

Daryl and Melanie



Novie & Rosabella too!



Dear Expectant Mom

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We promise that if we are chosen as your child's adoptive parents, we will love them fully, whole-heartily, and without condition. We will choose every day to support their dreams and provide a safe place for them to grow. We wish you calm and peace as you sort through the profiles to make a tough decision on who is right to raise your child with such limited information. We hope that we might be that family, but more than that we hope that your child grows up in the place that is right for them.



A little about us



We love to travel the world and bring the world to us. A few years ago, we felt lucky to travel with Melanie's parents and brother to Italy. We were in awe as we toured the sites and got to spend some time cooking and shopping in the non-touristy locations. Then, last year, we got the opportunity to host Alessia, our foreign exchange student from Italy. We have seen her be in awe of the sites we have here, shown her how to cook some US foods, and have had her show us how to cook some wonderful Italian food. We have loved her becoming part of our family and us becoming part of her family.

We are adventurous. Our typical weekend likely has us exploring free events in our local city or neighborhood. Recently, we visited a free local event at a nearby museum. We got to relax, listen to music in the park, learn about pre-WWII vehicles, and enjoy other works of art. Each car had a description about its history. We were surprised to read that there was a car factory in the county near us that built one of the models we saw. Since we watch some shows that take place pre-WWII such as *Bridgerton*, it was cool to see them up close. Your child will enjoy exploring and learning about the world around them.



We knew we wanted to start our family right after getting married, and quickly learned we had infertility issues. We worked through the sadness and tough time of that. We had always thought about adoption even while dating, so we were able to quickly change gears to creating the family that is so important to us through adoption. We hope to make a connection with you, and keep you informed of your child's experiences as they grow up.

Melanie at a glance

Melanie has a love of reading, especially when she can step outside to read the latest novel on our back deck. It started at a young age when she participated in Pizza Hut's *Book It* campaign that encouraged kids to read for points that could be used toward personal pizzas. These days she reads around 2 books a month. Recently in one of her book clubs, her group went to dinner and met author Marie Benedict, who spoke on the book *The Personal Librarian*. She blends a lot of real untold stories of women with a few fictional folks to make the stories blend. She came home that evening and excitedly told Daryl about the author's talk. Your child will grow up in a family that will loves reading.



Melanie values her family daily walks. Exercising became a part of her daily life after Melanie got her first full time job that required sitting at a desk. Then, once she started working from home, it allowed her and her mom to walk together every day around our neighborhood. They enjoy this time of quality exercise and family time. On one of their recent walks, a dog came running up to them with excitement, wanting to say hi. Melanie noticed she was not with her person. She looked for the dog's tag and called the number to let the owner know their dog was loose. The owner was relieved and happy to have their dog, Shirley, back! Later in the day, the owner even sent a follow-up text to say thank you again. Now, they enjoy when they get to see Shirley and her owner out again properly for a "hello" and pet.

Melanie enjoys her monthly **dinner meet-ups with her two best friends** from high school. Once a month all three find a night that works with their schedules, choose a place to have dinner, and catch up on each other's lives. It's fun to hear about Gretchen's three boys and about all the house projects Jenn is doing around the house. Every Thanksgiving, we make sure to schedule a dinner out at a restaurant that makes quite an outrageous burrito that fits a full Thanksgiving dinner named the "Gobblerito". Jenn sends out reminders for when it comes out and gets us ready for the true Thanksgiving dinner with the bonus of a to-go box to take home.



Daryl at a glance



At a young age, **Daryl discovered his love of science**, and he enjoys sharing his passion for science with the younger generation. Every year, Daryl volunteers for an event where butterfly researchers count how many butterflies are active in our area. The event invites local kids to run around and catch butterflies with a net. This year, Daryl was tasked to help identify what type of butterfly each child caught. The excitement on the **children's faces** was the same Daryl had when talking about the type of butterfly they had just caught. Daryl would ask for the child's thoughts on what type of butterfly they thought they had caught from photos of common butterflies. After counting and identifying, he would share how researchers use this information to identify if there are any major butterfly population changes that might need investigated.

Daryl has always loved running. When he was young, he loved soccer because it was running with the purpose of scoring a goal. After college, running became the goal. A few years ago, Daryl trained and ran a full marathon. It rained during the first 2 miles, and then the sun came out which made it unbearably humid. He overheated around mile 17. It quickly became a run/walk the rest of the way, but he never gave up. It is still something that Daryl is very proud to have accomplished, but the soreness he had afterwards will make it unlikely to happen again! Your child will have an enthusiastic father that will be fully supportive in whatever passions fill their heart.



Daryl does likes thrill-seeking ventures like visiting the hot desert in the summer. Years ago, Daryl was the best man in his friend's wedding. He and his friend had talked about going skydiving a few times. Well before the wedding, Daryl casually asked if the groom would do go skydiving if he had the opportunity. He told Daryl that he would love to go, but he did not want to selfishly spend the money. Daryl secretly arranged for the groom, a couple of his friends, and himself to go skydiving. The dive was great fun, and since Daryl and his friend relied heavily on professionals to train and equip them, it was quite safe. The groom's fiancé was super excited that he got to enjoy this fantastic trip thanks to Daryl.

Some Favorite Activities



Melanie has loved the beach since she was a young child. Now, we take day trips to the nearest beach (2 hours away) a couple times a year. It is always a good time being outside breathing the fresh beach air, getting to relax, walking along the water, and spending time together. Melanie's favorite activity at the beach is reading a book under the umbrella while Daryl always likes for Melanie play some beach sports with him. On one trip, he convinced her to join him and our friend Alan to throw a frisbee. Daryl was positioned by the water with Melanie throwing the frisbee to him. One throw she missed her mark and the frisbee went into the water. **Daryl** dove into the water to get, and then **picked Melanie up and ran back into the water with her!**

We enjoy being able to go to the theater to see many types of shows. We will see musical's, plays and operas performed by the local high schools, universities, and Broadway. Our biggest memory is seeing the Music Man on Broadway in NYC with Daryl's parents. The show had us laughing and singing along to the music. Melanie even had to get the soundtrack to listen to the songs at home and bring back the fun family time memories.



On a monthly basis we have a game night with friends. It is a fun, laidback, good time night with our friends and their children. We remember when we played a bird themed strategy game, *Wingspan*. During the gaming session, we each had our different strategies. Our friend Aaron tested out a risky new strategy that could pay off big if he collected enough water birds. Our friend Gretchen said that she didn't know what was going on, but she was unintentionally working a good strategy. Daryl took the longest and tried to work up the most robust strategy, but Melanie ended up winning the game simply by choosing the prettiest color or her favorite named birds. We all had fun teasing each other, catching up, and competing in a fun and laidback way. Meanwhile, a six-year-old costumed crusader, Oliver hopped from his hiding spot to hiding spot to sneak another brownie without alerting his parents.

Our Loving Family

If you choose us, your child will have 2 great grandparents, 3 active grandparents, 1 heavenly grandpa 5 Aunts and Uncles and **33 cousins**



During any family gathering, **card games become a fun, friendly competition** between all of us. At one of our family gatherings, we played *Pass the Ace*. During the game, our nephew Gavin was so proud as he had given Daryl an Ace, causing him to lose that round. In the next round, Daryl played his King which then prevented our nephew from passing the lowest playing card to Daryl. Gavin stood up out of his seat and shouted, "Uncle Daryl!". Everyone playing laughed and got rowdy over those two plays!

Our family is **close by** and are all available anytime our assistance or quality time is needed. We like to do projects inside and outside of our home. Recently, we built a small deck to the back of our house. We wanted to be able to enjoy the shaded back yard without the soggy damp ground. We looked into having professionals do it, but it was going to take too long and would be too expensive. Daryl was very nervous about designing and planning the deck build, but Melanie coordinated her brother Chris, her dad, and herself to help. It got so hot during the 2nd day of construction, we had to take many breaks to eat Icee pops, hydrate, and move the canopy to shade the active work area. At one point, as Daryl was cutting the boards, Melanie was predrilling the holes, her dad was setting up screws, and her brother was screwing in the deck screws. **It was fantastic to see everyone work together to build something that we will enjoy for years to come.** We finished building on the 2nd day and we relaxed that night watching the lightning bugs dance in the backyard during the summer night Your child will always have family close by to help and create memories with.



Our family is active. Recently, we celebrated Daryl's grandmother's birthday. We always feel so loved as we gather for a group prayer, shared meal, and to watch whoever join in on the afternoon games. At one recent gathering, the kids gathered to play kickball. **The older kids helped teach the younger ones the rules.** We also chipped in with coaching the younger ones on how to run the bases. It was heart-warming to see the next generation form the bonds that your child's aunts and uncles share with their cousins.

Our Family Traditions



We have an **Annual Cousin's Ski Trip**, where Daryl's cousins and siblings and their 12 children gather to go skiing. On this years recent trip Daryl, Melanie & Alessia went snow tubing for a fun activity for all to do together since Melanie does not ski. On one of the snow tubing runs Melanie & Alessia went tandem style down the hill together while Daryl went solo next to them down the hill. While snow tubing down the hill Daryl sped up ahead and snow was sprayed behind him where Melanie & Alessia were. Both Melanie & Alessia could not see but were laughing and having fun while they went down the hill. When the run was done Daryl couldn't stop chuckling. It was a fun afternoon together.

Every holiday season we see our local symphonys Christmas holiday pops performance. Last year we took Melanie's parents to the performance as a Christmas gift. One of our favorite parts is when Santa comes out and visits with the kids to find out what they want for Christmas. Also we are impressed with his singing voice as he gets his own solo. The conclusion of the show is always a sing-along which has us leaving in the holiday spirit.



Every Christmas **Melanie and her mom bake Christmas cookies together.** Melanie remembers helping her mom bake cookies since she was a child. Every year's cookie baking includes recipes passed down from generations and new ones Melanie has discovered. One of the favorites is sugar cut-out cookies as Melanie gets to demonstrate her creative style. Three generations this year got to bake together as Melanie and Alessia did the decorating while Melanie's mom made the frosting for the cookies.

Welcome to our Neighborhood



We live in a cozy townhouse in Pennsylvania that offers plenty of space for your child. We have a large backyard to play yard games when we have family and friends over. This fourth of July we had a cookout with family and friends and enjoyed many games of cornhole. Your child will have a great space to ride their bike, throw a ball around, go sledding in winter, and witness nature through the 4 seasons.



Our neighborhood is a great place to have fun for a child. With a playground a one minute walk away from our home. There are almost always kids and families at the playground having fun. Novie has even had fun on the playground. Recently, we had **Novie** with us on a walk at the playground. **He started running up the slide** to come back down and was **running across the balance beam**. It was so funny and cute watching him!

Every summer our township offers **movies in the park** that show family friendly movies. Every time we go, we feel a sense of community which we appreciate. Recently we watched *Inside Out* and it **brought out many emotions in us** as the movie was about the many emotions we all experience. At the end of the movie, we had a good laugh as it showed a cat going through the different emotions which we related to our two cats, Novie and RosaBella. Your child will enjoy summer nights outside amongst neighbors.



Our Furry Little Ones

Novie is Melanie's first pet, but as a child she always wanted a cat. **Daryl grew up with a variety of pets** as a child and could not wait to get settled enough to have a pet again. We rescued Novie from a local shelter. We initially went to see another cat, but we fell in love with him. When we got to spend time with him, he was shy, curious, and quickly gave kisses. Our hearts quickly melted and are pleased that he still gives kisses every day. RosaBella (Little Miss) came into our lives very recently as our niece rescued her mother from a mission's trip she was on. Our family thought of us when the kittens were born. After a visit to their home, we fell in love with RosaBella and knew we wanted to have her as part of our family. She loves to cuddle.



Novie loves the outdoors and loves to be with us anytime we are outside. He talks up a storm when he's smelling the outdoors to convince us to take him outside. Melanie's dad even takes him outside for walks daily. Just recently as Melanie and her mom were walking by the house, Novie jumped up into one of the trees in the backyard and started climbing it. **Melanie's dad had to get the ladder to get Novie out of the tree.** Let's just say his grandpa does not let him walk near the trees when they are outside anymore. With all the fun he has outside, he is the talk of the neighborhood.



Our cats love small humans. Once you are in Novie's pride (family) he loves to cuddle with you or get a massage from you. When one of our friends and her son came to visit, Novie was excited to see them and walked right up to her son. Novie let him pet him and then wanted to play. Her son was loving the time together as he has always wanted a cat, but his dad is allergic.



An Ordinary Day



Melanie and Daryl both have **flexible work schedules**. Melanie works as a senior claim's analyst with a health insurance company. Daryl works as a research chemist just a short drive away. Melanie enjoys the perks of **working from home**, especially with Novie and Rosabella cuddling by her side. Both Daryl and Melanie's job allows them the opportunity to go to your child's future appointments, school events, and activities.



In the evening **we like to have fun friendly competition** with each other. We just recently got a Nintendo Switch with *Mario Kart 8*. We bought it to be a fun distraction during the tough times of IVF. Team racing has turned into a fun daily activity each night we tend to play a series. Daryl had always been coming in first each time we played, so in her anniversary card to Daryl, Melanie predicted that in our next year of marriage, she would finally get her first-place win. Just before exchanging cards later that night, we played *Mario Kart* and Melanie finally came in first place!! Melanie was so happy and chuckled to herself as she handed Daryl her anniversary card. Daryl chuckled too when he saw the timing of it all. He vowed to make her wait another year for her next first place, but he knew first place would not always be his

During warm and longer daylight evenings in spring, and summer we like to get outside. We will often play some **badminton in our backyard**. One night this summer Daryl kept hitting the birdie too high for Melanie with them landing in the neighbors' trees. Melanie had to buy birdies in bulk after that so we could continue to play!



Our Promise

Thank you for considering us to be a part of this journey with you. We can't pretend to know all the feelings you must be feeling, but we can promise that you will always have a big place in our hearts. We will always think of you with respect and admiration as we believe you are showing great bravery and courage in considering adoption for your child. The opportunity to be part of your child's family is the greatest gift we could ever receive. **We look forward to maintaining contact with you**, so you can see your baby's growth over the years. We hope that you get a small glimpse of who we are in this booklet and thank you again for considering us.



Melanie & Daryl