



We do not believe in accidents. We know that there will forever be a special connection between us as you give the most selfless gift imaginable to your child. God Bless You.

**Aaron**

**Laurie**

**Job Description:**

Camp Director

Accountant and Stay-at-home mom

**Education:**

Bachelor of Science of Christian Education

Masters of Business Administration in Accounting

**Favorites:**

**Hobby**

Reading

**Hobbies**

Running and Swimming

**Family Activity**

Swimming

**Family Activity**

Playing Games

**Subject in School**

Art

**Subject in School**

Math

**Thing to Cook**

Pancakes

**Thing to Cook**

Enchiladas

**Children:**

Alena (age 5) Dylan (age 4)

**What Led Us to Choose Adoption**

We have always loved children and both come from wonderful families, so we thought it was natural to have a large family ourselves. We have two biological children that we are so thankful for, a girl and a boy. However, due to medical complications it seems best to grow our family through adoption. Over the years we have worked with thousands of children and absolutely have fallen in love with so many of them. Even before we had our biological children, we thought adoption would be a natural fit for us but were just waiting for the right timing. We know that God has already chosen to connect us with just the right little one to become part of us and we cannot wait to meet our new addition.

**Our Strengths**

Aaron's greatest strength is his ability to work with people. He is good at identifying strengths in others and helping them to find a path in life that they will enjoy and have success. He is funny and loves to play with children. But he can be serious when it is time to be serious and enjoys thinking about and talking about the deeper things in life. When he gets a chance he enjoys playing basketball and is very athletic. Aaron also plays the guitar and leads singing at our church. As part of his job he builds and maintains some of the ropes courses, so sometimes he can be found hanging from wires sixty feet in the air! Aaron is good at creating a quality environment at work and in our home that is safe, educational and above all, fun.

Laurie is definitely the more quiet, behind-the-scenes one in the family. Laurie's strength is being there for the children first and foremost. Though she would love to be good at something like singing, she's really just good at things like managing paper work. Though not prestigious, she makes everything at home run smoothly so that Aaron is free to be busy doing what he feels called to do. She loves doing things for her family, creating a beautiful home inside and out, and trying new recipes in the kitchen.

**What We Look Forward to Sharing with a Child**

There are so many things that we love to do, but there are a couple of key things that we are excited to share with our children. First, we love and appreciate a good book. We almost have our own private library in our home and love to read to our children before going to bed. Second, we enjoy music. Aaron plays the guitar and the piano and we look forward to giving them lessons when they are old enough. Third, we love the outdoors. Unless it's just miserable outside, we find a way to get out every day to enjoy the beauty that we are surrounded with. Last, but most important, we want to share with our children our love for Jesus Christ and His place in our lives as Rescuer, King and Friend.

**Our House & Neighborhood**

OHIO

We live in a unique situation. We work at a retreat center, but we live here too! We live on 180 acres. Much of the property is manicured, but half of it consists of beautiful woods and is surrounded by the National Forest. We often see deer in our front yard. Because it is a retreat center, we do have to share the property with guests. But often we get to enjoy the facilities by ourselves. Families take one week per year to vacation here, but we live here year round! We have a lake with boats, a running track, a large pool, three indoor basketball courts, hiking trails, an animal barn with lots of baby animals, soccer fields, game rooms and high ropes courses.



**Our Home**



**Our Back Yard**

## Our House and Neighborhood, continued

There are four other families that also live and work on the property. All four of these families are wonderful and are not only neighbors and co-workers, but are also our best friends. There are lots of children on camp and it is very family-friendly. We also have the great privilege of raising children that are surrounded by amazing people. We hire over 40 college students to come and live with us every summer. We have so many applicants that we can be choosy and get to pick the cream of the crop. These are the people that take part in the lives of our children. There is really no greater place to nurture children, give them great life experiences and have them influenced by amazing people. We are so blessed.

## Our Extended Family

Aaron - I have a large family with many little nieces and nephews. All of my family live all over the United States, however, every year we get together and have a huge family retreat at the camp where I live. Even though we don't live close together, we all talk on the phone or email one another almost every week - and we never forget birthdays! When we do get together the wives cook amazing food. We love Mexican food and meat. During the day the guys play basketball and we always get in a huge game of whiffleball with Grandparents, kids, everyone! At night, we put all the kids to bed and stay up late playing games.

Because everyone lives such different lives, we get to have amazing experiences when we visit. My sister lives on a cattle ranch and we get to ride horses and tractors. My father is a veterinarian, so when we visit him, the kids loves playing with all the animals at the clinic. My other sister lives on the edge of a beautiful Arizona dessert near the Grand Canyon. The entire family is so excited about the adoption. In fact, my sister is currently going through the adoption process as well! I am so blessed to be part of such a loving and supportive family.

Laurie - I have a huge family. I have 12 cousins, over 30 second cousins and 12 aunts and uncles and they all live within a few blocks of each other! When we get together we number over 60 people! We always have so much fun and we are very loud. It is such a loving family where new comers are always welcome. Whether joining the family through adoption or joining just because they want to, our family consists of a very diverse crowd. We are so loving and welcoming to everyone.

When I was young many of the uncles owned a construction company and the economy in our area crashed. Because so many in our family suddenly didn't have a job, we all moved in together in one huge house. We didn't live there very long, but for all of us, it was the happiest year of our life. We still talk about all the adventures we had together that year!



**Aleena & Dylan**



**Our Extended Family**



**Our Extended Family**

## Our Two Children

We have a little girl, age 5 and a boy age 4. Our daughter, Aleena is a princess through and through. She loves babies and cannot wait to be a helper. Dylan also is excited about a new baby and cannot wait to become a big brother. Dylan has Cystic Fibrosis and endures a lot that other children will never have to go through. However, it has made him very sensitive to providing for the needs of others. He is so sweet and has been very concerned that we have blankets that will be soft enough for a new baby. Aleena is accustomed to being a big sister and has already chosen some her best stuffed animals to share with the baby and wants to go shopping every weekend to buy clothes. She is already convinced that the baby will love horses. We have been preparing for the new baby in so many ways and cannot wait for the arrival!



With Our Friendly Dog



A Beautiful Hike Together

## Aaron & Laurie



Taking a Ride



Our Family



Bundled Up!



Aaron with the Kids

## Dear Birthparent(s),

Considering adoption for your child is such a brave and mature act of selflessness. Thank you for considering us to be a part of this important decision. Before we have even met you we have been praying for you and your little baby. We cannot imagine how difficult this decision may be. We believe that God does not make mistakes and even in difficult times He can still make things work together for good.

As for us - we love family life! We have two biological children and are privileged to be able to spend lots of time with them since we live where we work! Laurie has an office in our home where she does accounting and we live on the property where Aaron is a Camp Director. Because of our flexible schedules we are thankful that we have been able to raise our children and not have to depend on daycare. Our neighbors and co-workers have young children as well and they are all so excited about our adoption journey - almost as excited as our son and daughter!

As a couple we have a great relationship. Laurie laughs uncontrollably at Aaron's jokes and Aaron just smiles and shakes his head at Laurie's crazy stories. We are definitely not perfect, but we laugh often and love to share our lives with others. We always have people over to our home throughout the year. However in the winter and spring we have a tradition of watching 24 (television series) on Monday night, having friends over for food and games, and then discussing the newest book. In the midst of it all, we play kid-friendly games with the children and plan special activities for them too. It's always a production but always fun.

As parents we strive to give our children various experiences and opportunities to help them grow and succeed in life. We value faith, education, and a healthy lifestyle. We also will be supportive of any activities that they choose in life - whatever that may mean. We also want your child to know how they came to become part of our family and understand that it was your maturity and love that brought her to us. We understand that this isn't a one-sided relationship and don't want it to be. We will send pictures faithfully. This won't be hard since we both are addicted to our cameras and getting the "perfect" shot. Through the myriad of pictures we send, you will be able to see that your baby will be raised in a healthy, happy, environment where she is loved deeply.

Though we live in a great vacation spot, there are times when we like to get away too. Every year we spend a couple of weeks on the beach. We love to ride the waves, build sand castles, and search for shells. During the early mornings you can usually find Aaron reading a book with his feet in the ocean and Laurie is typically running during low tide. We also love to fly kites and play in the tide pools. After dark we watch movies or search the beaches for crabs and turtles. Twice we've been able to witness the hatching of endangered baby turtles! We always stay in a beach-front house and eat lunch on the beach, but for dinner we go all out and cook a huge meal. Most of the time we have our parents with us or an occasional brother or sister, but the beach has always been some of the most memorable and relaxing times of our lives.

We have endless plans for our family. We love to travel and have family all over the United States. We head out west frequently, but love the beach and have big plans for Disneyland too! Even more important than travelling, we have plans to raise our children to be successful, kind, confident adults. Though it will make us cry when the time comes, we want them to be able to leave our home in adulthood with the ability to make good decisions and have a successful plan for their futures. Aaron wants to walk the girls down the aisle at their weddings and we plan on celebrating graduations and new jobs. We will be there to cry when they cry, laugh when they laugh and celebrate when they deserve it most. We will surround your child with love and support and will provide a strong foundation that will help her maneuver life successfully.

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With Love,

**Aaron and Laurie**

