AMANDA & CHARLES
OUR NOTE TO YOU
Thank you for taking the time to read our profile. We are honored to share a piece of our lives with you and are deeply respectful of the steps you have taken to educate yourself on the options you have. We are hopeful this profile gives a sense of who we are and we look forward to learning more about you, should you decide to.

Please know that even though we don’t know you yet, that we have so much love for you and will always support you in whatever decision you make. Know that whatever decision you make is right. You clearly love your child so much and we hope you find small comfort in our support.

We are excited at the idea of becoming parents (again). We were blessed five years ago with our son (Blake) but have always wanted to have multiple children so that they could have the opportunity to grow up with siblings. We both grew up with siblings---they were our first friends and we remain close to them today!

Our journey to become parents was extremely hard and filled with many disappointments and heartache. Sometimes life is so hard and not fair. Yet our relationship has emerged better from these trials and although we have shifted and adjusted our plans many times over the years, we feel like we are on the path meant for us to complete our family and we look forward to the future. Being parents has been the best thing that has ever happened to us. A few years ago, we moved so that we could spend more family time together. We are so lucky that our jobs allow us to be home and present for everything. If there is one thing to know about us is that we try to have fun and find joy every single day.

Thank you for being brave and considering us on this journey. We recognize that it only begins with the birth of your child and continues our entire lives. We look forward to everything along the way and most importantly making you a part of our family.

with love,

Charles, Amanda and Blake
“WE ARE EXCITED AT THE IDEA OF BECOMING PARENTS (AGAIN).”
“AS A FAMILY, WE PRIORITIZE TIME TOGETHER”

Timeline:

MET - 2008 • ENGAGED - 2011 • MARRIED - 2012 • SON (BLAKE) BORN - 2015
Our story together began when we met at work and then got to know each other at the Jersey Shore. I (Amanda) was drawn to how Charles made me laugh all the time! And I (Charles) was drawn to Amanda’s caring and loving heart. A couple years later, we got engaged down at the Jersey Shore near where we first met. I asked Amanda privately and then we immediately went out to celebrate together with close friends!

We’ve been married now for over eight years and love doing life together!
In 2015, we welcomed our son, Blake, into our family. He has brought so much fun and excitement into our lives. Both of our jobs allow us to be home and present for everything. We love that we’re both home together - and get to do everything together as a family.

Together, we are always in sync with our decisions. We support each other through thick and thin and have patience and unconditional love for one another. We compliment each other in all ways. Pick each other up when the other is down. As a family, we prioritize time together. In our freetime, we love being outside - taking walks to the lake, going for golf cart rides around our neighborhood, grilling and eating on our patio. In general, we just love being with each other and finding the fun in the little things!
OUR TRADITIONS

Throughout the year we enjoy: trips to the beach every summer with our whole family (both of our families together!) // trips to Disney World (we go about twice a year) // Friday pizza and movie nights // making pizza with Amanda’s grandparents (her grandfather’s brother used to own a local pizza shop that still exists and we always use his recipe!) // fairs and festivals in the summer// day trips to the boardwalk to ride the rides // trips to the pumpkin patch for pumpkin picking in the fall.
During the holidays we: make Christmas cookies with Blake the week before Christmas // help our families decorate their trees for Christmas // go all out decorating our house inside and out // have brunch with Santa and our families // New Year’s Day Amanda’s grandmother always makes us crepes // HUGE family bbq for 4th of July // Halloween party and trick or treating with our neighbors (our neighborhood gets hundreds of trick or treaters!)
OUR HEARTS JUST KNOW OUR FAMILY AND STORY IS NOT YET COMPLETE!
Ever since I (Amanda) was a child, I have felt in my heart that I wanted to adopt. When we got married, we decided to first try and grow our family through pregnancy but were met with a lot of difficulties. We went through years of infertility and decided to pursue IVF. Though it was hard and challenging (we suffered two miscarriages), through IVF, we ended up getting pregnant with Blake. We say out loud every single day how lucky we are to have him! He lights up our lives. As we both had siblings growing up, we would love to give that amazing gift to him as well. We know he would be an amazing big brother.

Our hearts have continued to pull us toward adoption over and over again throughout these last 8 years! We do not take the decision lightly, as its something we have thought about and pictured for years. We are so thankful to be parents already -- our hearts just know our family and story is not yet complete!
I grew up in South Jersey (we now live in the same town I grew up in!). As a child, I enjoyed playing with my brother - riding bikes, building forts, and going fishing. I started working at 14 and always had a job throughout high school and college. About 2 years ago, I resigned my corporate finance job and now work from home (mostly at night after Blake has gone to sleep), running my business, an online clothing company that I’ve owned for a little over 4 years. This has allowed me to spend more time at home with Blake and our family.

I am passionate about advocating for people, especially ones who can’t advocate for themselves. I’m also passionate about my family and would do absolutely anything for them. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends, going to the beach, visiting Disney World, spending time at the lake/pool, and planning trips for our family.

I love being a mom. It is by far the best and most rewarding thing that has ever happened to me in my life. I love being there for everything. I love volunteering at Blake’s school, planning activities and play dates. Being a mom truly completes me.
Amanda is the absolute most selfless person that I know. She cares deeply for the well being of not only our family but also our friends. Her love knows no limit. She enriches everyone around her and she is the best partner a person can go through life with.

FRIENDS SAY I AM: Caring, generous, funny, protective, hard working

FAVORITE MOVIE: These days it is all about the Disney movies! Current favorite is Lion King!

FAVORITE PLACE ON EARTH: Our home when we are all together!

INSPIRED BY: Blake and Charles!
I grew up in a suburb of Philadelphia, spending time with my cousins, playing sports, and going for trips to the beach. I moved to South Jersey in 2017. I currently work for the U.S. Government remotely from home. I love the fact that my job affords me a lot of flexibility and financial stability, while providing me an opportunity to help promote the wellbeing of our country.

In my free time, I enjoy sports, reading, trivia, yard work, and our family trips to Disney World! I am immensely passionate about taking care of my family, and I also value the importance of learning new things every day.

**Being a parent is the absolute best thing in life and something that I believe I was born to be.** Honestly, the best part of being a parent is ALL the parts. I love being able to problem solve for my little one and just being able to walk alongside him to help make sure he grows up to be the best version of himself.
Charles is the most patient and caring person I know. He makes friends everywhere he goes. What I love most about him is how good of a dad he is. He does SO much for our family. He works all day but still cleans and does family chores too. He plays games with Blake and helps him with his school work. I love how he does thoughtful things (everyday) for our family without me ever asking.

CHARLES IN Amanda’s WORDS
MEET OUR SON!

Blake (5): Gentle and happy - Blake is a kind, generous and sweet little boy. He truly makes our life better in every way. We are so lucky to be his parents! He loves Disney, playing games, being outside, going to the zoo, and bouncing in his bounce house. He works very hard at his school work. He loves cuddling his mommy and loves when his whole family is together.

Blake is the SWEETEST and most calm 5 year old we know. **He has a HUGE heart and absolutely adores being around other children.** He constantly asks us all the time for a brother or sister, and we know that he would be such a loving and protective older brother!
Parenthood

Being a parent has changed our lives for the best. We have learned a love like never before and have discovered that even the smallest things are fascinating when a little one is doing them! We feel so rewarded seeing him learn things we teach him, hearing him happy or laughing, and providing him with opportunities and experiences. We feel so grateful to be parents and literally ask Blake everyday “how did we get so lucky to be your mommy and daddy!?”
We live in a community neighborhood in South Jersey. Our home is very warm and loving. We’ve been working from the inside out redoing it exactly to our taste. Our favorite part about it is our back patio where we eat dinner a lot and spend time together as a family. Our house has 4 bedrooms and a finished basement. There is a backyard with a swing set, trampoline, playhouse and toy roller coaster.

We live in a very family friendly neighborhood! Our cul-de-sac has TONS of kids. Our neighborhood is right on a lake (we can see the lake in the distance from our kitchen window!) where we enjoy going for walks. We go on the paddle boat and canoes and fish from the lake’s beach in the summer. Although there is a lake close by, there are many safety precautions in place to ensure the safety of children. Our neighborhood has TONS of community events and parties for the kids, a community pool, tennis and basketball courts. Our AMAZING schools are very close by. The elementary school is within walking distance!

We moved here about 2 and a half years ago to be closer to friends and family and this is our forever home! We are so excited for the memories and adventures that lay ahead.
WE ARE SO EXCITED FOR THE MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES THAT LAY AHEAD.
Bitty (Dog - golden retriever mix) - We rescued Bitty when she was a puppy! She is very calm and loving to us all. She loves giving us all kisses and cuddles and is very very good with Blake---even when he jumps and climbs all over her!
“SHE IS VERY CALM AND LOVING TO US ALL.”
AMANDA’S FAMILY: We are very close to my family. My parents live just 2 miles away and my grandparents live 10 mins away. My brother (Dean) also lives close by. We are really close, and he spends a lot of time with us. Blake adores him as an uncle! **They are so excited for us to grow our family through adoption, and everyone will be very involved in the baby’s life.**
CHARLES’ FAMILY: **We are close to my family, and we see them often.** Although they do not live as close as Amanda’s family, they still live within a short driving distance and are at our home quite often and never miss an event! My sister, Krista, and I are very close. She is an awesome aunt! Just like Amanda’s family, they all will be very involved in the baby’s life!
Family is so important to us but family is not just biological to us. Though we do not have any biological nieces or nephews, we intentionally moved across the street from my (Amanda’s) childhood best friend (the mother of our three godchildren). They call us Aunt Mandy and Uncle Charles. Blake calls them his cousins! We see them daily, often playing outside with them or having dinner together. Our families also often take trips together throughout the year (Disney is our favorite!). These “nieces and nephews” are our family, not just friends. They will play an important role in the baby’s life.
IN OUR family...

WE ARE HAPPY AND GRATEFUL
WE HAVE FUN EVERY SINGLE DAY
WE LOVE, RESPECT AND TRUST EACH OTHER

WE MAKE MEMORIES
We wanted to say thank you one more time. Thank you for spending the time to get to know us. We really hope you are able to see our hearts and understand a little bit about us. If you take one thing away from this book please let it be that we support you and the decisions you make. Whatever they are---they will absolutely be the right ones. If you decide to move forward with an adoption plan and choose us these are the commitments we would love to make to our child:

· **We commit to honoring our child’s story.** Honoring every single day who they are and where they come from. We will ensure they know and feel how much they are loved by everyone---most especially you. We’ll ensure they know they were always loved and know about the family that loved them first.

· **We commit that our child will grow up very happy and so so loved.** It’s important to us that our children are happy and feel loved by us and the family and friends that surround them. Know that the people around us are extremely welcoming, happy and excited that we are on the journey to adopt a baby.

· **We commit to be there for everything.** It is very important to us that our children know we are there for them and are committed to every aspect of their lives. Charles grew up in a very loving home with both his parents. Amanda’s parents divorced when she was three. Although we both had very happy childhoods, we both have different reasons to support our value in having both parents be present all the time.

· **We commit to teaching them that they can achieve any goal they want to.** We both come from families who worked extremely hard for everything. We commit to teaching our child about working hard and persevering in school and life to achieve their big dreams.

· **We commit to sharing the things we love with them.** Things we love are Disney World, the beach, spending time on the lake fishing boating or just taking a walk to the lake to throw rocks in the water and talk about our day.

· **We commit to supporting them and being there for them through the good and bad times.** Not every day in life will be easy. But we will be there to love and support them no matter what.

· **We commit to bringing a smile to their face every day.** Whether it be from tickles, pony rides on mommy and daddy’s back, playing tag or riding bikes, our children will laugh every day and enjoy each day.
One last thing before you go, we know you are facing a tough time. When we are facing a hard time, we try to remember that after every storm the sun always comes out - it never rains forever. That there will be brighter days---even when that doesn’t seem possible. We also eat ice cream on bad days (and good days too!) to help bring a little happiness to the day.

We see you and the weight of these heavy decisions. We really hope we get to meet you, we love you and we are cheering you on. Thank you for coming to the end of our book. We hope it’s just the beginning of our journey.

LOVE,

Charles, Amanda & Blake
Thank You FOR CONSIDERING US!