

# LAUREN & JASON



## Our Message to You

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read more about our family. We hope that you will see we are a caring and committed couple who are hoping to share our love with a child. We recognize this is not an easy decision and so we must honor you and your choices regarding adoption. We are open to talking about what an openness plan would look like for you. We admire your courage and strength and would welcome the opportunity to tell you more about us.

All our best, Lauren and Jason

# About Us

In March of 2012, we met for our first date. It was a true blind date and we were set up by... Jason's ex-girlfriend, whom Lauren met at a women's networking event. Within months we were a couple and over the next few years we built a solid relationship.

On Christmas Day, 2015, we got engaged in front of the restaurant where we had our first date. Excited to move forward, we had a beautiful October wedding the following year, surrounded by family and friends. In 2017, we bought our first home together, one we still live in.

We were eager to start our family after we got married and although we pursued many avenues, we were not able to have our own children. After spending time reflecting, we ultimately decided that being parents was the most important thing to us and that we didn't need to be biologically related to our child to share in life's most precious experience – to be someone's Mom and Dad.

## Lauren Enjoys:

- Reading (especially mysteries, thrillers and romance books)
- Pilates
- Decorating our house
- Cooking
- Shopping at local boutiques, décor stores and bookstores
- Watching TV (HomeTown, The Crown, Bridgerton, Call the Midwife, baking shows)
- All things "Peanuts"

## Jason Enjoys:

- Watching TV (supernatural shows, documentaries, historical shows, movies on Netflix)
- Working out
- Watching college football (especially the West Virginia Mountaineers)
- Playing video games
- Hunting and spending time with his Dad at their family cabin in West Virginia
- Going to the shooting range



The dancing flamingos.



Rafting in Tennessee.



Enjoying Dollywood.



Our families at our wedding.



Lauren holding her best friend's daughter.



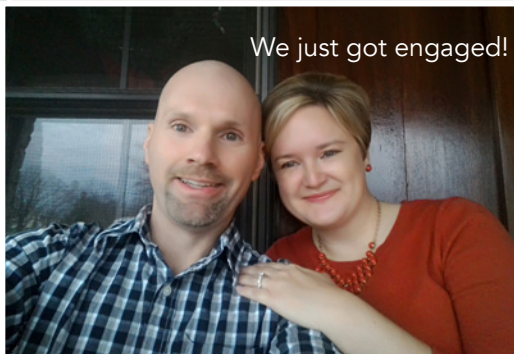
Lauren at the Charles Schultz Museum in California.

# Our Family

We hope to teach our child to be self-sufficient, an independent thinker, to have a good work ethic, be a caring and compassionate person and passionate about their own interests. We believe our own experiences and life journey will give our child an opportunity to see the world through a broader lens. We know parenting won't be easy and we recognize that at times we may fail, but we'll consider ourselves successful if at the end of the day our child feels loved, cared for and happy.

As our child grows, we look forward to signing them up for sport's team, art classes or science camps – whatever they are most interested in. We will also spend time together as a family exploring our zoo, library, park or a community event like an outdoor movie night. We will also establish holiday traditions that we hope are meaningful – for instance each of us received a holiday ornament to hang on the tree from our grandparents/parents and we want to do the same for our child. We will also spend time with each side of the family during the holidays. Each visit with our parents gives us an opportunity to catch up and we look forward to spending time together, usually over a great meal.

We are surrounded by caring friends and family who would be excited to welcome our child into their lives. Our child would be the only grandchild on both sides of the family, so we can't imagine there would be a child more loved since he or she will have an aunt and four grandparents who love them exclusively. We will honor your place in our child's life and will talk openly about his or her adoption both in and with our families. As they grow, we will add to the conversation at an age-appropriate level and will share as much as we can or that you want us to.



We just got engaged!



Our Halloween goody table.



Hiking in Hocking Hills, Ohio.

## About Jason

Written by Lauren

Jason is one of the most loyal, kind, friendliest and hard-working men I know. We met when we were in our mid-thirties so we both had a lot of life experience. I think that's why we work so well together – we had our own established lives, beliefs and perspectives and we both bring our ideas to the table when it comes to making decisions. We don't always see eye to eye, but we have enough respect for one another to talk things out and to compromise when and where we can.

Jason grew up in a small town in West Virginia alongside his older sister, Missi. He grew up boating, fishing and hunting with his Dad, being a Cub Scout, helping his Dad around the house and spending time with friends. I know he is looking forward to teaching our child how to enjoy the outdoors, how to fix things and just spending time creating memories like he had with his family.

After high school Jason worked full time while putting himself through college. He is currently a pre-construction engineer at a global logistics firm, a job he enjoys.

Jason has a good sense of humor and he is also the support I need when things don't go right in our lives. His strength and compassion helped carry me forward when my brother passed away suddenly in 2020. I know I can count on him when I need him and I know he would do anything for our family.

## About Lauren

Written by Jason

Lauren is my favorite wife and I tell her that all the time! All joking aside, she is the sweetest, most thoughtful, caring and considerate woman I have ever met. She is also patient, understanding and very organized. She has a knack for interior design and has made some great choices to decorate our home.

When Lauren and her younger brother, Karl, were growing up, her family enjoyed

going to many National Parks and other family favorite vacation spots, including a family cabin in West Virginia. I know she would like to share some similar travel experiences with our child. Lauren was on the swim team growing up and as a young adult she was a lifeguard at the community pool. She also coached youth swimming at a local YMCA for five years. She was the neighborhood babysitter for multiple families for many years in her neighborhood and she has a lot of experience around children.

Lauren is the fifth person in her family to attend The Ohio State University, something I know she and her family are very proud of. Lauren loves to read and she has often mentioned she would love to read with our child and help them develop their creativity and expand their imagination.

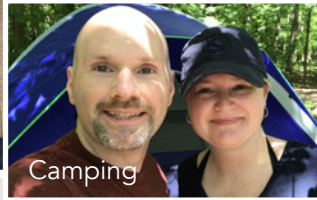
Lauren has worked at the same non-profit organization for more than 17 years and she is currently their director of community outreach, a job and a mission she loves.



Christmas 2022.



Celebrating our first anniversary.



Camping



Cutting our own tree.

## Our Life Together

Although each of us has our own passions and interests, there are a lot of things we enjoy doing as a couple. We go out to eat a few times a month, always looking for a locally owned restaurant to support. We enjoy going out to breakfast or for a nice dinner at an Italian restaurant or a steakhouse.

We also try to check out local events or places in or around our community or state. We've gone to wine-tastings, gone antique-shopping, spent time hiking, enjoyed local breweries, attended food-tastings at local grocery stores, gone to our local zoo, sporting events and camped locally. We enjoy going on vacation and make it a point to spend time away enjoying a new place or experience together each year. The first trip we went on was a cruise to the Bahamas and since then we have traveled to quite a few places including Las Vegas, Gatlinburg, Asheville, Alabama, Florida, Hocking Hills and more. We always try to see or experience something unique on our trips – for instance, we have kayaked in the middle of the ocean, visited the world's largest Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum, river-rafted and seen Dancing Flamingos (trust us – they don't really dance!).

Although we enjoy all of these experiences, we also value time spent at home. Lately, we have been catching up on our favorite shows, The Mandalorian and Stranger Things. Lauren enjoys cooking and we occasionally find time in the kitchen together to make a meal.



Our home.



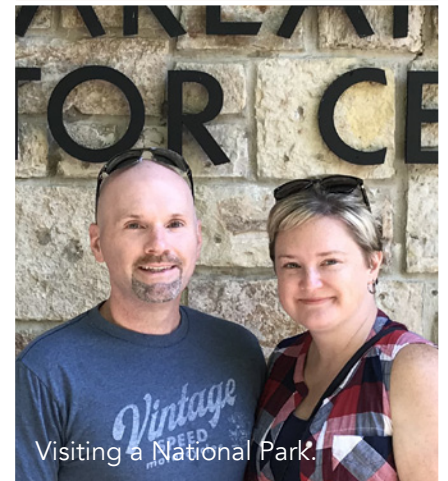
Boating in the Great Lakes.

## Our Home and Neighborhood

Our home is located in a small town just outside a larger city. Our home was built in the 1970's and it has multiple levels. We have three bedrooms upstairs and a large office just off our family room which we use when we work from home. Since 2017, we have updated almost every room in the house, as well as our yard. We work together to keep it maintained and we share household duties. We have a large front yard which would be perfect for throwing a ball or Frisbee or playing a game and a deck in the back yard which overlooks a small wooded area.

We love our neighborhood which is very peaceful with large lots, lots of mature trees and great streets to walk on. We enjoy seeing the holiday decorating that our neighbors do and especially love our Trick or Treat night. We set up a table with decorations, candy and other treats for kids to enjoy.

After a short drive you can get to restaurants, shops, local parks, libraries, health care facilities and more. The schools in our area are exceeding many standards and they serve a diverse population, which would allow our child to learn and grow in many ways.



Visiting a National Park.

## With Gratitude

We respect your decisions regarding your child and we hope that if we get a chance to be parents that we can build a lasting and strong relationship with their birthparents. We will keep you in our thoughts as you consider your next steps.