

*Steven & Lauren*



***Steven & Lauren***  
ADOPTION PROFILE BOOK

**Hello,**

**Ernest Hemmingway once said "We're all a little broken, that's how the light gets in." Our path has been both broken and beautiful. We have experienced profound blessings among hardship. We cannot promise a life free from challenges for any child (or children) in our home, but we can promise love, safety and support through both the challenges and the celebrations. Thank you for taking time to view our profile and learn more about our family.**

**While we don't know your name, you and your baby are in our prayers for health, safety, happiness and peace.**

**The best place to start seems to be the beginning...**



# Steven



High School graduation with Steve's paternal grandparents



Big smiles before bedtime



Steve celebrating his birthday with his younger brother

Steve grew up in a small town on the Illinois side of the St. Louis metro area with his parents who have been married for over 45 years and his younger brother. Before starting school he was looked after during the day by his paternal grandparents. He attended Catholic and public schools. He spent birthdays and holidays surrounded by loving family and friends.



Family pictures: Steve with his younger brother, Mom, Dad and his parents' dog



Christmas morning at home with family



Ready for a friend's wedding



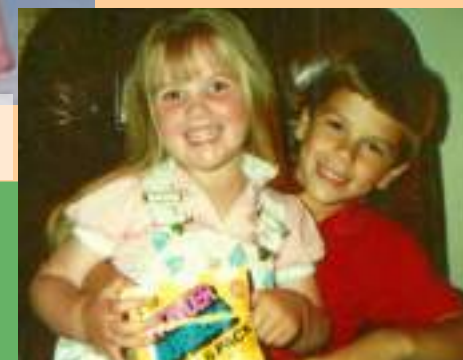
Beach pictures: Lauren with her older sister, Mom, Dad and older brother



Junior High Graduation



High School Graduation with Lauren's older brother and sister



Lauren celebrating her birthday with her brother



Lauren with her oldest nephew and her maternal grandmother



Ready to be the flower girl for her aunt's wedding

Lauren grew up in on the Illinois side of the St. Louis metro area as well, but in a town slightly larger than the one Steve called home. She was surrounded by her parents who have also been married for over 45 years, her two older siblings, a large extended family and many friends. Prior to starting school she attended day care during the day. She attended Catholic Schools and spent summers, birthdays and holidays with her loving and large extended family and friends.

We dream of giving our child a childhood similar to the ones we had, surrounded by loving family and friends and always knowing they belong

# Lauren





Watching a Notre Dame Football Game in Indianapolis with Steve's parents

We met in 2003 as friends, but lost touch shortly after that. Over the next 10 years, Steve started his Air Force career and Lauren graduated college and started her career in accounting and finance. We reconnected over social media and started a long-distance relationship. We dated for about 3 years, during which time we traveled to see each other and Steve eventually moved back to the area. We also spent time traveling together and growing in our relationship. Steve moved his career to the Air National Guard so he could stay close to home. We were both thrilled when our relationship escalated to engagement



On a cruise with friends

## Dating Life



On our wedding day at the "Courthouse Square" in our town

## Marriage



At our wedding reception with family and friends

We married in November 2016 surrounded by family and friends and continued building our life together. Shortly after marriage, we started trying to grow our family. We planned for welcoming children into our family by buying a bigger home with a large yard and a family sedan. Over the course of a few years, through many doctor visits and several medical procedures, we learned that we are unable to have biological children.



Dinner out while Lauren visited Steve



Spending time with Steve's family, including his young nephew



Visiting Mobile Bay with Lauren's family



We purchased a 4-bedroom home in the town Lauren grew up in near Lauren's parents' home. Lauren's brother and sister and their families live in the same town



After a long search, we found a slightly used sedan that had all the safety features we thought we needed.





Celebrating with our nieces and nephew on Steve's side



Spending time with our youngest nieces



Cuddles on the couch with nieces and nephew on Steve's side



Axe throwing with our oldest nephew on Lauren's side for his birthday



Lauren playing with our oldest niece on Steve's side



Fun day at the Zoo with our nephew and niece on Steve's side

While we worked through our infertility, we continued to appreciate the blessings we had, especially our nieces, nephews and Godchildren. We have three nephews and a niece on Lauren's side and three nieces and a nephew on Steve's side. Steve also has a Goddaughter and Godson who are children of his good friends. We love spending time with them whether it be a holiday, special outing or time spent at home. We envision activities like this with our own children one day.



Celebrating Steve's Goddaughter's birthday



Veteran's Day at school with our oldest nephew on Lauren's side



Spending time with our nephew and youngest niece on Steve's side



Celebrating high school graduation with our oldest niece on Lauren's side



Family outing with our niece and nephews on Lauren's side



Playing with our youngest nephew on Lauren's side



Fun Park including Go Karts with nephews on Lauren's side





Enjoying a Blues Game with our oldest nephew on Lauren's side



A Date day for the two of us at the Cardinal game



Cardinal Game with two of our nephews on Lauren's side



Max



Steve with Max & Piper



Us with Max



Lauren & Piper

In 2020, Lauren started working from home due to the pandemic. This allowed us to get a puppy since someone would be home to let him out during the day while he was potty training. In 2021 we knew Lauren would have to return to the office at least one day a week so, as one of our friends said, we got our dog a dog. Our dogs, Max and Piper, both have their own personalities and preferences, but they bring abundant joy and laughter to our lives. Bonus is that our older dog, Max, seems more relaxed when we are away now that his sister stays home with him.



Piper

As much as we may try, we can't stop time. We continued to do our best to enjoy and appreciate the life God had given us. Even though we still longed for a child, we recognized the opportunity to devote time to our nieces, nephews and Godchildren as well as travel more freely.



Dinner in North Carolina



Disney with some of Lauren's family



Playing with our oldest niece and nephew on Steve's side



Max

We thought it was so funny when he would put his whole head in this toy



Max & Piper



Us with Max

Trying to take a Christmas photo



# Our Home and Neighborhood



The front of our home

Our two-story home sits on a cul-de-sac in a family friendly neighborhood. We have four bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half bathrooms. We have a yard where we envision continuing to play fetch with the dogs, plus the addition of a playset with swings and a slide, games of tag and countless other memories.

We often walk our dogs through our neighborhood which has helped us get to know our neighbors. Young children live in the houses on either side of us. We often join them and their parents in the cul-de-sac for evening chats and playtime. We believe a child in our home would thoroughly enjoy these neighborhood adventures.



Appreciating a rainbow from our driveway



A sunset from our back patio

The inside of our home has a large open space which includes the living room, eating area and kitchen. This is where we spend most of our time, usually playing with the dogs. We have a shelf of toys and games our nieces and nephews know they can dive into whenever they visit. We look forward to the way our space will change as our child grows and develops their own tastes and interests.



Walking through the park close to our home

# Our Community



Our Community runs a "Santa Float" each year. We often catch it with Lauren's niece and nephews



Playing with our youngest niece at a local park



Enjoying the annual Fall Festival in the center of our town with two of our nephews



Playing at a local playground with our oldest niece on Steve's side

*Fun for all*



Walking through a park close to our home

Our community is close to St. Louis, but we find we usually have all we want locally. There are excellent schools, many parks, restaurants, festivals and children's activities to keep families busy and entertained. We enjoy taking extended walks through the local parks and playing in them when our nieces and nephews visit. We appreciate the annual "Santa Float" that travels throughout the town during the Christmas Season as well as the Summer and Fall Festivals in the center of town. Our community also offers many children's activities such as youth sports teams, regular library events, fun runs, live band concerts, community plays, church picnics and much more.



## A little more about Steve

Following High School, I earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University. After being unable to find a job near my parents' home after college, I decided to join the Air Force. I enlisted as an airman and a few years later commissioned as an officer. During my time in the military, I lived in Missouri, North Dakota and California along with other trainings, exercises and deployments.

After separating from active duty and moving back to the area, I joined the Air National Guard which allows me to avoid relocations. I work during the week as a military technician as well as supporting my unit roughly one weekend a month in my Air National Guard role. Even during "Guard Weekends", I am only gone during working hours so still have time for family in the evenings.

Outside of work, I enjoy being a dog dad, playing video games, spending time with Lauren and other family. In our home, I generally care for the outside of our home as well as large projects. I also contribute inside as needed with laundry, dishes, cooking and cleaning.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being an uncle and hope to expand that role into fatherhood.

### About Steve by Lauren:

Steve is full of love and life and is a fantastic example for children.

He can be counted on for playful activities, friendly competition, comforting hugs, warm protection and can be easily talked into an ice cream run. While I can't imagine loving him more than I do now, I think watching him as a father will make me love him on a different and deeper level as we work together to raise our child or children. He is my best friend and I am grateful every day for him.



Golfing with our oldest niece on Lauren's side



Cuddles with our oldest niece and nephew on Steve's side



Blues Fan Fest with our oldest nephew on Lauren's side



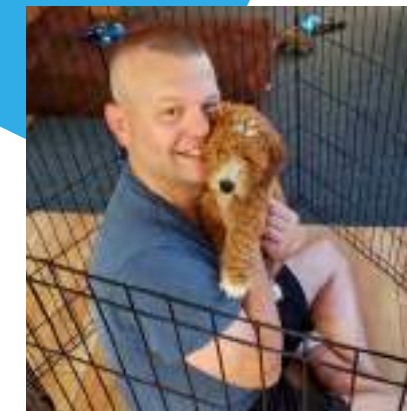
Big smiles from our oldest niece on Steve's side after she talked him into a huge ice cream treat (not to worry, she didn't finish it)



Relaxing on our patio with Max and our younger nephews on Lauren's side



Holding our nephew and one of our nieces on Steve's side



## Steve's Favorites

Food - Mexican

Color - Orange

Place to Visit - Parent's house

Activity -relaxing at home with Lauren and the dogs, mowing the lawn

Plant/Flower - Calla Lilies

Fruit - Peaches

Game - Euchre

Dessert - ice cream

Candy - Dots

Holiday - Thanksgiving

Ice Cream - Rocky Road

Sport to Watch - Hockey or Baseball

Sport to Play - Soccer

Sports Team - St. Louis Blues and Cardinals

Hobbies - Playing with the dogs, video games

Subject in School - Science

Children's Book - "The Poky Little Puppy"



*A little more about*  
**Lauren**

After High School, I attended Southeast Missouri State University and earned both a bachelor's in accounting and a Master of Business Administration. Then I started my career in Accounting & Finance with Emerson Electric. Over 10 years, I worked various roles at Emerson, but eventually left to avoid relocation. I now work for a Japanese owned company and work in the office 3 days a week and from home 2 days. I love the hybrid schedule and the flexibility that allows more time at home. While I enjoy my career, my focus has shifted to my family. I am willing to adjust my career as needed to ensure the needs of my family are met.

I walk the dogs almost daily and would love to add a stroller to those walks. Due to living close to my parents' house, my mom often joins the walks and would love to add the stroller too. I also spend roughly 4 evenings a month volunteering at church where I enjoy contributing to my community and spending time with my friends at church.

Our infertility struggle resulted in some health challenges for me that have now been resolved. Through that experience I feel I have learned to appreciate the blessings in life and be present in the moment.

I have loved being an aunt for over 20 years but have always hoped to join the ranks of motherhood. In our home I typically manage the inside chores and finances. I am a strange mix of messy and organized. Outside of the normal household activities, I enjoy cooking and baking, but don't enjoy the dishes. I especially enjoy making cookies around Christmas. I love to smile and laugh, hugs, especially from Steve or one of the kids in my life and continue to try to see the blessing in each day and look forward to the future of our family.



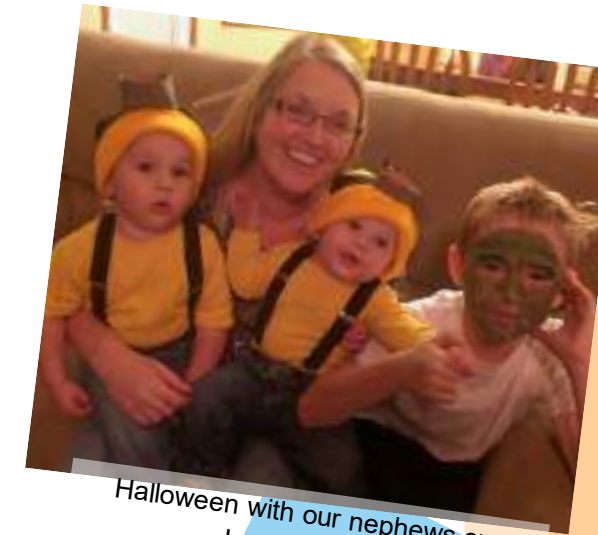
Ice Cream with two of our nieces on Steve's side



Disney World with our oldest nephew on Lauren's side



Very excited to visit the FRIENDS coffee shop in LA, even though I don't drink coffee



Halloween with our nephews on Lauren's side



Playing with Max and two of our nephews on Lauren's side

**About Lauren by Steve:**

Lauren is truly an angel sent from heaven. She's the sweetest most compassionate person I've ever met. She's the greatest aunt and dog mom that ever lived and I'm sure she would be an outstanding mother. Lauren is intelligent, a problem-solver, and really good at math...ready to teach and nurture a child. She puts family first and makes sure everyone knows they are loved...and she laughs at my jokes!



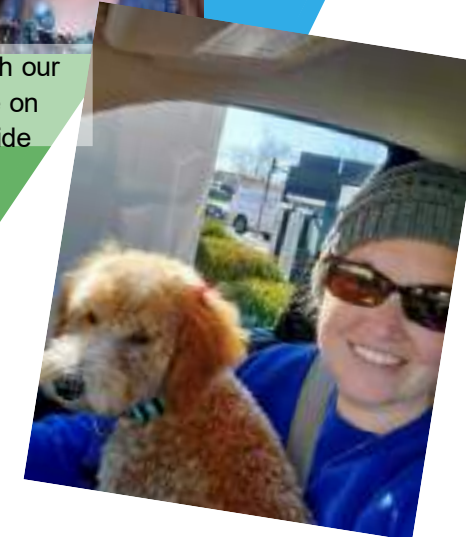
Couch cuddles with our nephew and youngest niece on Steve's side



Celebrating with Steve's Goddaughter on her birthday



Silly faces with our oldest niece on Lauren's side



**Lauren's Favorites**

- Food - Mexican
- Color - Green or Red (but not together because it looks like Christmas colors)
- Place to Visit - the mountains
- Activity - walking the dogs or playing a game with family
- Plant/Flower - Gerbera Daisy
- Fruit - Strawberries
- Game - Euchre or Dominos
- Dessert - Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Candy - Rolos
- Holiday - Thanksgiving
- Ice Cream - Cookies 'n Cream
- Sport to Watch - Baseball
- Sport to Play - Softball
- Sports Team - St. Louis Cardinals
- Hobbies - Reading, cooking, baking
- Subject in School - Math
- Children's Book - "The Monster at the end of this Book"



# Steve's Extended Family



Family Pictures a few years ago before our two youngest nieces were born



Celebrating our youngest niece's first birthday



Lauren's whole family on the beach a few years ago

# Lauren's Extended Family



Us with our niece and nephews on Lauren's side



Us with the three older kids on Steve's side



Cardinal Game with Steve's parents



Us with all four kids on Steve's side



Lauren with her sister-in-law, brother and sister



Lauren's Mom and brother at the family lake property

Steve's family consists of his parents, his brother and sister-in-law and their four children. They all live in the town Steve grew up in which is currently about an hour from our home. We visit with them about once a month often ensuring we have the opportunity for extended stays so we can spend plenty of time with them. They are all very excited about our potential adoption. Steve's sister-in-law is an only child but has always wanted to be an aunt. Since she is an only child, our nieces and nephews on that side don't have cousins. Our oldest niece on that side is especially excited at the prospect of her own cousins.

Lauren's family consists of her parents, older sister and her two children, and older brother, sister-in-law and their two sons. All of Lauren's family lives in the town where Steve and Lauren live. Lauren's extended family owns farmland and lake property where they have full access and further extended family functions are sometimes held. We attend community and church events with Lauren's family as well as birthday and holiday celebrations. Lauren's family is all supportive of our adoption plan. We have consulted with Lauren's cousin who is adopted in addition to sharing our hopes with many family members. All of these family members support us. The one family member outside of us most excited for our adoption is our oldest nephew. He often shares that he would very much like another cousin and that biology is not important.



# Our Church Community



The front of our church



Lauren caroling at the nursing home with our oldest niece and nephew on Lauren's side and church youth ministry



Our Church picnic with children's bounce houses

Our parish gathering for one of our missions



Bingo at our parish picnic - Steve enjoys playing a couple rounds each year



Kids games at our church picnic



Lauren with Steve's mom and our oldest niece on Steve's side at the church picnic of the church Steve's family attends

We are active in our Catholic Church. It is the same church Lauren grew up in. We also occasionally visit the church where Steve grew up. Both churches are very family friendly. Over the last several years, the priests at our local church have been missionaries from Nigeria and we have appreciated learning their perspective on our Christian faith.

As we struggled with infertility, our faith became even more important to us. While we worked to embrace our reality, we still had hope that God had a plan for us and our family. In the past, we have been involved with youth ministry, adult faith, the church picnic, youth retreats, adult retreats, parish administration boards and additional volunteering.

We typically attend weekly services, often catching family and friends at those services. We are very excited to include our child in our weekly attendance and provide them with a Christian foundation.

While we embrace our Catholic faith, we also recognize the need for each individual to build their own faith and relationship with Jesus. We would welcome questions from our child and provide the Catholic Church teaching as well as encourage healthy debate on Christian teachings and their application in the world. Finally, our love and support for a child is not dependent on their continued belief or participation in any faith.







Cardinals and Blues Games



Date night Cooking Class



Disney with Lauren's Family



Watching the Blue Angels with Lauren's Family (Steve in the middle giving our oldest nephew a better view)

We have continued to go on adventures either the two of us or with the dogs. Our activities are generally low key and would be very welcoming for a child. We will occasionally need a date night. During those times, we will ensure that a family member is available to care for our child in our absence. We have confirmed that our parents, siblings, nieces and nephews are very excited to spoil another child and would enjoy one on one time with them.

# Adventures



Hiking on vacation in Branson



Night at the Symphony



Date night at the Journey Concert



Posing in North Carolina



Walking with the dogs in Branson



Having fun at the Superman Statue





Lauren playing in the yard with 2-month-old Max



Steve relaxing with the dogs



Movie night with our oldest niece and nephew on Lauren's side



Family Christmas Pictures



Steve playing with Max



Piper and Max after playing in the yard



Lauren relaxing with the dogs

## Love at Home

While we enjoy our adventures and travels, we also enjoy our time at home. We both work Monday through Friday roughly 8am - 5pm. If we have a child, we will likely have to utilize a childcare center while we are working. Lauren's sister is currently the director at a local center which is where we would send our child. This will ensure our child will still have a loving and close relative with them while we are working. Despite this security, we will stagger our work schedules and utilize the flexibility in Lauren's work schedule to ensure our child spends as little time as possible at a childcare center.

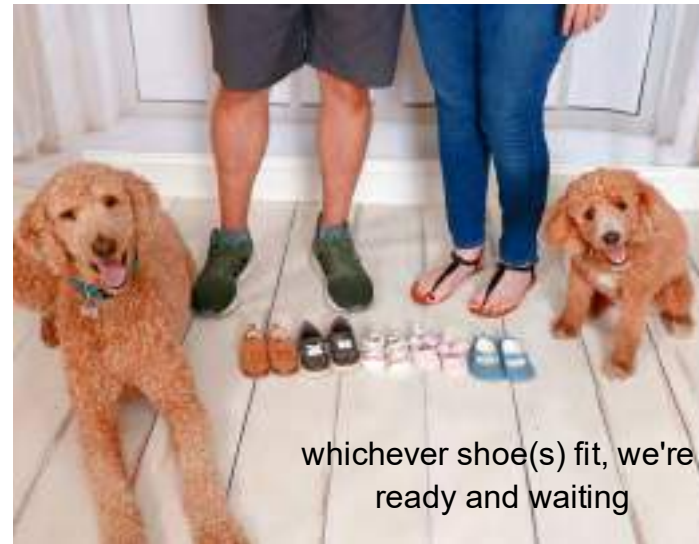
As we get ready for our day, Lauren often walks the dogs or Steve plays with them in the yard. After work, we make dinner, eat together and then work on dishes. Our remaining time is currently spent on watching a show together, playing with the dogs, other housework, working on our own projects or volunteering in our community.

On our weekends, we take our extended walk with the dogs, enjoy movie nights at home, spend time with friends and family or attend church functions. Our time at home is generally laid back and focused on relaxation and family fun. We feel we have the space in our hearts, our home and our lives to love and cherish a child.



We hope this book has helped you learn more about our family. We have dreamed of having a child in our loving home. We have had to grieve our infertility, but that experience has helped us communicate better and grow stronger in our marriage. We are very excited at the possibility of adopting and have so much love to share for a child as we expand our family. Please always know we will unconditionally love and cherish your child and we will make sure that he/she will be proud to be adopted. We are open to a single child or multiples of various races and backgrounds. We both enjoy and appreciate having siblings, but our desire to adopt more than once will likely depend on how easy this first time is. We welcome many levels of openness in adoption to your comfort level. Regardless of your comfort level, we will ensure that you are always spoken of in a loving and positive light. Thank you again for taking the time to view our profile, we hope to meet you soon. No matter your decision, we wish you all the best for yours and your baby's future.

Warmest Regards,  
Steve and Lauren







Find us on Social Media:

Facebook [@steve.and.lauren.waiting.to.adopt](#)

Instagram  
[steve\\_and\\_lauren\\_hope\\_to\\_adopt](#)

or at the QR codes:

