

"WE LOOK AT ADOPTION AS A VERY SACRED EXCHANGE. IT WAS NOT DONE LIGHTLY ON EITHER SIDE. I WOULD DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THIS CHILD."

*-Jamie Lee Curtis*



*Hi!*

It's great to meet you, and we want to thank you so much for wanting to learn about us and our lives. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to tell you about ourselves and our family. Any child that would join our family will be so loved and so cherished. We understand this is not an easy time for you, and we want you to know we are thinking of you and hope whatever choice you make brings you peace.



# MEET JAMES

I've always lived here in Missouri. I'm now a high school science teacher, but I started out by getting my bachelor's degree in Psychology. I worked as a social worker, then an operating room technician, and a physician recruiter before finding my niche in education. I like learning new things and meeting new people. I have so much fun helping at school with extracurriculars, like marching band, board game club, winter drum line, and pep band. Over the summers and on the weekends I enjoy woodworking, camping, fishing and having fun with my wife and family





# MEET MACKENZIE

I grew up in eastern Iowa with my four siblings. I am close with all of them and they are starting to have kids now. Being an Auntie has been amazing. I love having fun, playing games, and being outdoors. I moved to Missouri after college and started working as a digital map maker. My job is great for me, and I work full-time from home, which leaves plenty of time to be with family and do hobbies. I like reading, painting, quilting, playing video and board games, and going on adventures!

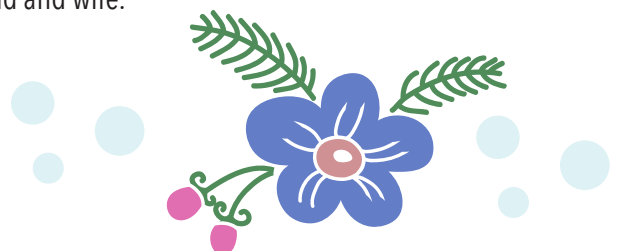




# Our Story



We met in college at Missouri S&T. We were both in the marching band; James plays the Saxophone, and Mackenzie plays the Tuba. We connected instantly and started hanging out, watching shows, and playing games together. We became best friends. It wasn't long after that we started dating. We dated throughout college, and after graduating, we married in 2018. We are so blessed to be together as best friends and as husband and wife.



# Adoption in Our Family



I (James) was adopted at birth through a private adoption. My parents were also unable to give birth to a child. They had a few adoptions fall through before me and a few after me, so while they would have loved to have more children, I was all they needed to make our family whole. I always knew I was adopted, and the poem "The Legacy of the Adopted Child" was hung in my room from the day I came home. It would mean everything to me to be able to adopt a child and give them the gift of family that I was given.



# OUR HOME

After college, we bought a house about five minutes from where James grew up. We are out in the country and on a few acres of our own. We've been so happy here. Having space for chickens, a large Koi pond, and a large backyard is great. Being close to everyone has been such a blessing. Our home is spacious, and we have room to grow our family when we are blessed with the opportunity.



# OUR FAMILY



At home, we spend time playing board games and cards, especially our family card tournaments, which can go on for months at a time! We also have a family craft business, which we operate out of our pole barn. We make a variety of stuff, but mainly wooden yard art that we cut out and paint. We also do a lot of woodworking, making cutting boards, epoxy tables, and other items.



We have many family traditions also. We are huge on Christmas in our home; we go all out decorating the house inside and out! We love making Christmas cookies and driving to see the lights at night! We also have a bunch of fun on Easter, the 4th of July, Halloween, and on birthdays! Any excuse to spend time with each other, make good food, and have fun!





We are so blessed to have many supportive people in our lives. We both have large extended families. Mackenzie has four siblings, and we both have scores of aunts, uncles, cousins, and the like. Mackenzie's entire family comes down to our house each year for the 4th of July, and we have a fantastic time playing yard games, grilling, and shooting off fireworks! James's family lives close, and we spend time with his cousins and their kids often, going to state parks, zoos, and six flags! We also stayed in contact with many of our friends from college and take trips across the country to see them in places like Kalamazoo, MI, Fort Collins, CO, and Omaha, NE.



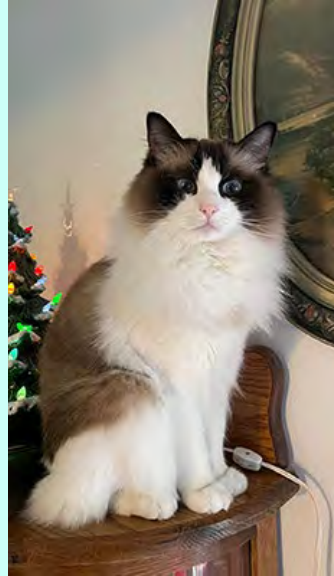
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# Pets



We have a lot of furry, feathery, and wet pet friends in our home! We have four Ragdoll cats; Sapphire, Jasper, Pearl, and Jade. They are sometimes called puppy cats. They greet us when we get home, sit on our laps, and even play fetch! All four of them are super friendly and great with the kids in our family.



We also have a flock of (currently) 15 backyard chickens. They are so funny and neat to watch, not to mention their eggs! Remington is the leader of the flock, and he is good with his ladies and with people.

Our koi pond is a bit bigger than most! It's a 30x100-foot fenced pond that goes from 3 feet to 10 feet deep. We have thousands of koi that love to come up and eat when we toss them food! The pond is spring-fed and is cool year-round! We even sometimes swim in it!



# ADVENTURE

Some of our favorite places to go are right here in Missouri! We go to Branson all the time and love to see the shows, Table Rock lake and Silver Dollar City! We find somewhere to go or something to do almost every weekend, going to flea markets, camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, or just going to the mall or the movies! In the winter, we like to go on weekend trips to places like Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Kansas City, and more! Speaking of Kansas City, we are huge Chiefs Fans and go to a game at Arrowhead Stadium every year! We also go on a family vacation in the summer every year. We've gone to Destin, FL, and on Caribbean cruises many times over the years.



# Dear Birthparents,

Thank you again for considering us. We can not imagine your situation and want you to know we have the utmost respect and empathy for you. You are making the bravest and most selfless decision a person can make, and we fully understand the gravity of that choice. We want you to know that we will only ever tell this child how amazing of a person you and your family were. We will tell this child from birth where they came from and honor the roots you gave them. This child will be cared for and cherished and loved unconditionally. Thank you again, and regardless of the choice you make, we wish you and your child peace and happiness.

*James & Mackenzie*

## LEGACY OF AN ADOPTED CHILD

*- Author Unknown*

Once there were two special women,  
who never knew each other.  
One you do not remember,  
the other you call mother.

Two very different lives  
shaped to make yours one.  
The first one like a shooting star,  
the other became your sun.

One gave to you the gift of life,  
one showed you how to live it.  
The first one gave a need for love,  
the second was there to give it.

One gave you roots of heritage,  
the other your good name.  
One gave you seeds of talent,  
the other gave you aim.

One gave to you emotions,  
the other calmed your fears.  
One saw your first endearing smile,  
the other dried your tears.

The first one had to give you up,  
it was all that she could do.  
The other prayed for her own child,  
and then was led to you.

I hope you see my precious child,  
that you're the product of,  
not just one but two hearts,  
with different kinds of love.

With all my love,  
Mom



*a gift of hope*   
adoptions

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