

craig & sheri AND BLAINE TOO!



Adoption
SUPPORT CENTER
CALL OR TEXT 317-255-5916

hello,

It is hard to put into words the amount of love and respect we have for you. **WE ARE HONORED AND HUMBLED THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING ADOPTION, AND THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING US FOR YOUR PRECIOUS BABY.** We will never be able to say how grateful we are and how much we love you.

That might sound weird, coming from two people you have never met. But the fact that you are considering adoption tells us something about how much you care. **WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WHETHER YOU CHOOSE ADOPTION OR NOT AND WHETHER YOU CHOOSE US AS POSSIBLE ADOPTIVE PARENTS OR NOT, THAT WE STAND BY YOUR DECISION.**

IF WE ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET YOU, YOU WILL FIND THAT OUR FAMILY-ORIENTED LIFESTYLE IS ONE OF OUR STRONGEST QUALITIES. We both grew up knowing unconditional love and support from our parents and siblings. Having our son already, your child will have an instant best friend! We can't wait to see the fun the two of them will have together! We both are close to our siblings and make time to see them frequently. **HAVING A SIBLING IS A TRUE GIFT THAT WE ARE EXCITED TO GIVE TO YOUR CHILD!**

Having adopted before, we are excited to see how our relationship with you will grow. **WE CHERISH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SON'S BIRTH MOM, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING OUR OWN STORY WITH YOU!** We know and understand the importance of sharing your child's story and how much you love them. If you choose us, we will raise your child to know and love you. **WE KNOW OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU AND YOUR CHILD WILL BE A SPECIAL TRIAD THAT WE WILL CHERISH FOREVER.**

We are normal people that want a normal relationship with you. We are open to seeing you three times a year with visits to your hometown, our hometown, or meeting halfway. We visualize meeting at parks or outdoor places when it is warm and indoor museums, restaurants, or fun activity places when the weather is cooler. **WE ARE OPEN TO HEARING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS IF THEY DIFFER AND LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU ORGANICALLY.**

If you are open to it, we are hoping to text with you for weekly check-ins during your pregnancy. We would like to continue texting weekly for the first 6 months and transition to monthly texts thereafter. We would be excited to include photos and stories with our updates if you are okay with that. **MOSTLY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU FOR THE LONG-TERM.**

We are ready and waiting, trusting God's plan. We hope that you will choose us and that we can be part of each other's stories. **WE HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR JOURNEY EITHER WAY.** Thank you for your time and consideration!

Love,

Craig and Sheri

We use a phrase in our house often, that we take very seriously and try to prove to one another as often as we can.

"I LOVE YOU MORE TODAY THAN I DID YESTERDAY."



We finished lunch and were heading out the door. He walked me to my car to say goodbye. He gave me a hug and asked me right there when he could see me again. **I DON'T EVEN REALLY REMEMBER HOW EVERYTHING ELSE FELL INTO PLACE.**



our story...

WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR 11 YEARS. While we don't have a great and cute story of how we met, we bonded quickly over our great and cute taste in movies, like Stepbrothers haha. We were quoting it by the end of the date. We only exchanged a few messages back and forth before we exchanged phone numbers.

We met for lunch and I remember thinking he was so nervous. He spoke softly and somewhat quickly. He finished his entire steak before I had half of my salad done. **KNOWING CRAIG NOW, HE IS JUST A SOFT-SPOKEN MAN THAT EATS FAST!** I remember thinking that if something romantically didn't happen between us, he is someone I could see myself being friends with forever.



We went to our friend's lake house for the weekend. **WE WOULD SPEND A LOT OF OUR SUMMERS GOING UP THERE FOR WEEKENDS.** Early in our relationship, we were sitting on the pier looking at the lake in the morning. One of my friends snapped a picture of us, and it is still one of our favorites today. Well, when we went back to the lake house, Craig said he wanted to get an updated picture of us on the pier. **WHEN WE WENT UP THERE, HE PROPOSED.** I was totally surprised and extremely nervous that he was going to drop my new ring into the lake!

We dated for about 3 1/2 years before we got engaged. We were engaged for 1 1/2 years and planned our dream wedding for New Year's Eve in 2016. **IT WAS SO MUCH FUN HAVING ALL OUR FAMILY and friends there to ring in the new year!**

Although we met before many of our friends and their spouses, we were basically the last to actually get married. WE HAVE NEVER CARED ABOUT ALL THE TITLES OR EVENTS, JUST ABOUT BEING WITH EACH OTHER.

What I love about Craig!

"Craig is the most caring, patient, hardworking, and loving person anyone could ever meet. He is the perfect balance for me. He is someone that I can always be myself around and know there is no judgement. He is also the type of husband that shows love on a daily basis.

It has been so much fun watching Craig and Blaine together. CRAIG IS SO PATIENT WITH BLAINE. While we are entering our toddler years with Blaine, Craig is so good with sitting him down and explaining to him why he should not do certain things.

HE IS GENTLE, KIND, AND COMPASSIONATE. Blaine really sits and listens to him. Watching this melts my heart! Craig is raising a gentleman! Blaine loves riding on Craigs back as he gives him a "horsie ride." They have so much fun playing and running around outside. Craig is currently remodeling some parts of our home. Blaine loves watching his dad with the tool kit. He grabs his tool kit and plays alongside. THE WAY HE LOOKS UP TO AND ADMires CRAIG IS SO EVIDENT. I FEEL SO LUCKY EVERYDAY TO HAVE CRAIG BY MY SIDE!"



WE ALWAYS JOKE THAT WE TAKE OUR LIFE IN "SLOW MOTION." WE WERE IN NO HURRY TO BE IN A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP, GET ENGAGED, OR GET MARRIED.

What I love about Sheri!

Sheri is open and honest about her feelings and needs on a daily basis. She was and is respectful of my needs and feelings as well.

She taught me by example how to work out any small issues through this type of communication before anything grew to be larger. **WE HAVE HAD SUCH A ROCK-SOLID RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF THIS!**



IT IS A LOVE AND COMMITMENT THAT SHERI MAKES OBVIOUS TO ME IN MORE THAN JUST WORDS EVERY DAY. I try my best to keep up with her lead in that example.



Seeing Sheri take on the role of Mother in the way she did has not surprised me at all! She is a caring and natural mother and impresses me every day. Seeing her laugh and smile with Blaine melts my heart. **SHE GIVES US ALL HER LOVE, YET I KNOW SHE HAS SO MUCH MORE LOVE TO GIVE.** It really is awe-inspiring.



meet sherri...

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A
“PEOPLE PERSON.”

I love talking to people and being around others. My co-workers joke and call me “the prom queen” because I make friends wherever I go!

My hobbies are always surrounding myself with people I love! Just “hanging out” and talking is my favorite way to spend time. I had a lot of friends growing up, and to this day, I am still friends with most of them. There is a group of 9 of us that get together monthly. We look forward to our monthly hang outs to catch up on life!

I am a creative person and love interior design. I really enjoy decorating my own home. I also love taking pictures and then making Shutterfly books with all the pictures that I take! It may sound weird but I love organizing things and enjoy giving everything a place. This has become much more difficult with a child haha!

When I have downtime, I like to kick back and play board games or watch TV. My favorites board games are “Sorry” and “Ticket to Ride.” My guilty pleasures are watching You, Southern Charm, This is Us, and anything Disney.

I played softball my entire childhood. I was never that great at the sport but always won the “Best Sportsmanship” award for the team. I was the kid that always loved school. Big shocker that I turned out to be a teacher! I work hard in my career as a teacher and love being a part of my students’ learning.

I am a happy, caring, dedicated, loving, and laidback person with a big personality. I get along easily with people and have a good sense of humor.



I loved being with all my friends, learning, and all the social events. I would go to football games, school dances, and be involved in school clubs. I was in National Honor Society and President of a club called N-Teens. I have always loved music and played the piano as a child. I am trying to reteach myself the instrument and get back to playing.



My absolute favorite way to spend my time is with Blaine. He is growing and changing so much each day! I love reading to him, playing with his toys, and dancing with him. We dance around to “Baby Shark” multiple times a day! My favorite moments are in the evenings after I have given him a bath. I love sitting in our family room and relaxing with him before it is bedtime!

meet craig...

I AM VERY PROUD OF MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO FAR IN MY LIFE, BUT NOTHING HAS MADE ME PROUDER THAN BEING A FATHER.



My parents raised a “family man,” and that is what I had really been working towards.

As an adult, I FEEL I AM MOSTLY DEFINED BY MY STRONG WORK ETHIC AND LEVEL-HEADED THINKING.

I have put a great deal of effort into establishing myself in my career but have welcomed a change in balance once I became a dad. In November 2018, we purchased our “forever” home. It is the first time in my life I have not shared a wall with my neighbor.



WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL, I SPENT SO MUCH OF MY TIME RUNNING AROUND WITH MY FRIENDS, PLAYING BASEBALL, FOOTBALL AND KICKBALL IN THE FIELDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. I also played little league baseball and basketball for a few years. In middle school I played volleyball, basketball and ran cross country and track. Come high school I played football and ran track for the first 2 years. I chose not to play varsity and instead focused on student government and national honor society. MY SENIOR YEAR I WAS BOTH CLASS PRESIDENT AND NHS PRESIDENT. I had somehow established myself as a “cool nerd,” which my wife still thinks is hilarious because apparently my nerd side took over in adulthood!



My friends and I enjoyed going hiking in the forest preserve near our house and fishing in the creek that ran through it. We would literally do this all year long, even searching for breaks in the ice we could fish in the winter.

meet blaine...

We adopted our son Blaine in May of 2020.

"BLAINE HAS BEEN THE GREATEST BLESSING IN OUR LIVES."



BLAINE IS A FULL-BLOWN BOY! He loves everything messy. Finding an ant on the floor, putting his hands in mud, and pretending to be a dog - anything he can do that shows his love for adventure and silliness. He loves to play tricks on us. He pretends to hide, tickle us, and laughs all day long. One of his first words was "tickle tickle."

He loves to play with his water table, toy kitchen sink, and to swim in the pool. **HIS DOGS ARE HIS FAVORITE THING IN THE WORLD TO PLAY WITH.** He is constantly throwing balls for them to chase, petting them, and making them howl. Ted and Pippi adore him!

BLAINE WILL BE THE ABSOLUTE BEST BIG BROTHER. He is so wonderful to his younger cousin. He loves to sit next to her, pet her cheek, and kiss her hands. It might sound silly, but the way he is with his dogs shows us how much he will love having a sibling! **HE WANTS TO BE AROUND PEOPLE ALL THE TIME.**



WE LOVE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MAMA K. We were able to see her in person recently and it was amazing. We got to meet Blaine's biological siblings, and it was so fun to see them all together.

We consider ourselves all one big family!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HER AGAIN SOON.



as a family...

The transition to parenthood has been a dream come true. Blaine has added to our lives in ways we never imagined.

We are both pretty laid back people.

We meet for dinners often and have frequent social gatherings with family and friends. I LOVE HAVING A VILLAGE OF PEOPLE TO LOVE ON BLAINE. He has so many people that he knows and loves, and it truly melts my heart. Watching him Facetime with family and friends is so fun! He loves stealing our phones and pretending to call everyone. Hearing his pretend conversations is adorable! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT HE GETS TO GROW UP KNOWING HOW LOVED HE IS FROM ALL AVENUES OF HIS LIFE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CHILD HAVING THAT AS WELL!



We do live close to Chicago, so it is fun to go downtown here and there for dinner, a musical, or event. It is great to have the opportunity to take the train or drive into this beautiful city. We can make a last minute decision to go to some of the amazing museums, Shedd Aquarium, countless parks, and restaurants.

We are also close to Lake Michigan and Indiana Dunes! It is great being only a short drive away to one of America's Great Lakes! The beach is so clean and beautiful. There are hiking paths as well!

"IT IS A VERY FUN WAY TO SPEND A HOT SUMMER DAY!"

our home sweet home

WE BOUGHT OUR FOREVER HOME IN NOVEMBER OF 2018.

The second we turned into our new neighborhood, it felt like home.

Our house is a 1 ½ story home. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs and a bedroom and a bathroom on the main level.

The basement has a finished section to use for whatever we choose.

It will be a great space for our children to play as they get older.



OUR HOME HAS A HUGE, FENCED IN BACKYARD. We have a huge tree in the back corner, perfect for climbing! There is space to put in a pool, hot tub, and swing set! THE TALL FENCE KEEPS IT PRIVATE AND SAFE! We also live in a smaller neighborhood with only 4 streets.

There are sidewalks that wrap around the entire subdivision. WE SEE CHILDREN RIDING THEIR BIKES ON THE SIDEWALKS AND PLAYING. There are many parks nearby to play on too.

Our house is also in one of Indiana's top school districts. Not only does Sheri work for this district, but she also attended these schools as a child.

Our dogs, Ted Mosby and Pippi Longstocking.

We have two dogs. We rescued a 1 year old white Shih-tzu/Maltese mix in 2015.

We named him Ted Mosby after the main character in one of our favorite shows, "How I Met your Mother." HE IS A LOVABLE DOG THAT LOVES GETTING HIS BELLY SCRATCHED. When

he was about 2 we decided he needed a friend, so along came Pippi Longstocking. Pippi is a mini goldendoodle. SHE HAS A TON OF ENERGY AND COULD PLAY CATCH ALL DAY LONG IF WE LET HER.

"Both of our dogs are wonderful with our son Blaine." They took to him instantly. Pippi is very protective of Blaine and stays close by his side at all times. BOTH DOGS LOVE TO GIVE HIM KISSES AND PLAY WITH HIM.



sherri's family

I grew up in a big family and am the second daughter out of four. We are all close in age, with only 5 years between my older sister and youngest. Growing up I always had someone to play with. My grandpa built every one of his granddaughters a custom-built doll house for Christmas when we turned five. I still have my doll house and can't wait to watch my children play with it someday. **AS ADULTS,**

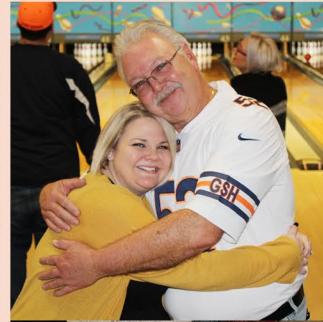
WE ARE ALL STILL VERY CLOSE AND INVOLVED IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES. My older sister has two twin boys that are 13! My two younger sisters are growing their families as we speak! My sister Aimee had a little girl this past summer and my sister Paige is having a boy this spring. **SEEING THEM ALL GROW UP TOGETHER WILL BE SO MUCH FUN!**

I WAS A DADDY'S GIRL GROWING UP. I have so many memories of playing catch in the yard, him coaching my softball teams, teaching us how to ride our bikes and roller skate, and tickling us until we could barely breathe! **NOW WITH HAVING A CHILD OF MY OWN, THERE IS NO ONE MY SON ADORES MORE THAN MY FATHER, HIS PAPA JOHN!** My mother was a stay at home mom. She dedicated her entire life to her kids. She was on our school's PTO and organized school events, read with us, watched every play we would put on for her, helped us with our homework, and yet she still kept the house clean with dinner on the table each night. **I LOOK UP TO HER SO MUCH AS A MOTHER.** She watches Blaine three days a week and he absolutely loves her. Anything goes at Gram's house! **MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARENTS HAS ONLY GOTTEN STRONGER AFTER HAVING A CHILD OF MY OWN.**

Thanksgiving is our favorite family holiday. We can't wait to go on more family vacations. A trip to Disney World with all the cousins is going to happen within the next few years! **EVERY YEAR WE GO BOWLING DURING THE DAY AS A FAMILY.**

This tradition stemmed from my childhood. The fathers used to take us kids bowling to let the moms stay home and get dinner ready. Now as adults, we all go bowling (including my mom). **WE HAVE SO MUCH FUN SPENDING THE ENTIRE DAY TOGETHER.** Our group of people bowling each year keeps growing as our family keeps growing!

Every year we get together for the Superbowl, no matter what teams are playing. We go to my parents' house to eat food, watch the game, and make bets! Since we have such a large family, there are so many people there to celebrate with! In the summers, we get together on Mondays for "Mellow Mondays." My dad grills out and we swim and hang out all day. Growing up we would always go to Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri each summer. We would take the boat and rent a condo on the lake. We are finally starting the tradition up again and going back this year! **We can't wait to see our own children fall in love with this trip.**



Craig's Family



I WAS THE YOUNGEST CHILD GROWING UP. According to my sister, Amy, I was SPOILED ROTTEN. She wasn't completely wrong. Most of my cousins were old enough to be parents when I was a child, because my mom was the youngest of 5 and my dad the youngest of 3. THIS TURNED OUT

TO BE A HUGE BLESSING IN MY LIFE because 2 of my older cousins were mature enough to be named my Godparents. Today, my sister doesn't drone on too much about my being spoiled.

WE GET TOGETHER WITH MY SISTER'S FAMILY AND MY PARENTS ALMOST EVERY OTHER WEEKEND AND ENJOY WATCHING OUR KIDS LEARN NEW SKILLS.

We spent nearly every Sunday together with my parents at my Grandma Lee's (Mom's side). THESE SUNDAYS WERE SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF MY YOUNG YEARS. We would spend the day helping my Grandma with various chores around her house. In the summer we helped with yard work and tending to her beautiful garden and vegetable patch. I AM THANKFUL AS AN ADULT TO HAVE HAD THESE DAYS WATCHING MY PARENTS GIVE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO HELPING OTHERS.

My parents have long volunteered their time in other areas of the community as well, especially at their church. By the time I was 13 I was also volunteering in the church nursery with my mom during the 2nd service once a month or more as needed. I also served communion regularly with my dad during the 3rd service. I TOOK PRIDE IN MY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY.

MY PARENTS WORKED HARD FOR EVERYTHING THEY HAD AND GAVE US. They never chased the big house or the fancy car. Like many working-class families, they struggled every day to balance their time with us and providing for us. We didn't have many "big" vacations growing up. Instead, my parents would plan road trips to see our extended family in Mississippi and Georgia. They would stop at historical sites along the way and include stops at museums and zoos. TO THIS DAY, I STILL ENJOY HISTORY-ORIENTED DAY TRIPS AND VACATIONS.

WE LOVE ALL THE KIDS IN OUR LIVES...



We have 4 nephews and 1 niece. BLAINE IS SPOILED BY COUSINS ON EACH SIDE OF THE FAMILY.

On Craigs side, Blaine loves playing with his cousin Mason who is 2 years older than him. On Sheri's side, my older twin nephews love playing with Blaine and teaching him new things! He also loves his younger cousin as well.

WE ALSO LOVE BEING AUNT AND UNCLE TO ALL OUR FRIENDS' KIDS AS WELL. Several of our friends have kids around the same age as Blaine and are working on growing their families as well. IT IS FUN TO TAKE THEM FOR WALKS TOGETHER, PLAYING AT PARKS, MUSIC CLASS, SWIM LESSONS, AND HAVE PLAY DATES. We love going to summer fairs together and eating cotton candy or an elephant ear!



WE CAN'T WAIT TO ADD ANOTHER KID INTO THE GANG TO SHARE THESE FUN TIMES!



Why we chose adoption...

Since we dated for so long before getting married, we started trying to get pregnant immediately. After a while, we started looking into why we couldn't conceive. Shortly after, **WE LEARNED THE CHANCES OF US HAVING A BIOLOGICAL CHILD ARE SLIM TO NONE.** We were told we could try other options, but the chances of it being successful were not high.

"WE REALIZED THAT ADOPTION WAS THE PATH WE WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE."

WE HAVE FAITH THAT GOD CHOSE THIS FOR US, AND THIS IS MEANT TO BE OUR JOURNEY. We have always been open to adoption and feel so blessed that this is a possibility for us.

OUR FAMILIES ARE SO EXCITED TO WALK BY OUR SIDES IN THIS JOURNEY AGAIN.



We attend church together every Sunday. Our church is only 5 minutes away. **WE PLAN TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN TO KNOW GOD AND BE ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH.** Our church has hundreds of members, yet it still feels small.

EVERYONE IS ACCEPTING AND WELCOMING. THERE ARE PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACES AND ETHNICITIES.



WHILE OUR INITIAL PLAN WASN'T TO ADOPT, "WE COULDN'T IMAGINE ADOPTION NOT BEING A PART OF OUR LIFE TODAY." ADOPTION TRULY HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES AND WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL.



a letter from Mama K...

I am so thankful for Sheri and Craig. For the love and compassion they have treated me with the past couple of years. For always reassuring me that Blaine will always know how much Mama K loves and cares for him. For always blessing me with pictures, videos and the opportunity to make memories with him that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I look forward to the future with Blaine and the relationship that continues to grow not only with Blaine but with Craig and Sheri.

-Always, Mama K

THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR BLAINE'S BIRTHMOM IS INEFFABLE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING OUR HEARTS TOWARD OUR NEXT CHILD'S BIRTHMOM AGAIN.

"We are so blessed to have this as part of our story!"

