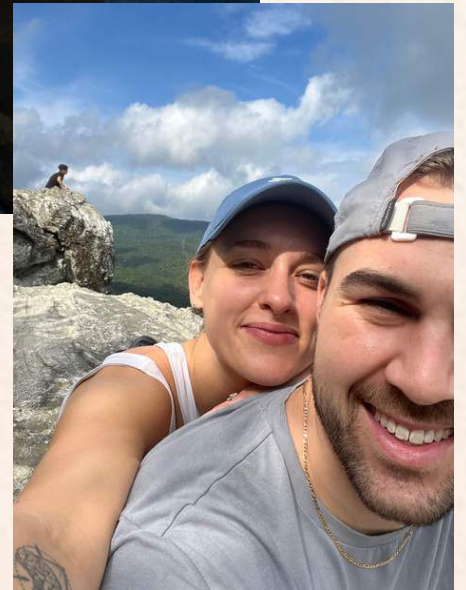


Katelyn & Brendan



with our bunny, Gertrude

Thank You

From our hearts to yours, we express deep gratitude for considering such a selfless choice. We recognize the gravity of this decision, and if chosen, we will prioritize making known the love you have for your child. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our lives with you. We hope you find an increasing sense of calm and confidence as your journey progresses.



Get To Know Us!

We love trying out new hobbies and ways to spend our time. Lately, we have gotten into Kayaking! We just took our friends to the nearest river to kayak. Katelyn enjoys paddling fast and exploring little areas, while Brendan prefers to soak up the sun and relax floating along the water. Katelyn explored a small alcove and found a huge group of turtles sunbathing, while Brendan sunbathed a little too much and got burnt! .



We both grew up in **sports-centric** families and ended up playing sports at the same college. On any given day, you can find us playing catch in the backyard, playing rec league sports with friends, or even coaching local sporting teams. We recently won a recreational sand volleyball league with our friends! This was our second year registering for the recreational league. After every point our team scored, we loved celebrating with our special handshake. We celebrated at our favorite local hotdog eatery.



With backgrounds in psychology, we both place a heavy emphasis on **communication**. The way that we find common ground in our differences is through communication, and even use our journals to communicate in new and deep ways. Our friends were visiting a few weekends ago, and Katelyn requested a moment to hash out frustrations with Brendan. After 5 minutes of talking, we came to a resolution, apologized to each other, and were able to have a great night of BBQ and hosting friends. Our friend said, "Wow, I can't believe you worked through that so quickly, can you teach me and my wife to do the same?" Your child will grow up in a home where they are safe to vocalize their wants, needs, and feelings, and be responded to with support in a way that feels right for them.

Katelyn A whirlwind of Love & Fun



Katelyn finds **beauty, joy, and excitement in the small things**. Katelyn will ask you to pull over to pick wildflowers growing in a field to make bouquets or flower crowns, all the while saying "wow look at that, isn't that amazing?!" Recently, after attending a vintage market with friends, Katelyn stopped mid-walk back to the parking lot to pick flowers to make a bouquet for home. Your child will grow up learning to find joy & excitement all around them.

Katelyn has always been deeply **compassionate and empathetic**. As a small child, Katelyn would stop everything if she found a small animal such as a bird or squirrel, and could not rest, until she knew it was safe and taken care of. Katelyn will stop without a thought to help someone in need along the road providing comfort, support, and helping to soothe them. Katelyn is a mental health therapist/psychotherapist, applying a deep layer of compassion not only at work, but also in her day to day life. Recently, on a drive home, Katelyn assisted an individual that was hit by a car, providing reassurance and helping keep them calm until an EMT could come attend to him.



Katelyn has always been **adventurous and inquisitive** attending science and literature camps as a child. Katelyn grew up in a major city, that was incredibly diverse, with seemingly infinite neighborhoods and cuisines to explore. From traveling internationally solo without any set plans, will try out any craft, any cuisine, or hobby fearlessly, hoping for the best but being okay with failure. Katelyn went to a monkey Sanctuary in Indonesia by herself and had a monkey eat bananas on her shoulders. She was shocked, and a little scared to be in a forest and have a monkey randomly jump on her shoulders! It was a wild experience! Your child will grow up in a home where they are encouraged to try out anything, without fear of failure or perfectionism impugning them from trying altogether.

Brendan A Gentle Giant



As the oldest of 3 brothers, Brendan has always assumed the role of "**caretaker**", looking out for his brothers and others in his life. Brendan will volunteer himself for help without a second thought. He will go out of his way "literally" to get you something you may want or need, or to make others feel comfortable. In one of Katelyn and Brendan's first times hanging out, Katelyn made a remark about craving Potato Chips. To Katelyn's shock, Brendan immediately stood up to go to the store. He returned shortly after with a variety of chips to choose from.

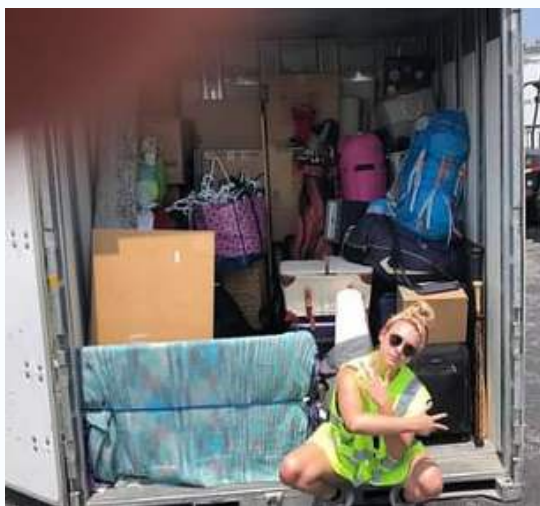
At 6'5", Brendan is a **gentle giant** who creates an immediate presence of comfort when you meet him. Everyone that encounters him reports feeling instantly comfortable and connected to Brendan. When first meeting Katelyn's baby cousins, Brendan got down to their height doing a Daffy Duck impression and immediately they became enamored with him asking him "Again! Again!" and to pick them up. Your child will grow up feeling safe, seen, and included.



Brendan was an incredible 2-sport collegiate **athlete**. After retiring from Collegiate sports, Brendan can often be found on the golf course. Brendan has also recently taken on the task of teaching Katelyn to golf. One time on a driving range after whiffing completely a few times in a row, Katelyn was ready to quit for the day. Brendan stood behind her saying, "try it one more time standing closer to the ball, you got this!" Katelyn actually hit the ball and was so excited she stuck around to finish an entire bucket of balls with Brendan's calm and patient encouragement.

Grow as We Go : The Story of Us

We attended the same college to play Softball & Football for the university teams. Being Psychology majors- many of our classes overlapped. Brendan always says "I remember the blue haired girl sitting in front of me in my classes". Katelyn never noticed Brendan, until one night at a gathering in her college home. She felt such an instant connection to him and texted her friend "who is that man, I want to have a family with him". **We officially met each other on Halloween** about 10 years ago, dressed as Kip from *Napoleon Dynamite* and Arya, a character from the *Eragon* Book Series. Katelyn graduated 6 weeks later and moved across the country. As soon as Brendan graduated, he immediately moved across country to be with Katelyn.



Our relationship has stood the test of time, long distance, and 3 cross country moves. We knew each other for 5 weeks in person before having to navigate 1.5 years of being long distance. It was really scary to commit to a move across country after spending such limited time in person together. We both remember having intense butterflies in our stomachs with worry waiting to see each other for the first time at the airport. We spent the night eating Chinese food with our feet in the pool under the stars. We both felt so comfortable, connected, and relaxed that it completely and immediately solidified our choice to wait out long distance until we could move in with each other.

Growing up with big families, younger siblings, and lots of younger cousins- we have always known we wanted large families. We have established firm roots in a family oriented neighborhood, surrounded by friends, and very importantly our rabbit- Gertrude. **We have always known we wanted to be parents**, and early on discussed adoption as an intentional choice to not pass down genetic predispositions. We have been family planning with the path of adoption for the last 5 years and are truly hopeful to begin this journey with you.



"Just knock if you need anything at all"



We live in a very tight knit rural 30 home community in North Carolina, where every home has, or is in the process of building a family. Here, **everyone knows you by name**, will say hello, and invite you in for a cup of coffee, always offering a helping hand. Anyone you meet, will offer you a helping hand and an open door policy. **Our neighborhood motto is, "just knock if you need anything at all"**. Our favorite part of our home is our backyard deck! This Memorial Day, Brendan sipped coffee on our deck while he watched Katelyn prune her vegetable garden and listened as she excitedly shared information about her garden. Brendan said "This is seriously the life; this weather, the birds, being outside with you".

Our neighborhood is surrounded by **open land for the children to roam and play safely**. With children running around, riding their bikes and playing, it is not out of the ordinary for a neighborhood kid to be rollerblading in our driveway. When planting fruit trees in our yard recently, some of the neighborhood kids stopped by to learn and help and excitedly asked, "maybe you could plant some in our yards too!?"



The three homes directly next to us are our closest friends, and each of them are currently growing their families as well. We are living our childhood dream (minus the tunnels and telephone wire phones connecting our homes - for now..). We go on nightly walks together, have random pop-in's for coffee, conversation, and comfort. While grilling dinner one weeknight, Brendan and our neighbors started to play football together! Your child will have a built in "second family" with our best friends being our neighbors, and will grow up with many small, loving families close by.

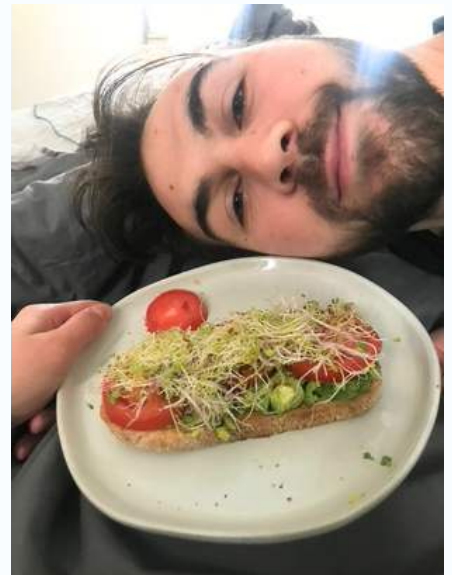
Our Lives

We try not to limit our paths to joy and spontaneity is always encouraged! We love stopping at roadside attractions and spots that seem interesting. From a random and recent trip to pick up a coffee table, we spotted **a bright yellow, and run down building** with a sun shining on a flag. We thought it looked interesting and decided to give it a try, **only to find the best Italian ice!** It was super refreshing, being sold directly out of the owner's old garage freezer. Brendan got Pina Coloda and Katelyn got mango and peach. Your child will grow up in a home that encourages them to try new things and follow their interests.



Food is our foundation to celebration, connection, adventure, and medicine. We have both grown up in homes centered around the kitchen table. **Food has connected us to so many different cultures** through both trying new foods, and our travels. It is not out of the ordinary for us to plan a whole vacation around the restaurants we want to try! When in Spain, we did an overnight trip to Portugal and didn't have anything planned, other than knowing we needed to try a pastry called Pasteis De Nata. We became INFATUATED, stopping at every single bakery we saw to grab another warm flaky pastry cup filled with a baked vanilla custard.

Every single weekend morning, Brendan wakes Katelyn up with fresh coffee and we enjoy breakfast together. Katelyn loves waking up to the smell of fresh coffee. We tend to go through phases of our favorite weekend breakfasts. **We have PERFECTED avocado toast on homemade sourdough.** The first time Katelyn made sourdough, the dough was raw in the middle! Brendan being a calm optimist encouraged Katelyn to throw it back in the oven and although it wasn't perfect, we both appreciated it for the experience.

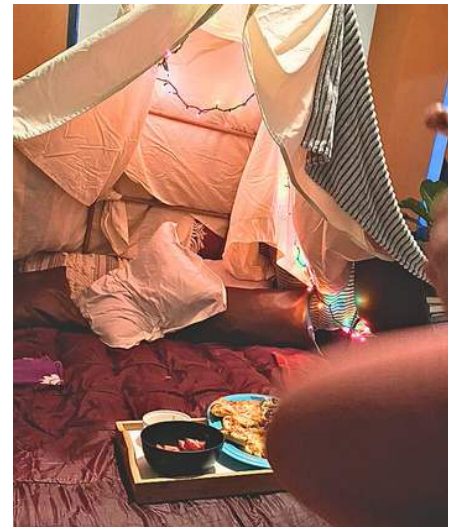


The Sweet Side



We love to end our days with ice cream and both have big sweet teeth! Luckily, we are a 3 minute drive from a local strawberry farm that serves seasonal fresh ice cream. We take everyone who visits to check it out. When Katelyn's parents most recently came to visit with us, we went to the ice creamery 3 times in 4 days! Katelyn tried a new flavor each time and Brendan kept it classic knowing what he likes, mint chocolate chip in a cone.

We enjoy trying new things. We have a book of activities that you scratch off, and whatever is underneath is an activity to do together. When we have extra free time, we love to scratch off a random activity. Our favorite was to create a blanket fort and indoors s'mores station for the ultimate moving watching experience. We set up an indoor S'Mores station, but living in an apartment at that time, doing indoor S'Mores on an inflatable bed got a little precocious and **we actually set off the fire alarm!** We blew the sterno light out and enjoyed the rest of *Eurovision*, a movie we have watched at least 10 times. Your child will grow up in a home that inspires creativity and limitless opportunities for joy.



In some ways we truly are opposites. Katelyn comes forth loud, eccentric, and silly while Brendan sits in the back cultivating a quiet, reserved, and calm presence. We have really found how to **balance each other out**, shining a spotlight on our strengths, and coaxing each other capacities. Brendan grounds Katelyn, and Katelyn inspires Brendan to seek adventure. During any given week, you will find Brendan playing music on our record player or sound system and lighting candles creating a calming atmosphere while Katelyn dances around the house to the music. Recently, Brendan joined in on the dance party during our favorite song *Grow as We Go* by Ben Platt and spun with Katelyn in circles until we were both dizzy. Your child will grow up in a home that celebrates our differences and allows our differences to bring out the best in each other.

Our Family

If you choose us, your child will grow up with 4 grandparents, 23 aunts and uncles, & **40 cousins**.



With such large families, comes **a melting pot of cultures**. We have grown up celebrating those cultures most often **around the kitchen table**, learning to make foods like tamales, pierogies, and gnocchi. Brendan's first time cooking for Katelyn was with his grandmother, making homemade gnocchi. He was so excited to make the dish for her, that he forgot she was vegetarian and served it alongside a big meatball. Katelyn was so appreciative of the consideration and time that went into making the meal, that she politely ate a few bites of pasta avoiding the meatballs. .

Our **family will go the distance**, literally, to show support. Brendan's brothers, parents, grandparents, and aunt/uncles attended every single game he ever played in college no matter the drive. Katelyn was shocked to meet his whole family for the first time at a football game, and his family was just as shocked to meet her as she donned bright purple eyebrows in a show of team pride.



Our family **loves to play games!** On any given family night you can catch us playing games around the dining table. Katelyn's favorite game is *SPOONS* and can get quite competitive with people sometimes falling out of their chairs to grasp the final spoon! Katelyn's aunt competed so hard one time, that she literally fell out of her chair to try and grab a spoon, losing the final round to Katelyn's younger cousin. Your child will be surrounded by playful, albeit slightly competitive family that never takes life too seriously.

The Traditions We Cherish



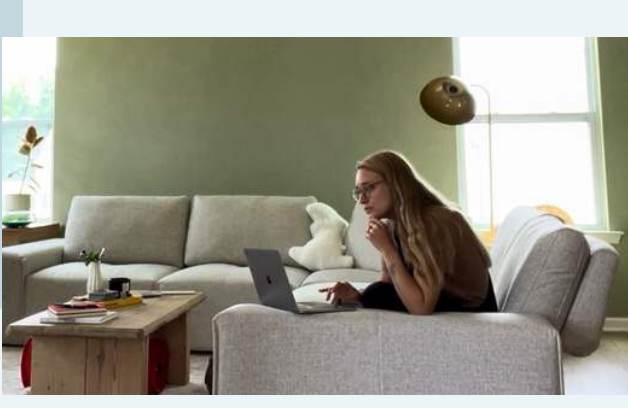
Every Thursday we host a themed "**Throw Back Thursday**" with our neighbors/best friends, watching "throw back" movies and tv shows with themed foods. This winter we watched *Holes* and cooked up peach cobbler from Brendan's grandmother's canned peaches, made "dirt cups," onion pizza, and onion chips! Our friends were love-struck with the onion pizza and rapidly consumed both pizzas all while quoting our favorite line "*I'm tired of this digging granpa!*"

Once a month, we will use a **random country generator** to randomly select a country to create meals for the week celebrating the country's national dishes, bringing fun facts to the dinner table. Our first time partaking in this, the random country generator landed on St. Nevis and Kitts and we had a great time trying to recreate the national dish of Stewed Saltfish with spicy plantains and coconut dumplings. We got to visit a new Hispanic Grocery to get some of the specialty ingredients and were so excited to experience all of the new spices and chilis. A salad Katelyn made was filled with chilis and a little too spicy for Brendan resulting in a red and sweaty face!



Every Christmas season, we queue up a list of **holiday TV specials** from our favorite TV Series like *The Office*, *Parks and Rec*, and *Big Bang Theory*, to name a few. Every time we start a new series, if the series has a holiday special, Brendan will excitedly say "We get to add that one to our Christmas shows to watch this year!" During the entire month of November and December, our TV watching is exclusively dedicated to Holiday Specials. We are excited to add *Ted Lasso's* holiday special to this year's watching party! Despite it only being spring, Brendan will say on a weekly basis, "I literally can't wait for Christmas." Katelyn started rewatching the *Mindy Project* this spring and Brendan saw a Christmas themed episode and said, "add it to the list!" We look forward to learning about some of your favorite traditions to include in gatherings with your child.

Weekdays



Katelyn works as a **mental health therapist** and works about 23 hours a week. She plans to cut back to working 2-3 days a week and gets to **create her own hours**, often **working from home**. Katelyn often works with adoptive families and will apply what she has learned to make sure that your child knows your choice was the purest act of love, and feel our love without any doubt in their mind.

Brendan is an HR manager that has a **flexible work schedule**, allowing him to **work from home**. Brendan works in HR promotes inspiring comfort and inclusivity in the workspace, striving to provide an accessible space to all. With our flexible work schedules your child will always have a parent home with them.



We love our quality time each day spent at home together, especially with our rabbit, Gertrude. At 4 pounds, she packs quite the personality. She is fearless and extra mischievous. Gertrude was a surprise gift from an old friend. During a visit while we were dating, Gertrude jumped onto the couch onto Brendan's lap to his complete surprise, his first time meeting her. Nowadays, Gertrude refuses to sit on the floor, preferring to sit on the couch. She even has her own special spot she likes to sit on it. She is a fiend for food, especially bananas and will try and eat them out of our mouths! While cooking dinner the other night, Gertrude wanted to be directly involved and hopped into the kitchen sitting by our feet while we cooked. Your child will have quality family time, every day.

With Gratitude

We cannot express our appreciation enough for you taking the time to consider us as adoptive parents, and for getting to know a bit about us. The chance to be part of your child's life is such an honor for us, and we want to extend our support and gratitude for you in this process. **We hope to embark on this journey alongside you** and your baby, **and continue to grow our relationship** through the years.


With Gratitude,

Katelyn & Brendan



Notes

Notes



made with love by
Katelyn & Brendan