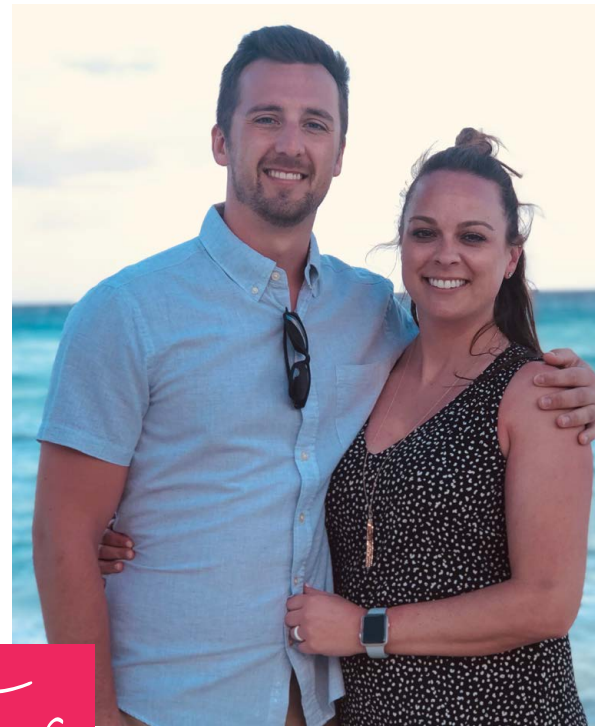
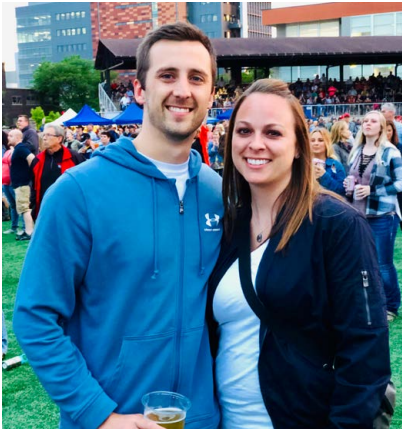


OUR HOME & PETS

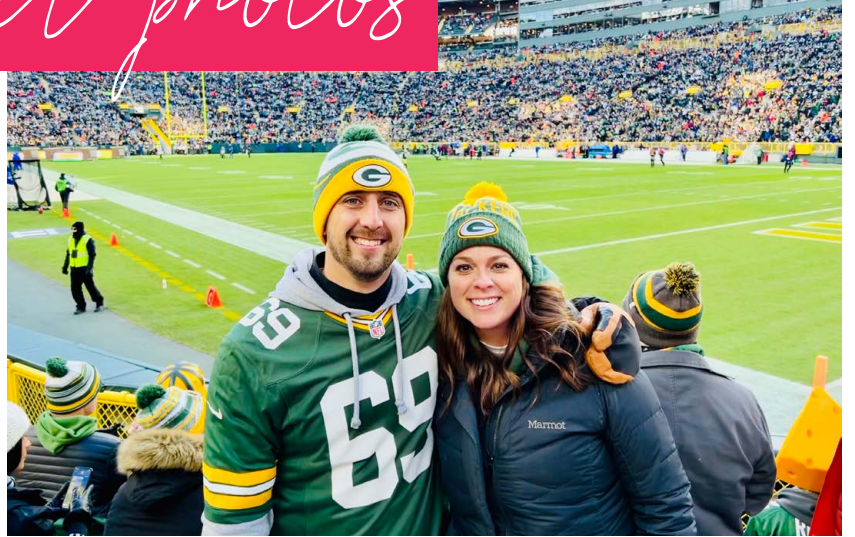
Our small Midwest city has been nationally recognized as one of the best places to live. It is minutes away from the capital city and all of its great restaurants, museums, festivals, and street markets. The school district we are in is highly sought after and is one of the best in the state. We are within walking distance to the elementary school. Our house is in a quiet neighborhood on a cul-de-sac. There are many young families around taking advantage of the nature trails connecting the surrounding neighborhoods. One set of grandparents is also only a ten-minute walk away! We have two furbabies, Louie and Oakley, who make us laugh everyday. Louie is the protective old man, and Oakley is the entertaining goofball. We cannot wait for them to become best friends with a child and complete our pack!

WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

To be honest, adoption was not on our radar to become parents. Having never been touched by adoption, it was unfamiliar to us. After going through four years of infertility struggles, adoption has become our answer. From the moment we met, we both knew we were meant to be parents; it was our purpose in life. It has been the driving force and the light that has kept us going through the darkest days. We have come out the other end stronger as a couple with all the adversity we have faced. The more we have learned about adoption, the more we have embraced it and have become excited for the adventure. We are truly blessed to be able to meet someone and receive the greatest gift from them.



our photos



about Katie

Occupation: Service advisor & tax advisor

Education: Bachelor's degree

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Raised Catholic, not currently practicing

Sport: Golf, football

Hobby: Cooking/baking

Family Tradition: Halloween costumes for pups

Musical Group: Blink-182, Mumford & Sons, Manchester Orchestra

Movie: *Despicable Me*, *Minions*

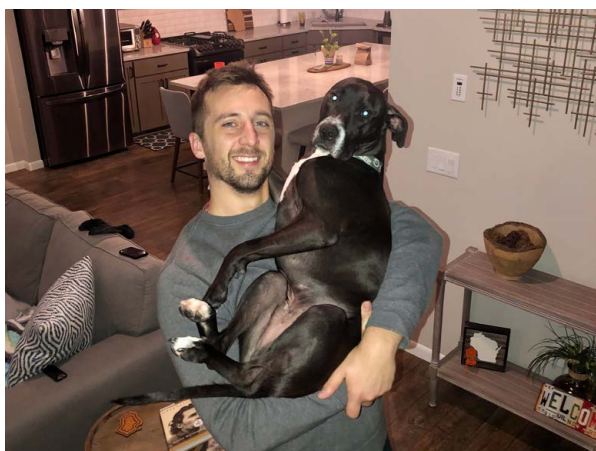
Dream Vacation: Bora Bora, Mediterranean excursion

TV Show: *Friends*

Subject in School: Science



about Joel



Occupation: Store manager

Education: Associate degree

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Raised Christian, not currently practicing

Sport: Soccer, football

Hobby: Admiring my lawn care skills

Family Tradition: Playing Euchre at get-togethers

Musical Group: The Story So Far

Movie: *The Gentleman*

Dream Vacation: Norway

TV Show: *Sons of Anarchy*, *The Wire*

Subject in School: English but really recess and gym

OUR FAMILY

and traditions



Katie's family consists of an older brother and sister. Both are married, but only her sister has children. They are 11 and 9 years old and live close! We attend as many sporting events, dance recitals, and any other activity we can. Katie helped raise her niece and nephew, babysitting them one day a week until they went to grade school. Family traditions include cookie baking and bowling on Christmas Eve and Easter egg coloring and an egg hunt. A lot of time is spent together at the family cabin on the lake. We enjoy boating, tubing, and swimming in the summer, and winter activities include sledding, frozen lake walks, and ice hockey.

Joel's family consists of an older sister and a younger sister. They always get together for birthdays. His mom and sisters are amazing bakers, so dessert is always readily available. Christmas usually entails eating an entire table full of different cookies and sweets! During the summer, a lot of time is spent up at their family condo minutes away from beaches, state parks, and lots of other activities. Going on Grandpa's boat and watching sunsets on the bay are family favorites.



dear
EXPECTANT MOTHER

To the Bravest Woman:

We cannot imagine being in your shoes and having to make this difficult decision. Considering this selfless decision shows you have this incredible and untouchable strength. It also shows you have the confidence in yourself to trust that your child will end up in the right hands and live the best life. Learning about the adoption process has been a lot, to say the least. The one major thing we have learned is the importance of you, the expectant mother, and your feelings. Our top priority (besides caring for your child) will be showing you the respect, care, and support you need and deserve. The amount of gratitude and admiration for you will be insurmountable. Since we have waited so long to become parents, your child will be loved and cherished not only by us but all of our family and friends. They are extremely supportive and want this just as much as we do. Grandmas and grandpas are ready to spoil them rotten!

We want to emphasize to you that adoption is not a second choice for us; rather, it is our unique story of becoming a mom and dad. Some people just want to have kids to have kids, but we both truly believe our purpose in life is to be parents. We want to share a quote we see every day in our bedroom from Pablo Picasso: "The meaning of life is to find your gift; the purpose of life is to give it away." We cannot think of a better quote to live by each and every day with our situation, and we would love to give our gift to you and your child.

***With love,
Katie & Joel***