

Robert and Kelly

AND EMMA TOO!



Adoption

SUPPORT CENTER

CALL OR TEXT 317-255-5916

Hi,

Thank you so much for considering us and for reading our bio.

WE ARE HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS who have been married for 13 years and have been together for 19 years. **WE HAVE ONE DAUGHTER, EMMA, WHO CAME TO OUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION AND IS SO EXCITED TO BECOME A BIG SISTER.**

BEING PARENTS HAS REALLY BROUGHT OUT THE BEST IN US AND WE'RE EXCITED TO ADOPT AGAIN TO COMPLETE OUR FAMILY. We love being parents and believe in the importance of play and hands-on learning. Life skills and social-emotional development are so important growing up, and college and higher education will be encouraged and provided. **HUGS, PATIENCE, AND TAKING TIME TO BE SILLY AND PLAY TOGETHER MAKE OUR HOME ONE THAT'S FULL OF SMILES AND LAUGHTER.**

It's important to us that your child know who they are and where they come from. **ADOPTION WILL ALWAYS BE THE START OF THEIR STORY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WHATEVER LEVEL OF OPENNESS YOU'RE COMFORTABLE WITH.** Our daughter's birth mom enjoys sharing letters and pictures to keep her up-to-date on Emma's life. We're also open to in-person visits 4 times a year and texting or email.

YOUR CHILD WILL ALWAYS KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM AND WE'LL SPEAK ABOUT YOU WITH ALL THE LOVE AND AWE THAT WE FEEL FOR YOU IN OUR HEARTS. Thank you for considering us for this immeasurable honor.

With our love,

Robert and Kelly

our story

AND HOW IT ALL BEGAN

WE ARE HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS AND STARTED DATING OUR FRESHMEN YEAR.

The first time I, Robert, met Kelly was at band camp. She was a member of the color guard and I played in the percussion section. We had some mutual friends and during a break we sat down next to each other to play cards and cool off.



AS THE SUMMER WENT ON, I CONTINUED TO NOTICE HER. I made sure I always knew where she was in formations and we also continued to play games together on breaks. One Sunday afternoon after school started, I was in my room and one of my friends called and asked me if I liked Kelly. I told her that I did, and she urged me to call Kelly and tell her that I liked her. I remember pacing around my room with a hundred different scenarios running through my head.... what if she says no...what if she does not like me.... what if she says yes? **FINALLY, I GOT THE COURAGE TO MAKE THE CALL. I CALLED HER CELL PHONE WITH MY HEART BEATING A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR AND ASKED HER OUT. "SHE SAID YES AND I WAS SO HAPPY AND EXCITED."**

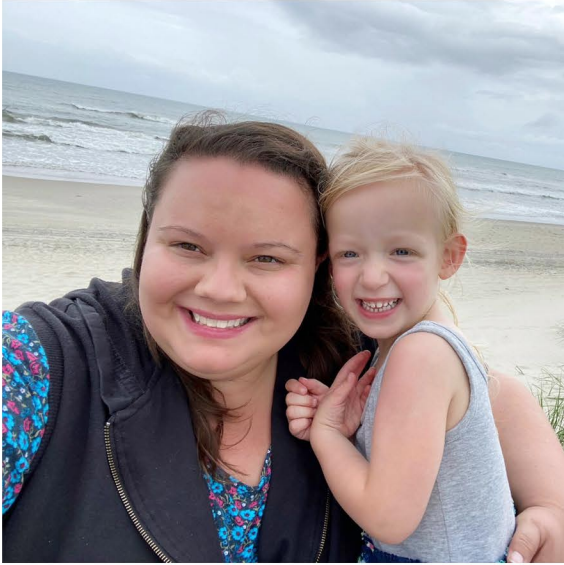
WE DATED FOR OUR ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER. We would go to movies, pass love notes, meet each others' families, and go to prom and other school dances and functions. **WE HAD MANY FIRST EXPERIENCES TOGETHER INCLUDING OUR FIRST HOMECOMING DANCE, PROM, AND MANY OTHERS.**

ROBERT'S FAMILY HAS A LONG TIME VACATION HOME IN MACKINAW CITY, MICHIGAN. The home has been in his family for 4 generations.

AFTER WE GOT MARRIED, WE DECIDED TO GO TO THE COTTAGE FOR OUR HONEYMOON. It was very special to us that we started our marriage in a place that had so much family history. WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE EMMA THERE ABOUT A YEAR AGO. IT WAS SO MUCH FUN SEEING HER ENJOY THE THINGS I, ROBERT, DID AS A KID.



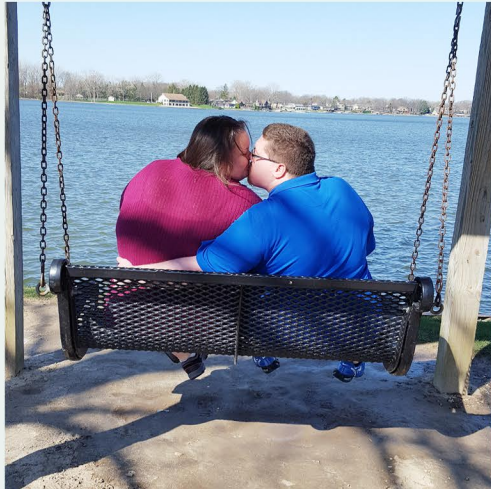
our thoughts on each other...



"Kelly is the most intelligent and beautiful woman I have ever known. She completes me. We have a strong marriage. **KELLY MAKES ME FEEL SO CONFIDENT AND LOVED. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT HER.**

KELLY IS AN INSIGHTFUL, CARING, AND INTENTIONAL PERSON AND IT SHOWS IN HER PARENTING. She is always thinking of the next developmental milestone that we can help Emma learn or thinking of activities we can do with her. Kelly is always ready to kiss a boo boo, brush Emma's hair, or paint her nails.

SHE'S AN AMAZING MOM!"



A typical date night for us is visiting a new restaurant, preferably somewhere that offers live music, games, or trivia.

In the summer, we go to Jazz on the Square and other outdoor band or orchestra concerts.

WE ALSO ENJOY GARDENING TOGETHER AND PLANT LOTS OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS.



"Robert is so confident, respectful, and a leader. **HE MAKES ME FEEL SAFE, SECURE, AND SO LOVED.**

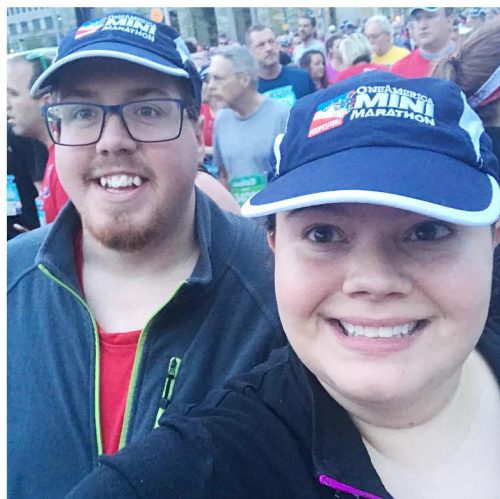
The best thing has been watching him be a father to Emma. **PLAYING WITH HER ON THE FLOOR, DOING HER HAIR, AND TOSSING HER INTO THE AIR AS SHE GIGGLES.**

HE'S THE WONDERFUL FATHER I ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD BE."



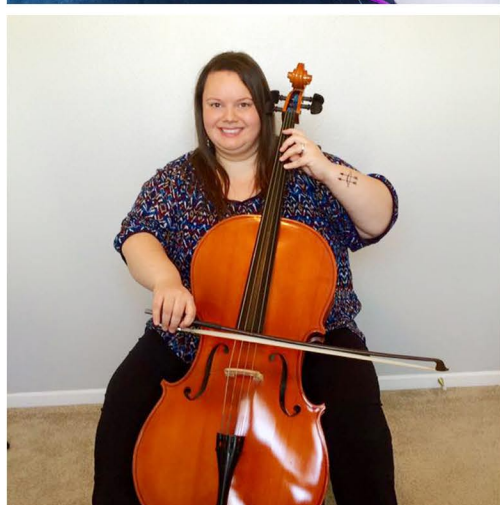
MEET **kelly...**

MY FAVORITE PLACE IN OUR HOME IS OUR **WRAP-AROUND PORCH**. When the weather's nice, we have dinner outside. Robert will then take Emma for a bike ride while I do some cross-stitching on the porch. I **MAKE EMMA CUSTOM SHIRTS BY CROSS-STITCHING DIFFERENT EMBLEMS OR DESIGNS ON THEM**. She gets so excited when Mommy sews her a new shirt.



ROBERT AND I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED GARDENING AND GROWING OUR OWN PRODUCE. When Emma was little, we made homemade baby food from our garden every summer Sunday.

I **ENJOY COOKING AND HOST THANKSGIVING FOR ROBERT'S FAMILY EACH YEAR**. I start cooking three days ahead of time and will cook the traditional turkey, mashed potatoes, and pie, but will also try a new dish each year like homemade cranberry sauce, corn casserole, and noodles.



I studied philosophy and biology in college and am still really interested in science and logic.



"I HOPE TO INSTILL A SENSE OF CURIOSITY AND A LOVE OF NATURE IN MY CHILDREN."



Music is an important part of my life. I've played cello since I was 12 and played in a steel drum band in college! When I'm working, I'll always have a playlist going in the background. I listen to just about everything, but have some nostalgia for 90s/2000s music and alt-rock.

In high school, I was on the color guard team for our marching band. I used to teach color guard at an elementary school's after-school program, and now I love getting out my color guard equipment to play with my daughter. Growing up I really liked to learn new things and it's definitely carried over into my hobbies as an adult. I love to watch documentaries, try new recipes, and learn new skills.

MEET ROBERT...

I REALLY ENJOY PLAYING WITH EMMA.

This spring we taught her how to roller skate. Now I walk with her while she skates through the neighborhood.



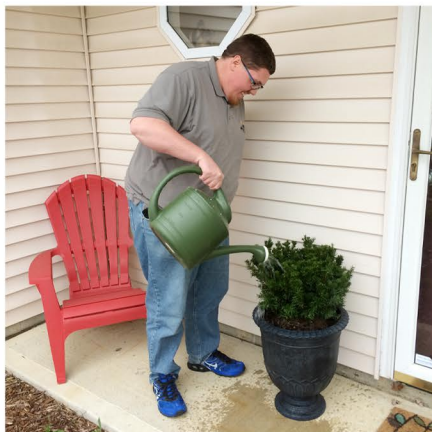
I loved and still do love what is now known as 90's alternative music, bands like Blink 182, Green Day, Pearl Jam, Smashing Pumpkins, Weezer, Oasis, played on my radio all the time.

GROWING UP, I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME OUTSIDE. There were a lot of kids in my neighborhood and we would have pretend battles and sword fights. We also really enjoyed playing neighborhood wide hide-n-seek. My favorite toys were action figures, Legos, Gameboy, and Power Rangers. My favorite thing to play was to imagine I was in a Star Trek space battle.

AS A TEENAGER, I WAS REALLY INTO READING THE CLASSICS, STAR TREK FAN FICTION, LISTENING TO MUSIC, PLAYING DRUMS, WORKING OUT, WATCHING TV AND MOVIES, AND POLITICS. During my high school days, I was extremely involved in my school community. I was involved in band, choir, student government, quiz bowl team, mock trial team, D.A.R.E. mentor, cadet teacher, member of the CHALLENGE community and school leadership council, was the president of my class senior year. **THESE ACTIVITIES GAVE ME A SENSE OF PRIDE IN MY COMMUNITY AND SHAPED AND HONED MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS.** During college, many of the interests in reading, music, politics, and leadership continued.



AS AN ADULT, I CONTINUE TO ENJOY READING, POLITICS, SPORTS, GARDENING, LISTENING TO MUSIC AND TV/MOVIES. I am a huge Star Trek fan and my wife, and I watch the movies and episodes all the time. We have Colts viewing parties all season long with family and friends. Every year we have a super bowl party at my mom's house. We also host dinner/game parties for our friends. **WE LOVE TO HAVE THEIR KIDS OVER, ENJOY FOOD, AND A GOOD GAME.**





a little about emma...

Our daughter Emma is five years old. **SHE IS THE MOST KIND, CURIOUS, AND ADVENTUROUS LITTLE GIRL.** She loves to roller skate, craft, go to the park, and to help us cook. **SHE WAS 9 WEEKS PREMATURE, BUT NOW SHE IS THRIVING!** We started swim lessons when she was 6 months old to help her muscles develop and catch-up and now she's so excited for swim practice each week.

Her favorite people in the world are her Grandma (Robert's mom) and her Mimi (Kelly's mom). **SHE GOES TO ROBERT'S MOM'S HOUSE EVERY SATURDAY FOR A PLAYDATE WITH TWO OF HER COUSINS.**

EVER SINCE WE TOLD HER WE WERE GOING TO ADOPT AGAIN SHE'S BEEN SO EXCITED TO BECOME A BIG SISTER!



Parenting has really brought out the best in us and has taught us patience, empathy, and how important it is to have fun and be silly!

"WE LOVE TEACHING EMMA NEW THINGS AND WATCHING HER GROW INTO THE WONDERFUL WOMAN SHE WILL BECOME."





as a family

WE LOVE TAKING WALKS AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND PLAYING IN THE BACKYARD. On Sundays, we like to watch a movie together as a family, cuddled on the couch with some popcorn. We enjoy going to the local farmers market and visiting nearby parks. We also love cooking together as a family and trying new recipes.

OUR FAVORITE FAMILY TRADITIONS CELEBRATE THE SEASONS.

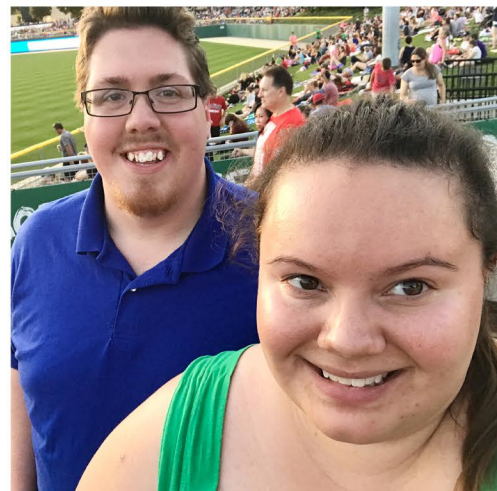


In the spring, we plant a garden as a family and Emma helps us plant. In the summer, we get a season pass to the Indianapolis Zoo and spend every other weekend exploring and learning about the animals. We'll also go to outdoor band and jazz concerts and Shakespeare in the Park. In the fall, we always go to a pumpkin patch to take a hayride, pick pumpkins for our porch, and enjoy some hot chocolate. And in the winter, we go to the huge drive-through light display at the State Fairgrounds and Emma gasps and says "wow" at all the lights.

OUR FAVORITE PLACE TO VACATION IS MACKINAW CITY, MICHIGAN. ROBERT WENT THERE FOR FAMILY VACATIONS AS A CHILD AND WE TOOK OUR HONEYMOON THERE AT HIS FAMILY'S CABIN.



We walk along the shores of the Great Lakes, get some legendary fudge, and watch the trees change color in the fall. **OUR LAST TRIP UP, WE BROUGHT EMMA THERE FOR THE FIRST TIME** and visited a park there meant specifically for stargazing. You can see the Milky Way and so many stars there, it is truly breathtaking.



our HOME SWEET HOME

IT'S IMPORTANT TO US
THAT OUR FAMILY HAVE
A HOMEBASE WHERE WE
CAN BUILD ALL OF OUR
MEMORIES.

This summer, we moved
into a big Victorian house
from 1899 in a smaller town
with a good school system.



**“We plan to live here for the rest of our lives, so our children
will have one place they can always call home.”**

OUR HOME HAS FOUR BEDROOMS AND A FENCED IN BACKYARD WITH A SWING-SET
AND A GARDEN. Across from our house is a large field next to a church that the
neighborhood kids use to play football and soccer.

WE ARE JUST A FIVE-MINUTE WALK FROM A FUN LOCAL PARK THAT HAS A SPLASH PAD,
BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, AND A PLAYGROUND. Our town has two other parks less
than a five-minute drive from our house. In the summer, our town shuts down
Main Street to throw a huge festival with vendors and music and lots to do. A
mom-and-pop ice cream stand is just down the street and has the best soft serve.
THERE'S LOTS OF KIDS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND IT'S THE TYPE OF SMALL TOWN
WHERE YOU WAVE HELLO AT PEOPLE AS THEY DRIVE-BY.



Ralphie & Riker



We have 2 dogs. Ralphie is a yorkie mix who loves to give kisses
and play. Riker is a mini-schnauzer mix who loves to snuggle.

THEY'RE BOTH SO GOOD WITH EMMA. She helps feed them,
take them on walks, and uses her toy doctor kit to give them
checkups.

kelly's family

I HAVE A LARGE FAMILY WHO ALL LIVE CLOSE BY. We all meet at my Grandma's house for the traditional holidays. **ONE OF MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IS FOR THE 4TH OF JULY.** We meet in my hometown to watch the Fourth of July parade and then we all go to my Aunt's house for a day long barbecue. We play cornhole and cards and have a pool for the kids and then we do our own firework show right at sunset.

On Halloween, the kids in my family all go trick-or-treating together. **ROBERT, EMMA AND I ALWAYS DRESS UP IN MATCHING COSTUMES.** Every Easter, my Grandma hosts an Easter egg hunt for the kids. Each kid chooses a color and they only hunt for that color egg.

ANOTHER FAMILY TRADITION IS OUR VACATIONS TO MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA. We'll rent a condo for a week to enjoy some family time at the beach.

ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF HAVING A LARGE FAMILY IS THAT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE. Birthdays, weddings, and graduations are all reasons to get together.

I'M REALLY CLOSE WITH MY MOM, WE TEXT AND TALK ON THE PHONE ALMOST EVERY DAY. We like to go to lunch, go shopping, get pedicures, and are taking a beach vacation this fall just the two of us. Someone I admire in my family is my Grandma (my mom's mom). **SHE'S TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPATHY AND I STRIVE TO BE AS THOUGHTFUL AND CARING AS SHE IS.**



robert's family

MY FAMILY IS SMALL BUT WE ARE CLOSE, EACH OF MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM ARE UNIQUE. Dad taught me 2 things that stick with me today, how to fish, and enjoy TV/movies. A LOT OF MY LONG-TERM HOBBIES AND INTERESTS COME FROM TIME I SPENT WITH MY DAD. My mother spent most of her career (30 years) at a non- profit organization that runs before and after care for students. MY MOM TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A HARD WORKER, AND HOW TO GARDEN. We would spend long hours digging up soil and planting plants in our house's flower beds. MY BROTHER AND I SPENT A LOT OF TIME AS CHILDREN WRESTLING AND PLAYING BASKETBALL IN OUR DRIVEWAY. Our relationship had the typical sibling rivalry. NOW WE TALK AND SEE EACH OTHER OFTEN, HANG OUT WHILE OUR DAUGHTERS PLAY, AND STILL GO ON THE OCCASIONAL FISHING ADVENTURE.

The person I looked up to the most is my Grandma Rosie. SHE INSTILLED IN ME A SENSE OF WONDER AND CURIOSITY ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND ME. She also taught me how to cook. We would spend hours in her kitchen making all kinds of great things. As a child we would have a large family get together on Christmas where we would get to see all our extended family.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE TRADITIONS WAS SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS LED BY MY GRANDFATHER WITH MY GRANDMOTHER PLAYING THE PIANO.



Why we chose adoption.



We started trying for a baby in 2010, one year after getting married. We tried medications, IUIs, and IVF, but the results always came back negative.

It was devastating and after six years of heartache, **WE DECIDED THAT ADOPTION WOULD BE HOW WE WILL BUILD OUR FAMILY.**

WE ADOPTED OUR DAUGHTER, EMMA, THREE YEARS LATER AND SHE IS SUCH A JOY.

Her birth mom wanted limited contact, so every few months we write her a letter letting her know what Emma's been up to, what she's learning, and how she's growing, and we send her lots of pictures.



“Our families love Emma endlessly and are so excited that we are adopting again.”



Although we've never met, we consider her a part of our close family and make sure Emma knows about the wonderful, caring woman who brought her into this world and into our lives.

