This introduction is important for you and us. You see, we desire to give the best life to your child. Our hope is to honor you and your selfless choice by providing your child with unlimited opportunities and love. It is our firm belief that all children are God’s children. We know God is faithful and will bless us with the privilege to provide a safe, stable, Christ-centered home for one of His children. Your child’s story is rooted in love, YOUR love. With such a beautiful start, this little one is sure to have an epic life!

So, firstly, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for considering an adoption plan. We can only imagine the challenges you are facing. We don't pretend to know how you feel, but from personal experience, we know that beauty comes out of the ashes. We want you to know that all your feelings are valid. Your choice to give life to your baby is admirable, and we have all the respect and love for you. We hope that you will be a continued positive impact on this child’s entire life.

We are eager to know your story. We pray you have a loving support system and are surrounded by encouragement. It’s hard to trust the bigger picture when you’re in the thick of it. We know you desire a good life for your baby, or you wouldn’t be on this journey. Our hearts’ desire is the same as yours, to provide this little one a life full of unconditional and self-sacrificing love. You are bravely showing an example of this through your consideration of adoption.

With admiration and love,

Shauna + Eric
Eric and I met on the first day of my first year at college. After our initial meeting, Eric told his roommate, “I'm going to marry that girl.”

After dating for three years, we went to a nice steakhouse and then to a local waterfall, where Eric pulled the ring out of a Ziploc baggie and proposed. My first question was, “Did you ask my daddy?” Of course, he had, so I said, “YES!”

On our wedding day, we were surrounded by love. We had chosen a beautiful outdoor venue in late June, conveniently located between both our hometowns. Unfortunately, an 8-inch rain flooded it, and that beautiful place now had a muddy river running through it. Our family rallied and moved everything under the covered patio of the reception hall. We have heard rain is good luck and embrace this quote: “If you want the rainbow, you have to deal with the rain.”

Our marriage has grown and matured over the years. We have truly built a wonderful life together. We know each other's strengths, and we lean into those. We are comfortable in the best of ways. We have found peace, and in peace, there is Joy.
We are eager to add to our life and family. Like many couples, we have waited to have children for various reasons through our different seasons of life. Both of us have always wanted a family and children together, but it has yet to happen for us.

We have faced many fertility issues. Through that journey, we came to the next hurdle in that complicated process. In that moment, Eric led our household to prayer into the exploration of other options. We both instantly had an unexplainable peace about adoption and a genuine excitement about growing our family in this incredible way. We strongly believe God already knows this child and this is all in His perfect timing.

We are ready for the challenge and the rollercoaster of a process. In our experiences, the lowest of times have been the biggest draw straight into the arms of the Father, and we are certain this will be no exception. The growth, heartache, trials, and patience will be met with pure jubilation. Our God is faithful and knows our hearts. We believe in His power and earnestly pray for children through this journey.

Blessed with a home and beautiful life, we simply desire to share those blessings with children. As parents, we will provide love, security, and stability.
Shauna is among the best blessings in my life. She is loyal, hardworking, compassionate, kind, and generous—she loves Jesus and family. She loves a challenge and will never back down from one. I adore how she can be in work clothes helping on the farm one minute and dressed in designer clothes going to town the next. She has high expectations of success, yet can always laugh at herself. I have to giggle because she doesn't remember to close cabinet doors very well, and she doesn't talk in the morning until she has had her coffee. I am blessed to have her as mine, and I look forward to a lifetime together.

Shauna is a natural with children. She is the oldest of three siblings, with ten years between her and her next oldest sibling. She was instrumental in helping raise them. We have several children in our lives: nieces, cousins, friends, and employee's children, who all like to spend time with her. I love watching how she naturally interacts with them, how she displays patience and understanding, and how she can be fun and playful while at the same time making sure they mind. She gets on their level, gives them attention and eye contact, and makes them feel valued and important. I know she will be a great mom and challenge me to be the best dad. I cannot wait to raise a family with her.

Meet Shauna
Eric is a protector, safety first, detailed, responsible, diligent and intelligent person. He can be a bit of a perfectionist, yet he can also be the biggest goofball—thriving in the world of hospitality, small moments, and dad jokes. I am thankful that I can trust him, that he plans trips and projects, that he remembers details so I can fact check myself on stories and experiences, and that I never have to check the weather; he will always tell me. He is a source of consistency for myself and others, and is often sought after for sound advice.

Honestly, what drew me to him first, was that he loved me instantly, in the way I needed to be loved—real life, safe place, comfortable in my skin way. I was so guarded, and with him, I felt like I could breathe because he loved me unconditionally. We shared a lot of common ground, both from rural backgrounds and family-centered, a love for sports and outdoors, and the desire to enjoy travel and music.

Innately, Eric tries to improve things and lives his life to a very high standard; yet, he can cut loose and be boyish, going above and beyond to have a home filled with fun and laughter.

His interactions with children are all about fun and making memories. He’s very good at getting children laughing and being their true, authentic selves. It’s so fun to see children “come to life” in his presence. When around children, the child in him comes alive. Children love him, and he will be an amazing dad.
Our home is a modern farmhouse inspired by the homes in the hill country of Texas. It has an expansive, wrap-around porch, hanging ferns, a large iron arched door, and rocking chairs; all things a southern porch should have. We are fortunate enough to live on 200-plus acres with a gate that opens to a long, fence-lined driveway leading to our home. It’s perfectly situated to see the sunrises from the front porch and the sunsets from the back porch. Our backyard is a private oasis with a pool, patio/entertaining area, and a two-acre lake stocked with fish. We take pedal boats and kayaks out on the lake and shoot our fireworks over it. Inside we have an open concept with four bedrooms and three baths. It has rough-sawn beams and white shaker cabinets. We feel incredibly blessed to live in such a fantastic home on such breathtaking property.

Our town is small and charming. The area is full of people who support small business, from eateries to coffee shops to boutiques. Our community is also highly supportive of the school system; many people here go to the same school their parents and grandparents attended. Also, for being such a small town, there is diversity.

There are rolling hills here, and we enjoy all four seasons. Every drive to every place is beautiful. We are the county seat, meaning we have a historic, beautiful courthouse surrounded by our downtown square; nearly every building is renovated and has a small business or housing located inside. Our offices are downtown, and nearby is a waterfall and ducks that cross the road daily. People often stop there to feed the fish. There are several other parks and a golf course nearby. The Saturday morning farmers market is great and it’s supported by local growers and small businesses.
Around Here We:

1. Never let a joke die—they are as funny in retelling
2. Seek peace (Peace is where joy is found)
3. Speak our minds
4. Show respect to others
5. Welcome ALL in our home with love and care
6. Value the Three Fs: Family, Friends, and Food
7. Play roses and thorns at dinner (best and worst part of your day)
8. Play music AND dance—when it feels too hard, just dance a little
9. Believe everyone is allowed a bad day
10. Treat the animals as our family
We are both from large families and are all very close. In fact, it's hard to say where immediate family ends and extended family begins. Our cousins are more like siblings and our aunts and uncles are like second sets of parents. The majority of our close-knit family lives nearby, and we see them monthly or more.

To say we are close is an understatement. Our families spend time with one another; it's not unusual for my brother to be at our house when we are having a get-together with Eric's parents or for my sister to be with us when we have our nieces.
Family traditions are highly important, so we do our best to attend every church and family gathering. Christmas is celebrated with family, food and fun. We open gifts, but the best part is the memories made. We make it a special point to be present whether we are playing games, putting a puzzle together (an annual winter family project), or reading *The Night Before Christmas*. We love all the movies from binging on Hallmark Channel or our favorite holiday movies: *Christmas Story, Christmas Vacation, Polar Express, Miracle on 34th Street, It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Elf*. We enjoy evenings in front of the fire snacking on treats given by neighbors and friends, cookie and candy making, holiday parties, and advent traditions. Above all of this, our absolute favorite is candlelight service on Christmas Eve followed by punch and cookies and opening one Christmas Eve gift which is always matching pajamas. We go to bed in our new pajamas and full bellies in anticipation of Christmas morning.

And yet, as wonderful as all the holidays are, Thanksgiving is our favorite holiday because it is filled with family, friends, food, football and fun. We are both from families filled with great cooks and bakers. Additionally, our families are gifted in hospitality, and all are welcome. It's important to us that everyone we know has a place to go for Thanksgiving. No rules; eat dessert first!
“S000000 Fun!” – Carly, 10 years old

“Generous, Fun, and Positive!” – Claire, 13 years old

“Eric and Shauna have been instrumental in the well-being, financially and emotionally, of younger siblings, taking care of them as their own.” – Belinda

“Their home is a reflection of them, full of fun, carefree comfort and a lot of love... where all are welcomed and feel extra special while there.” – Kaelyn

“They love and are committed to their families, and this will carry over to a loving, nurturing environment for their children.” – Taylor

“Their hearts’ desire is to love and share their blessings with others.” – Ted

“Eric and Shauna are some of the most genuine and caring people you will ever meet.” – Mariah

“Eric & Shauna are compassionate, loving, loyal, giving, and authentic; these exceptional folks are salt of the earth.” – Bryan

“You will never find another couple more genuinely kindhearted, compassionate, generous, and gracious. I am blessed and honored to have them in my life.” – Amanda
I was raised on a farm and have lived in cities. I have experienced firsthand what it is like to depend on the farm for a living and that life taught me many lessons and who I am today. It taught me responsibility, and grit. I was afforded athletic opportunities that gave me experiences I could not even dream of, which ultimately gave me the opportunities my parents desired for me. My daddy always said, “You must go to school, my hope for you is that you know the value of labor, but that you never have to labor... like me.” And I get emotional thinking of this. I GET to labor; I do not have to labor. You see, we live on a beautiful farm where if something breaks, it’s not life-altering; if we need extra help, we hire it; where we don’t have to make tough decisions, we simply get both options. I say all this to say, we offer the perfect balance. Our children will get all the wonderful parts of living on a farm, the experience, the valuable lessons, the amazing views, the appreciation of nature and animals; and yet, they will not experience the hardships of depending on the farm for a living. It is the best of both worlds: rural day-to-day coupled with vacations, culture, travel, and exposure to other ways of life.
Eric was raised in a rural, small-town and had frequent visits to his uncle’s farm. He has had the idyllic idea of a farm and literally made that dream a reality. Our farm is a place where people ask to come to stay for the experience. It’s fun—a fantasy of sorts. There is space here, to breathe and just be. Having this place to come home to is an indescribable blessing. Once the gate opens, your heart rate lowers, time slows and you're instantly more in tune with the present moment. We love sharing this with others and are over the moon ecstatic to share this with our children. Our home is a place where all are welcomed and the more the merrier. Love knows no limit and our farm is the closest physical thing to love I have ever experienced.
The Little Things

Eric

- Color: Hunter Green
- Sports Team: Dallas Cowboys
- Holiday: Thanksgiving
- Vacation spot: Bermuda
- Favorite Drink: Cherry Limeade
- Food: Lasagna
- Dessert: Chocolate Eclair
- TV: Home Improvement, King of Queens & Frasier
- Movie: Ladder 49 & Only the Brave
- Activities: Sports, Farming, Hunting & Fishing

Shauna

- Colors: Pink, Cream, or Gray
- Sports Team: St Louis Cardinals
- Holiday: Thanksgiving
- Vacation spot: Hawaii
- Favorite Drink: Diet Dr Pepper
- Food: Pot Roast
- Dessert: Strawberry Cake (lots of icing)
- TV: Andy Griffith
- Movie: Fox and the Hound
- Activities: Anything with water
Our top three goals are that our children will have a personal relationship with Jesus, be able to think for themselves with confidence and to set them up for a uniquely personal, successful future. We believe in education and know the more opportunities an individual is exposed to, the better!
This is not goodbye but a simple pause in this epic story. Before you go, we promise to honor you and your love for this child. We promise to never take for granted that God has entrusted us to provide for and be a guidepost for them. We promise to create a safe environment for curiosity, joy, and love, with God at the center. Our desire is to be a home-base, a place where our child knows that unconditional love abounds. We promise to put their needs before our own and selflessly love them, just as you have shown by considering an adoption plan.

As you see, we live on a farm in a beautiful and welcoming home, we both run successful businesses, have large families, and have been married to one another for nearly 15 years. We both come from humble beginnings and have built a life that makes us proud. We have been blessed beyond measure. We want to share this blessed life with this child. We, much like you, desire to give this child more than we had as children and young adults. We want to set them up for the most wonderful and successful life. We are surrounded by an extensive support group of friends and family who desire the same. There will be no limit to the love and encouragement this child will receive.

Thank you for taking the time to look at our book and consider us. We understand it’s a monumental decision for you and know you take it very seriously. We trust that your selfless love will pour out in your decision and that decision will be a blessing to this child.

Our parents have always encouraged us to trust our gut instinct when making decisions; so, we pass this same encouragement to you. We encourage you to trust your instincts and listen to that quiet whisper from within you. Let both guide you through this very delicate decision.

Remember, all decisions made in love are the right decisions.

With peace and much prayer,

Shauna + Eric