

David and Joshlyn



Hello, We're David and Joshlyn

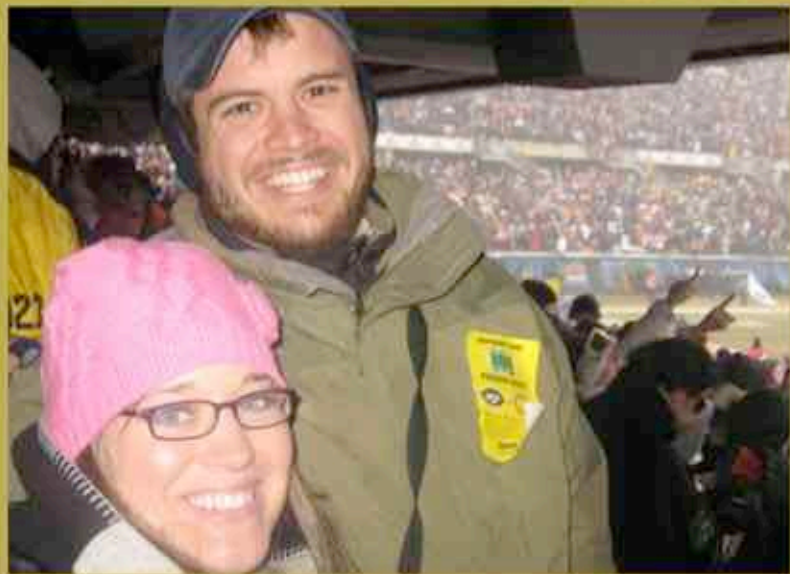
We would like to thank you for giving your child the gift of life and for considering adoption for your child's future. We have looked forward to being parents from very early in our lives. Both David and I were fortunate to grow up in very loving families that gave their unwavering and unconditional support to everything we pursued. They encouraged us to love, to laugh often, to have faith, to work hard, to get an education, to stay in school, to try different sports and afforded us the opportunity to go to college. We have appreciated their guidance and support and hope to pass it on to the next generation. We have so much love to share, and so do our families.

We have dreamed for many years of having a big family. We both envisioned our future with a full home sharing lots of love and laughter with several children. Soon after we were married, we found out that we would not be able to have our own biological children. But, we know that God would not have placed this longing for children in our hearts without a way to fill it. After much prayer and many long conversations we felt led to adopt.

We wanted to be young and full of life as we raise our children. We want to be able to run and play and travel with our children. We dream of having a family and are so grateful that you are considering us as the parents to raise your child. Your willingness to consider us is a wonderful gift.

We pray that whether we are the family you choose, or not, that you will find peace and have confidence in the decision you are about to make. We would be honored to be that couple, and we promise you that if you choose us we will love your child unconditionally all the days of our lives. We will always speak of you with honor when we share with our child the story of their adoption.





Our Lives Together

How We Met, by Joshlyn

David was my high school sweetheart. The first time we ever saw each other was home room class in 8th grade. At the time, I was still very shy. I took notice of David immediately, but he was one of the popular kids, everyone loved him. I figured he never even noticed me, since my nose was usually in a book.

As he recounts it, he did notice me but he never knew what to say since I seemed so serious about my school work and so removed when it came to the social scene. It wasn't until we started high school that fate brought us back together, and we ended up with a very similar group of friends. In the fall of 2001, my guy friends really wanted David to be able to come to a school dance we were having, and they encouraged me to ask him as my date so we could all go as a big group and hang out. Even though I almost died of embarrassment, I finally asked him. He said yes. I thought we had a good time, but he never called me back. I have to admit I was extremely disappointed. The next year I decided to change high schools, which meant I would now be at the same school as David; although, since he didn't call me back nearly a year ago I hadn't thought too much of him. We ran into each other the very first day. It was a bit awkward, and he also now had a girlfriend.

Two days after my seventeenth birthday, we finally went on our first date. I jokingly tell people now that I was just looking for a junior prom date, but the truth is I had been harboring a major crush on this guy for three years already. It turned out he was a great junior prom date and senior prom date. We then attended college together.

Many shared life experiences, a lot of love and 5 years later he asked me to share my life with him. I said yes and can still hardly believe how lucky I am. We were married on August 1, 2009. He has been my best friend for almost 9 years now.

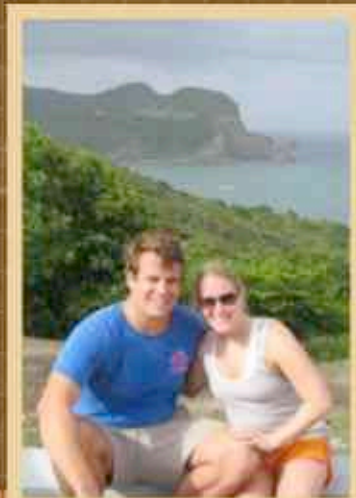


The Proposal, by David

We had just started our last year in college and I was ready to get married to the girl that I had pretty much loved and adored since we went on our first date. The previous summer I saved just about every penny I earned. I made the decision to propose as soon as I returned to school, and I found the perfect ring. I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that I wanted Joshlyn to be with me the rest of my life.

I invited her out to dinner, and I spent the entire day before trying to find a place to propose. I didn't want to do it at dinner because I knew I would be too nervous, so I decided on a nearby park with a pond. The only thing I couldn't figure out was how to get Joshlyn there without spoiling the surprise. At the time my really old car at the time was always breaking down on the side of the road, so I decided that my car should "break down" next to the park when I was on my way to pick her up for dinner.

Once I got everything staged, I called Joshlyn and apologized that she would have to pick me up for dinner at the park. As she arrived at the park, the sun was setting. She saw me from the park entrance, and I persuaded her to walk over to me. I got down on one knee and proposed. She said, "Yes" and then we went to dinner and were able to talk about what we were going to do the rest of our lives together. It's truly one of the greatest memories I have in my life. I love her today more than ever.



Our Wedding by Joshlyn

Our wedding was set at a small Baptist church, my grandmother's church. It was a beautiful summer day, the sky was blue with perfectly placed fluffy white clouds. My four bridesmaids were in a beautiful light blue that almost perfectly matched the sky. David and his five groomsmen were in chocolate brown tuxes. We chose not to see each other until I was walking down the aisle. We were both so excited. We had been waiting for this day for a long time. We had about 250 family and friends gathered to watch us pledge our lives to one another. It was probably the happiest moment in my life so far when we were pronounced husband and wife and my new husband kissed me for the first time.

Our reception was at the church. The tables were decorated with hundreds of bright beautiful flowers, sunflowers, blue hydrangeas, gerbera daisies, and roses. All the food was delicious and the bride's cake, as well as the groom's cake, was exquisite. (The bride's cake was a very traditional four tier round white cake, while the groom's cake was made to look like a tree stump with our initials carved into it.) The groom's cake was served with milk; David believes that you should always have milk with chocolate cake. After many hugs and well wishes we tossed the bouquet and the garter and made our way to our decorated car through thousands of bubbles being blown by our guests.

Our Lives

We have been happily married now for 3 years. We simply love our lives together. We both enjoy traveling, and this is something that we hope to be able to share with our children one day. Most of our fondest memories as children are from the family trips we both took with our families. Now, every year we continue to make new memories traveling with each other and our families.

We both also enjoy playing with our pets. We have a Golden Retriever named Champ, a Chihuahua mix named Maggie and a black and white cat named Tux. We often take the dogs to different parks to run or hike trails. During the Summers you are likely to find us at the lake or the beach. We love riding the boat and jet-skis, water skiing, wake boarding and tubing. When we can, we also enjoy snow-skiing. David's most consistent hobby is rugby. I enjoy going to support him at his games and mingling with the other wives and their children.

We also look forward to the Fall season every year, because we enjoy hosting a college football tailgate for all of our friends and family. This is a great time every year! Good food, football, great friends and family. We also enjoy spending time with our Sunday School family over dinner parties, ice cream socials, movies or board games. We cannot wait to welcome children into our home to share in all of the wonderful things we love. We can only imagine the joy of experiencing life again through the eyes of a child.

My Husband David



I admire my husband for so many reasons. I truly believe that he makes me a better person. The traits I admire most are probably his optimism, patience and kindness. I have a tendency to be a "realist" as I would say. David helps me not to get bogged down in the little things. He usually is able to see good in everything. I can sometimes be easily overwhelmed and he is my rock, staying calm and reminding me to be hopeful and positive.

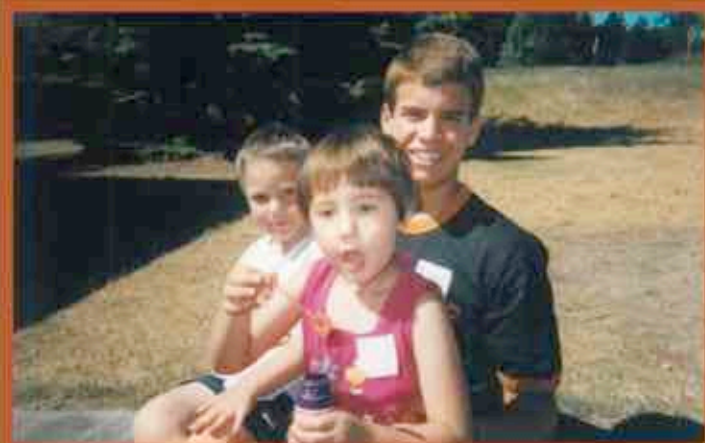
His patience often goes hand-in-hand with his optimism. He is usually content in believing that things will work together for the best. This allows him to be able to wait on things without becoming worried or antsy. God knew I needed a man like this in my life.

David is probably one of the kindest people you will meet. This makes him an incredible husband, and I believe this is one of the many qualities that will make him an amazing father. He always offers a hug and a pep-talk with kind words. He does things for me around the house all the time and I never have to ask. When I am overwhelmed he just picks me up and helps out and never complains or holds it over my head. He is like this with his friends and co-workers as well. People always gravitate towards David because of his kindness.

David loves children. I love watching him with my young cousins and our friend's children. He loves to make up games to play. Sometimes traditional games like duck-duck-goose or freeze tag, and sometimes he just makes up completely new games with whatever is around. He is very creative. His imagination is much more active than mine! He is very patient so he takes his time explaining things in terms children can understand. David is a bigger guy so kids usually love the fact that he can easily toss them into the air or swing them around or provide piggy back rides.

And I love to watch him with babies. He is amazed by them. He loves to just hold them and watch them. I think it fascinates him how small and fragile they are, but how they develop personalities so quickly. I know he will be a great dad. I know he will be the type of dad that will proudly brag on his children from day one. He will want to be the coach of every team they play on if he can. If he isn't coaching I know he will be at every meet, match, race, concert, or performance in the front row with the video camera. He will be our children's biggest fan, cheering them on and encouraging them throughout their lives.

David is an intern architect. He has an architecture degree. Most people do not realize that to become a licensed architect you must log about 3 years of working hours split into several different experience categories. In addition he has to pass 7 separate licensure exams. He is well on his way! He has finished logging all the hours and now just has to study and sit for the exams. His goal is to have this complete by early 2014.



My wife Joshlyn is beautiful. Enough said, right? She is athletic, easy-going, confident, and smart. She is also the most caring/loving person I know. Joshlyn has truly been a blessing to me and I am so blessed to have her as my wife. She encourages me in everything I do, and I am certain she will do the same for our children.

Joshlyn is also one of the strongest Christians I know. She lives for God. By doing this, I am encouraged each and every day to have a stronger faith in God. She is a great encouragement to me and just by living her life the way that she does, she challenges me to be a better man.

Joshlyn grew up in competitive gymnastics. From a very young age she was training daily. When she was only 10 years old she was invited to train in Houston, TX at Bela Karolyi's gym. She moved there to train for 2 ½ years. She is a three time state champion, a regional beam champion and was nationally ranked for several years. She still has a great passion for the sport. She incurred a career ending back injury when she was 15 years old. From that point on she remained in the sport by coaching. She coached through high school and college. She still keeps up with several of the children she has coached through the years. She plans on pursuing her judging certification this upcoming year so that she can remain connected to the sport. In the future she would love to open her own gymnastics facility.

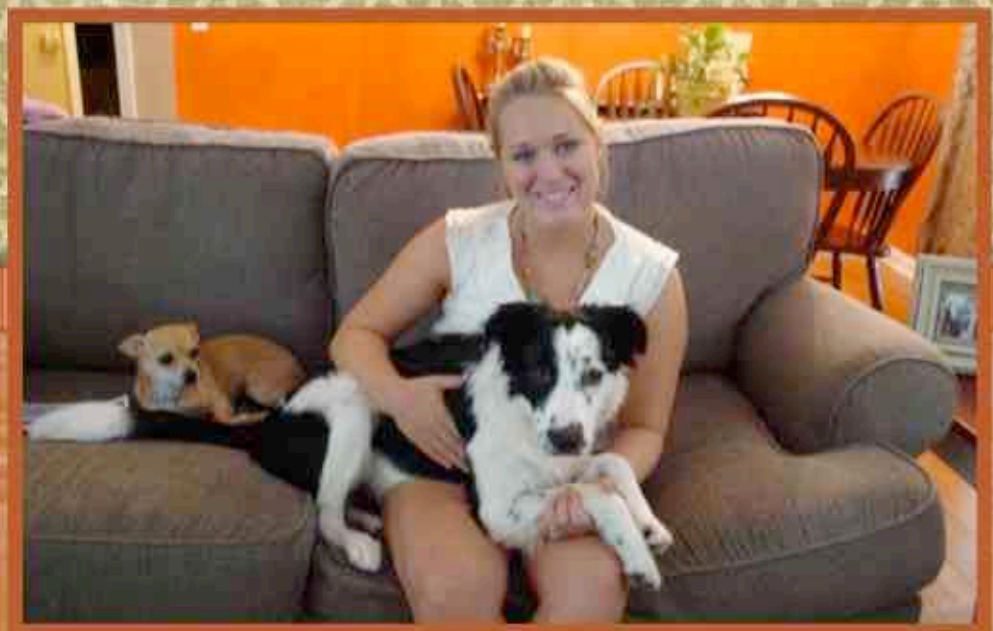
Joshlyn works as the office manager at a dance studio, where she also teaches. When we welcome our first child, her plans are to continue working at the dance studio part-time. Because children participate in extra-curricular activities after school her hours are usually more flexible and would be in the early afternoons and evenings 3 or 4 days a week.

Joshlyn is great with kids. She interacts with them at work on a daily basis. Most of our friends have children, and so do many of her cousins. Whenever we get together with those friends or family, Joshlyn is the first person that gives them attention. When it is time to leave, they never want to see her walk out the door.

To say that Joshlyn will be a great mom, is an understatement. I can hardly wait to see her with our child in her arms for the first time.

My Wife Joshlyn





Our Family



Joshlyn's family includes both of her parents and one younger brother, who is five years younger and not yet married finishing college. She has a large extended family with a number of aunts, uncles and cousins. All of her extended family lives within an hour of each other and are a big part of each other's lives. Joshlyn has one cousin who was adopted.



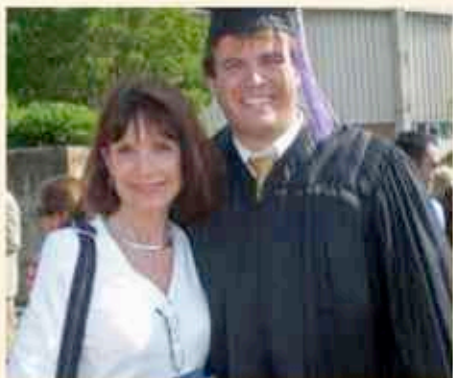
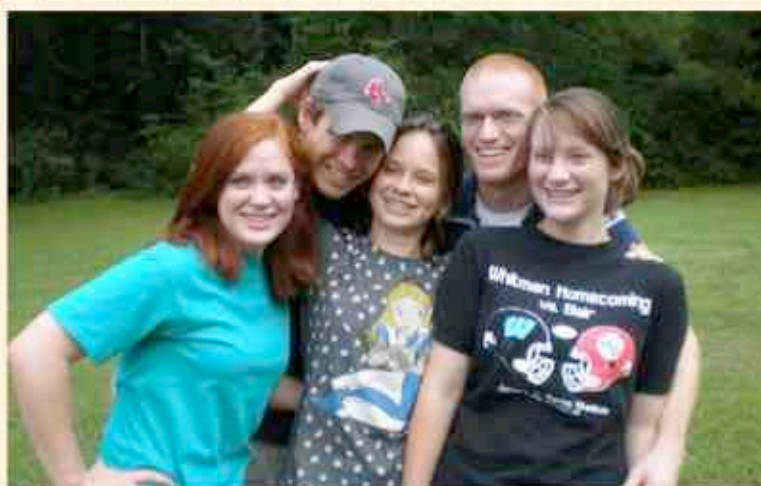
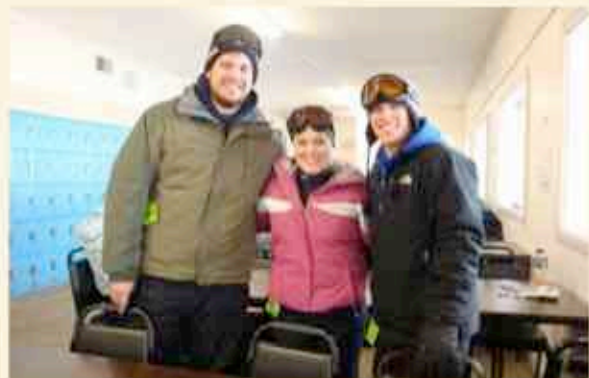
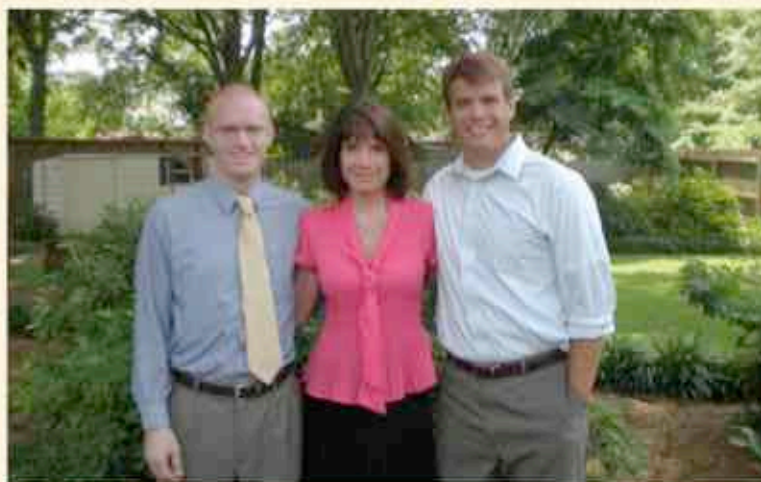
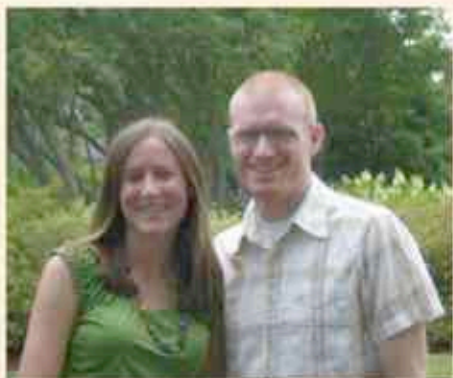
David's family includes both of his parents and one older brother Adam. Adam is married to Jenn. They have been married almost 8 years and are in the process of adopting their first child(ren) from Russia. They are very excited and supportive of our adoption plans. David has a several aunts, uncles and cousins. David's grandmother on his mother's side is still living, but his grandfather has passed away. This side of his family regularly gathers for holidays throughout the year at his grandmother's home in the country, only about a 2 hour drive away.

We love spending the holiday's with our families. We usually alternate between our two families for holiday celebrations. We have family gatherings almost monthly. We celebrate New Years, David's birthday in February, Joshlyn's birthday in March, Easter in April, Mother's Day in May, Father's Day in June, the 4th of July, Labor Day in September, Thanksgiving in November, and Christmas.

The biggest holiday family gatherings in our family are Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For Easter we attend church services with family. Then we do a big lunch with home-made food for everyone. Mother's Day and Father's Day are usually very similar. The main ingredients of each of our holiday gatherings are a church service, great food and good times with extended family.

Thanksgiving is usually spread out between both of our extended families. We usually spend Thanksgiving day with David's extended family in the country at his grandmother's house. We usually spend the night, take our dogs, possibly do some fishing and help prepare food. Then we transition to Joshlyn's family for the weekend with the major tradition in her family of watching the biggest football rivalry in the south.

We love family and are so blessed to have our family close by. They are all excited to help us welcome a new addition!



Our Home



We live in a 3 bedroom, 1 ½ bath home built in the 1960's. David's career is in architecture, and this past year he built a nice deck on the back of our house. We have a large fenced in back yard that would be perfect for children to play in and would easily accommodate a swing set. We also enjoyed planting our first vegetable garden in the back yard this year with tomatoes, banana peppers, green bell peppers, zucchini, cucumbers and okra. It was a lot of fun and we plan to continue this in the future. The front yard is a little smaller, but would still be a fine place to play considering we live on a street with very little traffic. It's a very cozy home.

We believe in a house that is well lived in and comfortable. Friends are always free to come in and prop their feet up. Our kitchen is nicely renovated with stainless steel appliances. We have an open kitchen, dining room, living room area. The room we will use for the nursery will be right across from our master bedroom and right across from the main bathroom.

We are located very close to a college campus. So, our specific neighborhood does contain a mix of some college students as well as established families that have lived in the area a while. Overall the community is very diverse mainly because the university brings in people from not only around the nation but around the world.

Right up the road from our house is a community center with a skate park, indoor gym and outdoor basketball courts. They often have free classes at the community center which have included various acting classes as well as dance classes. Within walking distance there is another park with a great kid's area and playground. We are also only a couple of miles from the college which offers tennis courts and running tracks.

The public school system here is fantastic. They boast some of the best standardized scores in the state. Currently there is only one public high school which creates a wonderful unity with-in the entire city. The high school football games draw a large local crowd and most every family knows of one another in some form. The schools and community here offer most all of the traditional sports including football, baseball, tennis, gymnastics and soccer. There are several great golf courses in the area so many of the kids get involved in golf activities. We also have a wonderful Art museum that offers great visual art programs for children.

We love our home and our community and feel like it is a great place to raise a family.



Our Future



David has plans to become a registered architect, and Joshlyn plans to stay involved with her passions (teaching/coaching dance and gymnastics). Although, we could not be more grateful for where we are currently in our lives, our dream is to one day buy some land just on the edge of town and build a home designed by David. We would love to raise our kids with lots of open space. We would also love to have several animals; horses, chickens, dogs, cats, and maybe even cows.

Our faith is the core of who we are. It is the strength on which our lives are built. If it was not for our Christian faith we would not be where we are today or who we are today. We plan to raise our children in our faith and it would be our prayer that as they grow, they will choose to follow God and build lives centered on faith in Him.

If we are still in this area when our children become school-aged, we plan for them to attend public school. The public school system here is one of the best in the state. We value a diverse, well-rounded education. Not to say that you can only achieve this in the public school system, but we both attended public schools our entire lives and feel that it was a great experience. Whether public, private, or home schooled our #1 priority is to make sure that our child is getting a quality education as well as quality social interaction.

We also want to provide our children with the ability to go to college and we plan to assume as much of the financial responsibility for that as we can. We both are so appreciative for our college experience. We feel that our degrees have definitely helped us in our careers, but we also feel that college was a great experience that helped us become the people we are today. We both met life-long friends, learned more about the people we were and wanted to become, as well as how to live independently of our parents. However, we do realize that college is not the only path. So, while we will strongly encourage our children to go to college, we believe it is a decision that they will ultimately make for themselves.

We are unbelievably excited to become parents, and to think that you may be part of making that dream come true for us is truly humbling. We are so grateful that you are even considering us and we want you to know how incredibly grateful we are.

God bless you and give you peace as you make this plan for your child's future.

David and Joshlyn