

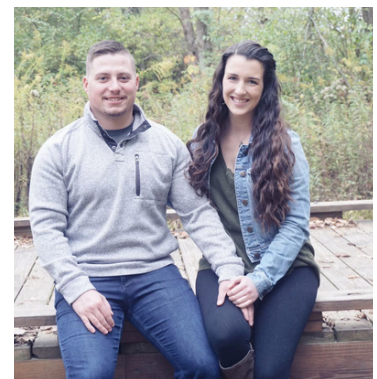
A man and a woman are standing in a field of yellow flowers, smiling at each other. The man is wearing a light-colored polo shirt and khaki pants, and the woman is wearing a dark green dress. They are surrounded by a dense field of yellow flowers, with a dark green background of trees and foliage.

Derek & Kelly



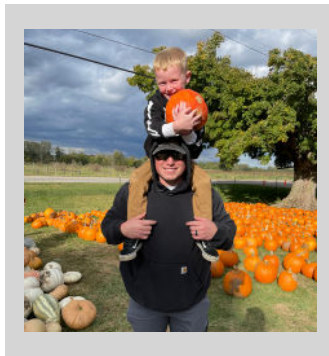
We are Derek and Kelly, we met in 2019 and our first date was breakfast at FirstWatch. We quickly found we had a lot in common including our jobs in medicine as a nurse and firefighter/paramedic, our love of the outdoors, our faith in God, and our similar tastes in movies and music. We fell in love and became each other's best friend. Derek proposed to Kelly on Christmas Day in 2021, we bought a home together and completely renovated it from top to bottom, and then we married in May 2023 surrounded by our loved ones.

While we were dating, we decided that one way we would grow our family would be through adoption. We experienced infertility and knew in our hearts that God was calling us to adoption sooner than we expected. We are grateful God has blessed us with this opportunity to grow our family through adoption. We can't wait to share all the love we have in our hearts with a child and raise them to be a wonderful human being.

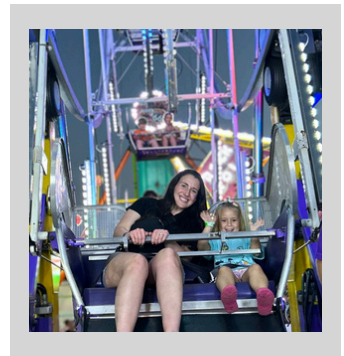




Derek



Kelly



Derek is a firefighter/paramedic who finds great purpose in serving his community and helping others during difficult times. He is hardworking, dependable, and always willing to lend a helping hand. His hobbies are woodworking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and working on house projects. He enjoys spending time at his family's cabin and quality time with family and friends. Faith is important in his life and guides the way he treats others. He looks forward to sharing family traditions, teaching life skills, and helping a child discover their talents and interests. He hopes to be a source of support and guidance while building a strong foundation of values, character, independence, and confidence.

Kelly is a registered nurse who is honored to care for her patients during their most challenging moments. She loves to crochet, sew, bake and cook, and read. She enjoys sharing her love for others with handmade gifts and full bellies. Those who know Kelly would describe her as kind, loving, thoughtful, and generous. She has a big heart and genuinely cares about others. She is excited to share her love of reading with bedtime stories, bake treats together, teach the importance of faith and family, and create family traditions and lasting memories. She hopes to provide a home filled with unconditional love, encouragement, and laughter.

- Faith is at the center of our marriage and guides the way we love and support each other and those around us. We go to church every Sunday and our goal is to get each other and our children to heaven.
- We love to go hiking, camping, and travel to different national parks. We hope to take our children on these adventures someday and create lifelong memories together.
- We both love to garden. In the summer, we have a big garden in our backyard with berries, tomatoes, green beans, and many other vegetables. We are excited to teach our children new skills including gardening.
- While we enjoy traveling and spending time with friends and family, we also enjoy life's simpler moments like evenings at home watching movies. Our favorite movies are Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and Star Wars. We are excited to have movie nights with popcorn and our kids.
- We genuinely enjoy spending time together whether we are on an adventure or spending a quiet evening at home. We can't wait to welcome a child into our family so we can enjoy all of life's moments together, big and small.

Family

We have a very LARGE family!

We both come from blended families. Derek's mom passed away when he was young and his father later remarried. Kelly's parents divorced and her father remarried as well. We both have biological siblings and stepsiblings, and they all have kids.

We also consider our close friends, their children, and Derek's firehouse family (his work crew and their families) to be part of our family. Your child will grow up deeply loved not only by us, but loved by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

We enjoy getting together for holidays, birthdays, family dinners, game nights, and cookouts. We love cheering loudly at our nieces' and nephews' sporting events! They all love to come over to our house for sleepovers: we play Barbies, hide and seek, and have major nerf gun and squirt gun battles! They can't wait to meet their new cousin!

We have a deeply rooted belief that family is about more than blood. We know that you don't need to be related to be family. Family is built through love.

We have one cat, his name is Julius and he is 8 years old. He has chronic RBF, loves to snuggle, and enjoys playing with cat toys.



Thank you

Thank you for reading our story. We cannot begin to understand how hard this decision must be and all the challenges you have faced. We know this decision comes from a deep love you have for your child. We promise to love your child and raise them to be as strong and brave as you.

If you choose us:

Your child will be raised in a home filled with love, faith, laughter, and centered on family. We will encourage them to chase their dreams, support them through life's challenges, celebrate their accomplishments, and love them every single day. We hope by reading this booklet, you will take comfort in knowing your child will be well taken care of and surrounded by so much love.



Our prayers are with you,
Derek and Kelly



WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU

If you have any questions for us or would like to speak with us about adopting your child, please contact your case worker at Open Arms Adoptions by calling 330-697-4751 or 614-349-1510.