

Luke, Katie & Owen



Dear expectant parents,

We can't begin to understand your situation or the magnitude of the decision you are making. We want you to know that you are brave, caring and full of love. While we cannot put ourselves in your shoes, what we will do is attempt to offer you as much comfort as we can. We want to reassure you that you are not alone. We will love your child unconditionally and therefore love you just as much. We want to comfort you by making sure that we will do everything we possibly can for your child in making sure they are able to dream endlessly, their wildest dreams. We would love to have an open adoption with you and are fully open and committed to working with you on what works best for everyone. We have an open adoption with Owen's birth family and it is beneficial for all of us.

We have always known that we have so much love to give and will do nothing but provide all the love and support your child will need. We will never be able to know the difficult decision you have faced but please know that we will do all we can to ensure your child knows their story and raise them in such a manner that they will have the utmost respect, just as we do, for you and your decision. Most importantly, please know your child will be showered with endless love and support by not only us, but all of our family and friends as well.

*With love,
Katie and Luke*

A Note to Our Child

It is surreal to be writing this to you. First we need to say, we love you. Above everything else, we will always love you. Next, you need to understand how much your birth parents love you. Their decision to place you with our family was nothing short of pure love and care for you; we will be forever grateful to them for bringing you to us.

We will do everything in our power to make sure you have everything you need in this life. You will have not two, but three sets of grandparents, aunts and uncles and so many other people in your life that cannot wait to meet you. You will have a big brother who is very excited to have a sibling in the house to share his fun-times and toys with. We have been preparing for you to come into our lives for a long time and we are ready and so excited! We want you to dream big and always shoot for the moon. We know that things won't always be easy, but we will face these times together as a family. We will always be here for you. We will strive to develop you, but will never hope that you grow up too fast. We will cherish every day with you because nothing in this life will make us happier than you. We can't wait to include you on all of our adventures and especially our baseball stadium tour! We can't describe to you just how excited we are that you are joining our journey and know there is nothing we won't do for you.

Meet Us

We love new experiences which is why we enjoy traveling. Whether it is traveling in the United States or internationally we are always looking for something new. We spend a lot of time at Lake Erie as Luke's family has been going there since his mother was a child. One of our favorite adventures however, is our baseball trips. We are on a mission to visit all 30 Major League Baseball stadiums. In addition to traveling we love spending time outside with the dogs.

Our Story

We became engaged in Chicago in 2007 and were married exactly two years later in 2009. We spent a few years enjoying our lives with each other before starting to plan a family. Having always discussed adoption as an option for expanding our family we first tried to have a biological child. After struggling with infertility for a few years we decided to expand our family through adoption. Owen was born and adopted in 2017; we are excited about adding another child to our family.

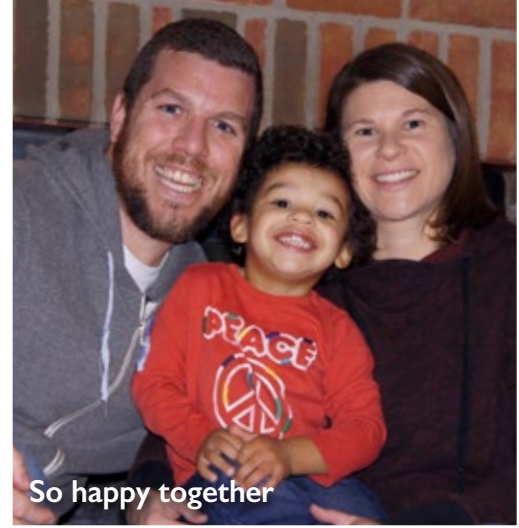
Say Hello to Owen

Owen is an amazing child and has brought nothing but pure joy to our

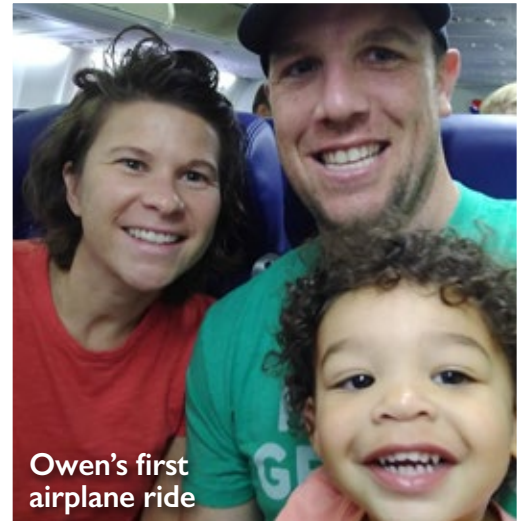
lives. He is a fun-loving, compassionate and energetic boy who is incredible. The first thing Owen says when he sees you is "Hi, how's your day?" We have really enjoyed watching Owen grow into using his imagination, especially when it involves him taking care of his babies or animals. He is always checking-in with his toys to make sure they are ok, asking them if they have a boo boo. Owen loves books and being read to and has now started to want to 'read' himself, telling his version of the story. Owen loves spending time outside which we do often as a family. He thoroughly enjoys seeing all his friends and plays wonderfully with them. After leaving he talks about them repeatedly retelling all of the things that they had done together. When we ask Owen if he wants to be a big brother he enthusiastically, always says, "YES!" with a giant smile on his face. He lights up every time we talk about a "baby brother" or "baby sister."

On Parenting

Being parents has changed our lives. We enjoy doing things as a family and look forward to the day when we have another child to involve in our fun. When it comes to our parenting style, we allow Owen to explore his world (as



So happy together



Owen's first airplane ride



Traveling in Iceland



Katie and Owen baking

long as he is being safe)! We also set boundaries which can be challenging at times for both us and Owen. We expose Owen to different places and experiences knowing that this will allow him to better understand the world as he grows. We want Owen to have knowledge and appreciation for different places, people and cultures as these are important values to us. We are teaching Owen about respect and love because those are foundations of our lives. All of these things are things that we want to experience with and teach your child as well.

About Katie

As described by Luke

Katie is so wonderful and I am not just saying that because she is my wife. Everyone that meets Katie gushes about how great she is and it makes me feel so awesome because I know that I am extremely lucky to be her husband. Katie is always there for people when they need someone. She is also strong and independent; this is my favorite attribute of Katie's. She has a great sense of humor and we both love to joke with each other. Katie loves trying new things and I am happy to be able to be right there with her in those endeavors. Watching Katie become a mother has been remarkable. While I always knew

Katie at a Glance

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management.

Career: Data Analyst.

Views on Parenting: Encourage Empowerment. Flexibility. Sense of Humor.

Favorites:

Childhood Book: Oh, The Places You'll Go.

Candy: Swedish Fish.

Childhood Movie: Winnie the Pooh and Howard the Duck.

Music: Any and all types.

Hobbies: DIY Projects and running.

Luke at a Glance

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Sport Management. Master's Degree in Sustainable Business and Communities.

Career: Facilities and Events Supervisor.

Views on Parenting: Support growth and exploration. Promote learning. Encourage individuality.

Favorites:

Childhood Book: The Velveteen Rabbit and All Berenstain Bears.

Candy: Any and all, especially chocolate.

Childhood Movie: Peter Pan (Disney Version).

Music: Alternative, but listen to it all.

Hobbies: DIY projects, reading, home improvements and biking.

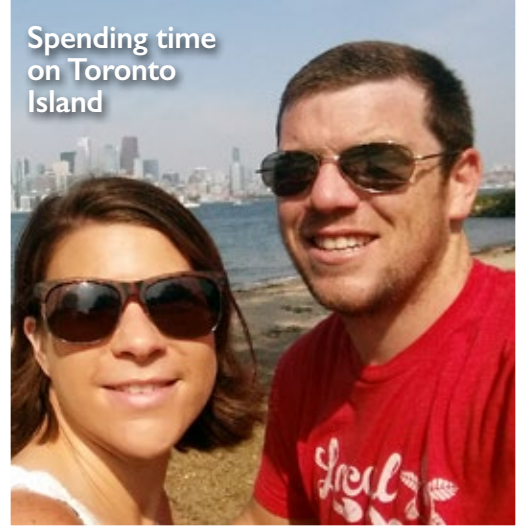
Katie would make a great mother, I never knew just how great! From her and Owen's little "inside jokes" to her ability to know just what he needs when he doesn't quite know how to tell us, she leaves me totally awestruck. Katie is an amazing woman but an even more amazing mom who brings out the best in our family.

About Luke

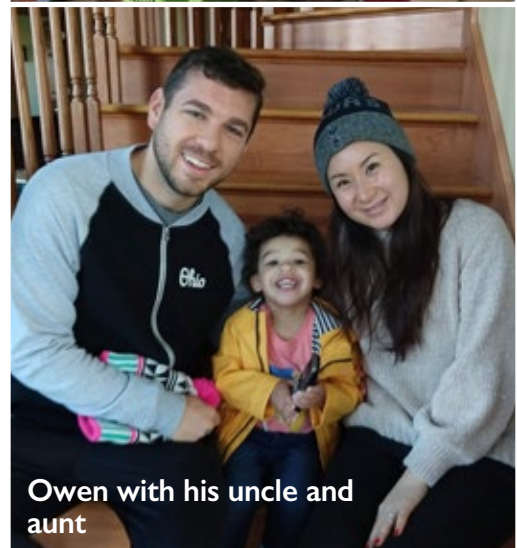
As described by Katie

Luke is a fun loving, enthusiastic guy who is not only my husband and best friend, but an amazing father to Owen. There isn't anything that I don't like doing with him, whether it's a lazy night at home, doing DIY projects around the house or being out and about. He makes the good times great and has been a solid support system in my life. It has been an amazing journey to watch Luke become a father, as it has exemplified so many great qualities. He lights up every time he sees Owen and sometimes, I can't help but catch myself just watching the two of them interacting. It was amazing how quickly he adapted to becoming a dad and since has never backed down. He is a big kid at heart who has so much love to give, skills to teach and guidance to share.

Spending time on Toronto Island



Luke and Owen baking



Owen with his uncle and aunt



Enjoying the Ice Bar in Copenhagen Denmark

Traveling Highlight Reel

Iceland

Norway

Sweden

Denmark

South Korea

Hawaii

14 out of 30 Major League Baseball Stadiums

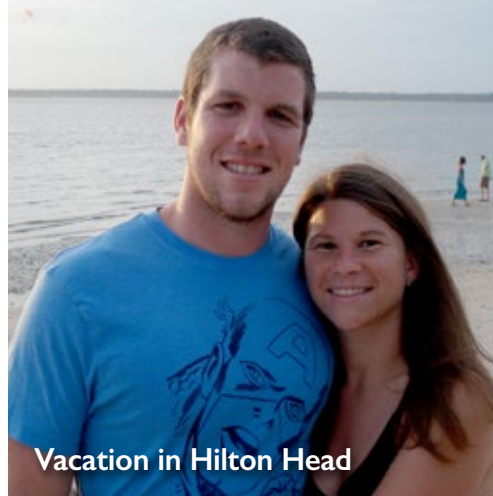
About Our Family and Community

We have a new house that we built a couple years ago on Luke's family's land. We have nearly 4 acres of land where our dogs; a 10 year old black lab mix named Evie and a 4 year old Border Collie mix named Stella, love to explore together. They love being dog sisters. They interact so wonderfully with Owen and he loves playing with them as well.

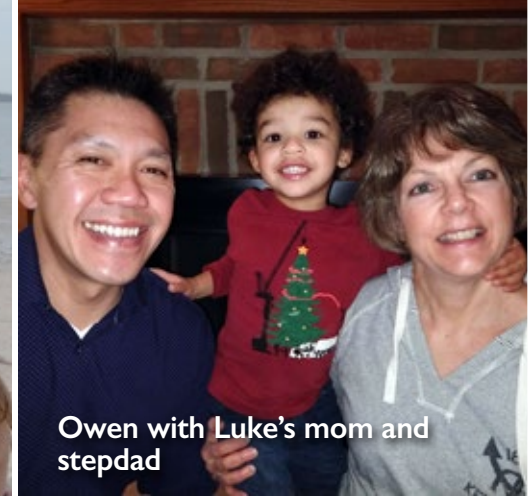
Because our house is on family land we live next to Luke's mother and stepfather. The rest of our family lives very close with both Katie's parents less than a mile down the road and Luke's father and stepmother living about 25 minutes away. We enjoy spending time with our families and put family above everything else in life. Hardly a week goes by that we aren't spending at least one day with our family.

Living in the country brings a peaceful and happy life, where we are able to enjoy the simpler things, while also being close to many metro parks, museums and activities that the city has to offer. We find pleasure in spending time outside at our home tending to the garden and our landscaping. We also enjoy playing various sports such as golf, softball, and soccer amongst others. We would love to have the opportunity to share our love of the outdoors and sports with your child.

*With love and gratitude,
Katie and Luke*



Vacation in Hilton Head



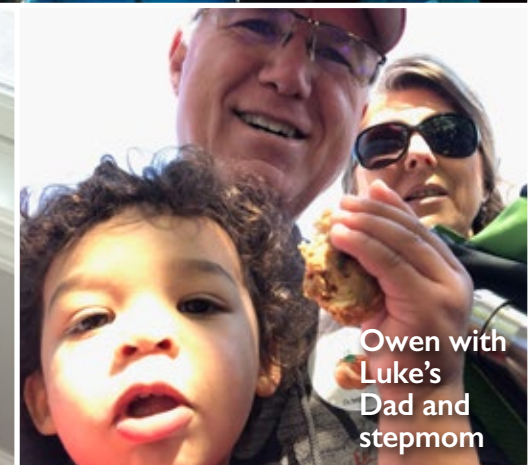
Owen with Luke's mom and stepdad



Vacation in Korea with Luke's brother and his wife



Evie and Stella



Owen with Luke's Dad and stepmom



Owen with Katie's parents