

Our family
Blake and Steph



CELEBRATE *every day*

Dear Parents,

We're very happy to share bits of our life with you. We hope you find these next few pages helpful as you make some difficult and emotional decisions. We admire your strength while considering the selfless act of adoption and want you to know we are here to support you in any way possible. If we are the family you dream of for your child, 2 caring parents, 2 big brothers and 2 big sisters will give your little one a life full of love. You can expect our home to be Christ-centered surrounded by people who are loving and supportive. We are absolutely humbled to be considered as your child's family. We know your baby is loved with your whole heart and also will be loved completely with ours.





Quick Facts

Blake: Precision Ag manager and farmer. Favorite food: Steak. Favorite things to do: Go on walks, watch movies, be outdoors hunting or fishing, KC Chiefs. Favorite place to travel: The ocean.



Steph: School nurse and charge nurse at our local long term care facility, CNA instructor. Favorite food: Sushi. Favorite things to do: Go on walks, travel, read, attend kids' activities. Favorite place to travel: Anywhere she hasn't been before.

About Steph (written by Blake)

Steph's love for our family is unending. She is a mama bear who cares deeply, protects, listens, and teaches each of us. She helps navigate our children through any of life's challenges with such grace. All of our kids feel that their mom is their rock and safe place. My wife is organized in our daily tasks but makes me laugh every day. She is my greatest friend and partner.



Mom

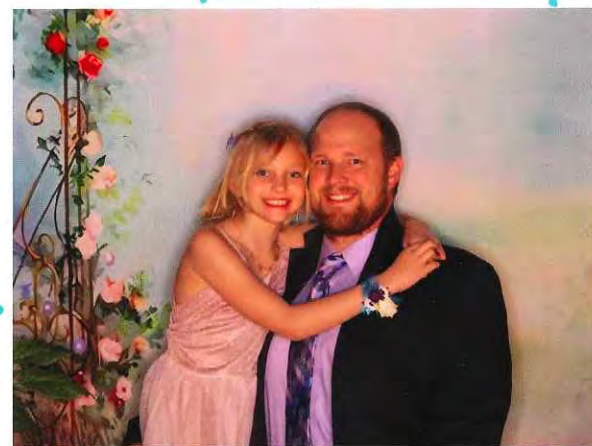
Dad



About Blake (written by Steph)

Blake is the most involved husband and dad I could ever dream of for our family.

He loves his family fiercely and always puts us first. He works hard everyday to make sure we are safe and secure. He leads us well and follows where the Lord calls him. He is the love of my life with the most patient and loving heart. I am beyond blessed I get to do life with my best friend.



Our Kids

We have 2 beautiful girls. Cambry is 13 and Jemma is 10. Cambry is very determined and pushes herself to be the best she can. She works hard at school and knows what she wants. She loves to play volleyball and softball. She was chosen to be on the all tournament volleyball team last spring. She is also interested in reading, writing, drawing and designing houses on different apps or by hand. She plays the clarinet in band and is also in TAG (talented and gifted). She and her friends enjoy having sleepovers and getting coffee or smoothies together. Cam also enjoys movies nights as a family and shopping.



Jemma is our silly girl. She loves to be with her friends and always wants to make them laugh. She still sits on mom's lap whenever she can. Jem enjoys playing basketball, volleyball and softball. She also likes drawing and playing with barbies. Her favorite animal is all cats. She has a huge heart and sees the best in everyone.



We also have 2 handsome boys. Silas is 6 and Braedyn is 14. Silas was adopted in 2019 and has been a perfect addition to our family. He is a little boy with a big and wonderful personality. Si loves to go to school and play with his friends. He is very interested in all sports and eats oreos everyday. He prefers to be outside and attend different events, whether his own or his siblings.

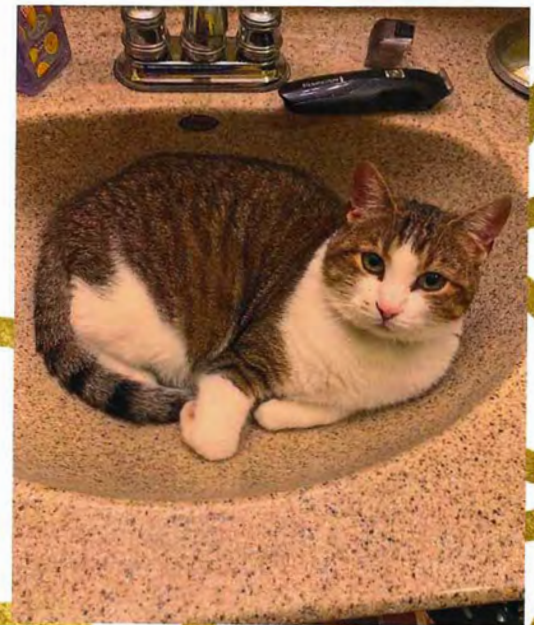


Braedyn just got his driver's permit. He plays football and basketball as well as the trombone in band. He likes to ride his moped with friends whenever he can. He's a great older brother and tries to keep everyone in line. Brae enjoys playing video games, especially his VR as well as put together legos.



Our Pets

We are an animal loving family. We have 2 cats, 2 dogs and a bunny. Our dogs' names are Roxy and Sully. Our cats' names are Piper/Kitty and Spots. Winston is our fluffy bunny.



IT'S ALL *so* BEAUTIFUL



Our home

We live in a small and safe community in Iowa. Almost all our closets family and friends live within an hour of us. We have lived in our home for almost 8 years. Each kiddo has their own bedroom and may do some rearranging after baby gets older to continue to give them their own space. Our kids attend the public school, which is the same school Steph works at. Our school was recently recognized as a blue ribbon school in Washington, D.C. Although we are a little town, there are plenty of opportunities for community members. Our family enjoys the walking trails, going to the community park, swimming at the pool, and attending the numerous activities our school and church offer our kids. Our event center hosts game nights for families and during the summer kids are given opportunities to participate in "summer rec" where they play games, make crafts, create plays and dances as well as work on athletics such as t-ball, softball, baseball, volleyball and basketball.



Our Story

Blake and Steph grew up in the same town in NW Iowa but went to different high schools. We met through a mutual friend and began dating soon after meeting. We dated through high school into college and eventually married in June 2008. Blake proposed on the anniversary of our very first date by having a path of roses leading to him down on one knee. Before graduating from college in 2010, we moved back to our hometown, where we currently reside. Steph graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Nursing and Blake graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree double majoring in accounting and business with an emphasis in agriculture. Blake has been working at the same company for over 15 years, beginning not long after we were first married. Steph is a school nurse and charge nurse for the local long term care facility every 4th weekend. She has been at school for 13 years. We had our first baby shortly after graduation and both knew right away we wanted several kids. We love our children dearly and are so excited to add another little one to our crew. We both have flexible jobs, so Steph plans to stay home with the baby for the first few weeks.



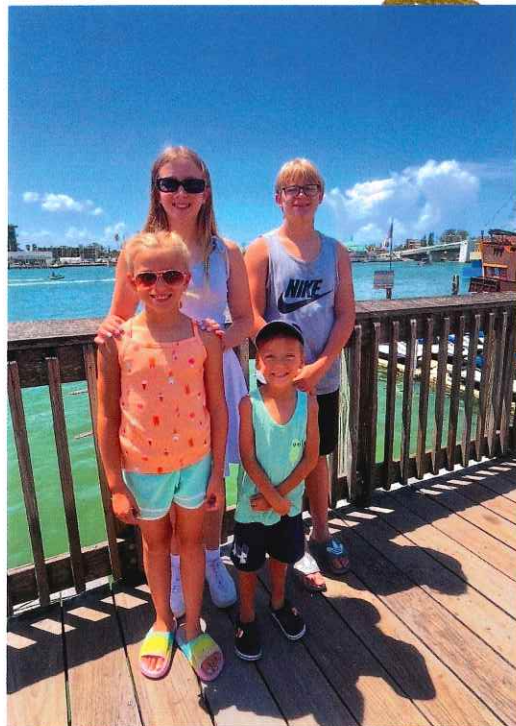
EVERYTHING I AM
YOU HELPED ME TO BE





Our parenting

We are excited to add a child of any race to our family. We believe all children are created in God's image and believe it is important for our kids to accept and love others. Over our years together, we have put communication, compromise, and trust as our top values in our marriage. We pray this carries over to our children's future relationships. We will guide and support our kids with anything they want to be involved in. We feel it is important to spend quality time as a family and make that a priority. As parents, we emphasize the importance of having conversations with our kids to hold them accountable to do the right thing and help them make corrections when needed.



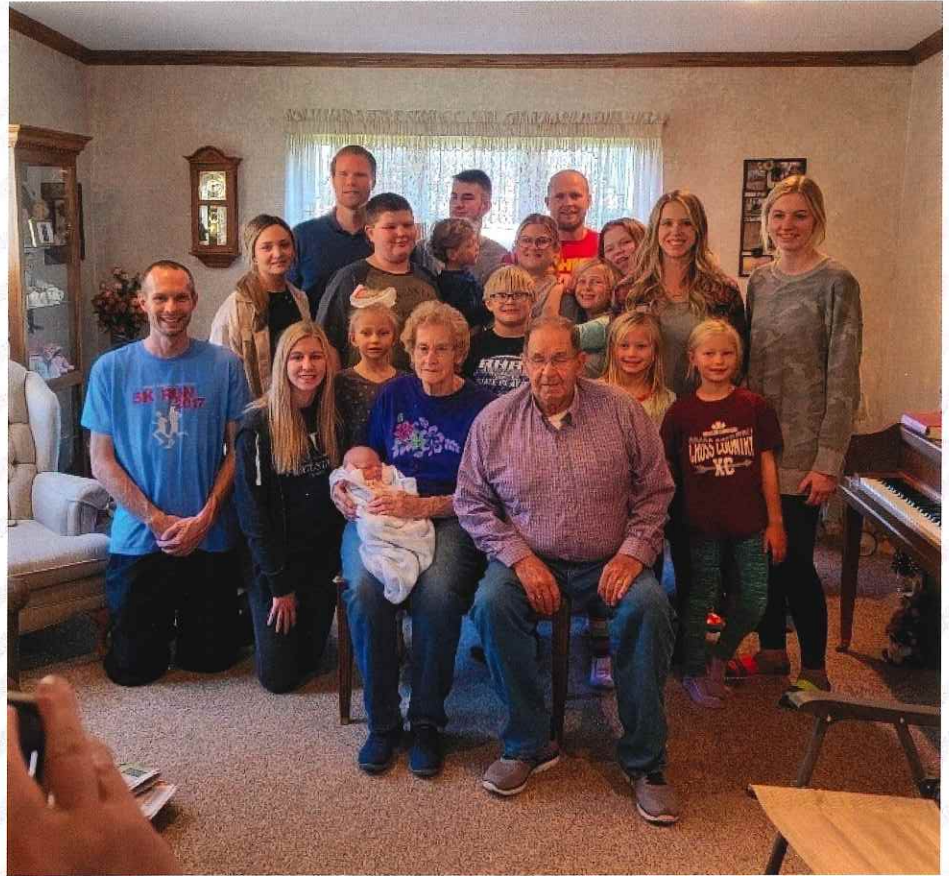
Oh Happy Day



Steph's Family

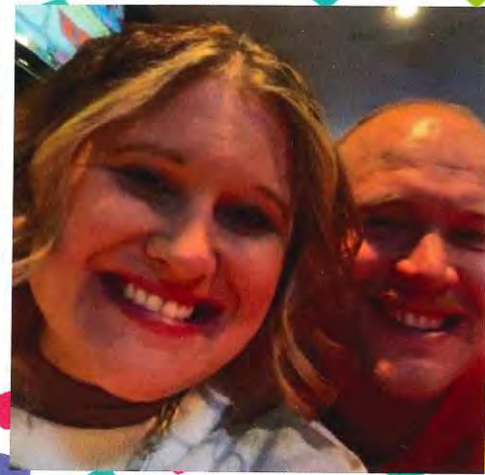
Steph's family is very close. She has 1 younger brother who recently got married. Her parents live 2 blocks from our house and her brother and sister in law are only 30 mins away. We enjoy traveling as a big group to various places and being together to play cards, watch movies, and eat good food. Her family attends as many of the Kids' events as they can. They are all very supportive of our adoption journey and are excited to meet a new little one.





Blake's Family

Blake is the oldest of 3 siblings. He has 1 younger sister and 1 younger brother. His sister and brother in law have 3 kids-twin girls the same age as Jemma and a 3 year old boy. His parents live on a farm only a couple miles away. We often get together on Sundays with extended family to have dinner together. His family also attends as many activities as they can. They support us as we grow our family through adoption.



Blake and Steph's hobbies

As a couple we enjoy staying active with a variety of activities which include sitting by a bonfire, golfing, fishing, taking walks, or watching the kids play whether in athletics or outside. We also like to travel and try new foods together. When we are indoors, we like to watch movies or catch up on shows we like, go to our kids' activities, and play games. Another thing we find entertaining is cooking or preparing meals with each other. We make a great team and the kids (usually) appreciate the results!

Kids' Hobbies

Braedyn: play football, basketball, and golf; play video games and his VR; legos; ride moped; hang out with friends; go to ball games at school; attend youth group; go fishing and hunting.

Cambry: play volleyball and softball; draw; read; doing her nails and makeup; hang out with friends; go shopping; attend school activities; attend youth group; be in plays; go fishing.

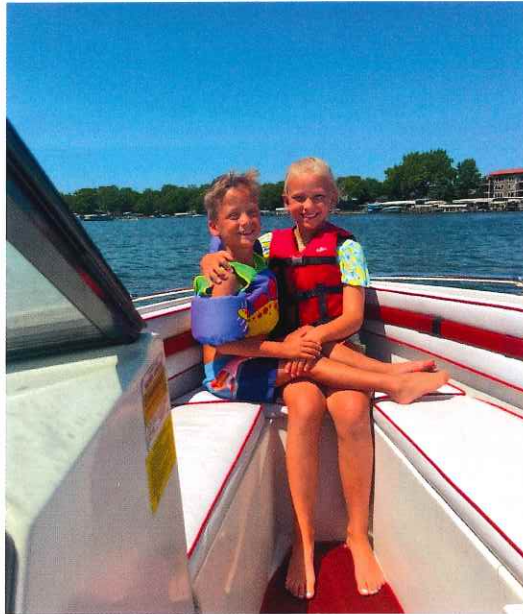
Jemma: play volleyball, basketball and softball; hang out with friends; draw; play games on her Ipad; play with barbies; go shopping; attend youth group; put on plays; go fishing.

Silas: play soccer, basketball, football and t-ball; color or draw; help dad on the farm; attend siblings' ball games and school activities; play outside; play with friends; go fishing.



Family Favorites

Spending time together; Christmas and birthdays; Boating and swimming; Family movie nights cuddling on the couch with popcorn; Board games and card games such as Spades, Texas Hold'em, Spoons, Clue and Pictionary; Traveling to new or familiar places; Trying new foods and restaurants; Attend ball games and concerts; Have camp fires and make s'mores; Spend time with extended family; Going to local campgrounds to hike, fish and have picnics; Attend church



CHERISH
EVERY
MOMENT



Our Church

We are members of the church Steph grew up in which is in our hometown. We have a wonderful church family who encourage and support us. Blake is one of the Wednesday night Catechism leaders and Steph is a Kindergarten Sunday school teacher. Our kids are given many opportunities through youth group to give back to the community. They also take several mission trips which has helped them grow in their relationship with God. Having Christ as the foundation for our family is very important to us. We know with Him all things are possible. Everything we do is to live a life pleasing to God.

Our Values

We teach our children to know Jesus and be faithful followers of His word. We work to instill in them the importance of being kind, accepting, and respectful to others. We strive to teach them to be true to themselves and do the right thing. We believe in being compassionate and inclusive of all people. We pray they see the value in hard work but always remember to put family first. Love is the most important gift we can give one another.



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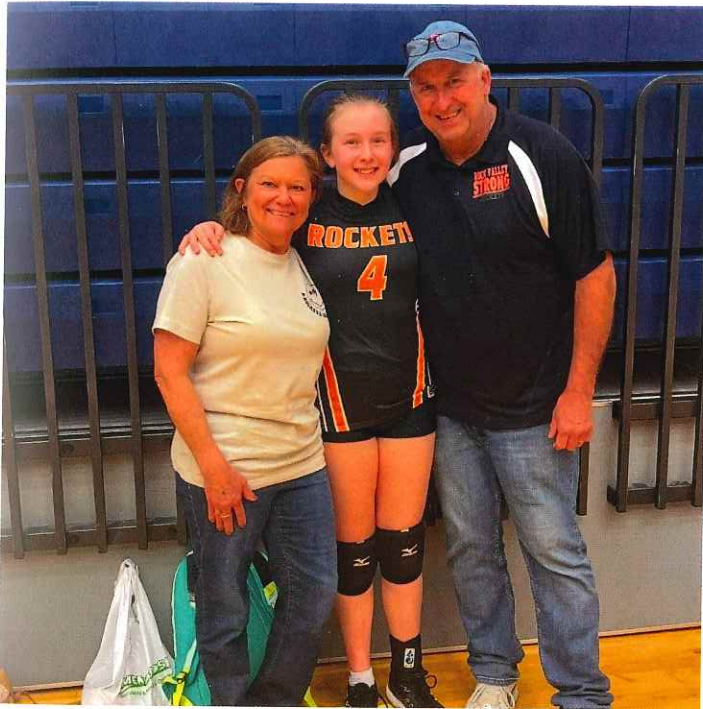
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Why Adoption?

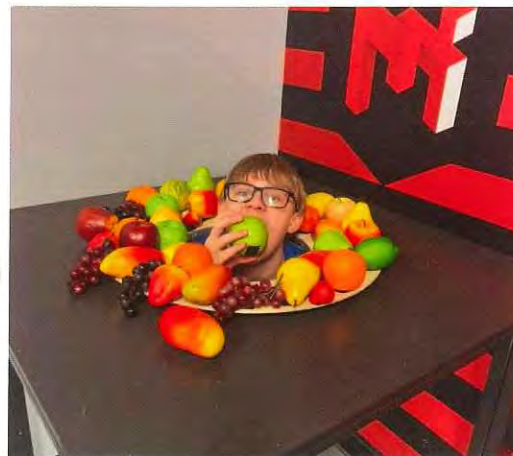
We discussed adoption early on in our marriage and both felt this to be a way to grow our family. We adopted in Silas 2019 after having our 3 biological children. We continue to be passionate about adoption and will love any child we are blessed with. Every child's life has equal value and purpose.

We feel led to provide for and welcome a child into our family along with sharing a partnering relationship with birthparents in providing a child with an abundance of love. We are prepared for plenty of patience and are confident in our ability to establish a loving relationship with a new baby. We are excited for the opportunity to grow our family through the tremendous gift of adoption.



Our Promise

You are amazing parents! Thank you for considering us with the honor of being the family you dream of for your baby. We pray for you and your child daily and if chosen for your little one, we promise to love unconditionally and freely. We promise to always share how much you love them. We promise to be open, honest and loving in our relationship with you. We promise to support and encourage your child's hopes and dreams. We come offering a Christ-filled home where we promise second chances, we promise Grace, we promise real, we promise to accept and learn from mistakes, we promise I'm sorrys, we promise hugs and lots of them, we promise family, and most importantly we promise love.



Established 2008.



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