



Shannon + Gabe



HI THERE!







OUR NOTE TO YOU:

We don't know you yet, but know that you've been in our hearts and prayers for years. This isn't just something that we say, this is something that we mean truly. We are so thankful that you would consider our family for your child.

We believe that **you are a beautiful, courageous woman** for considering this choice of adoption. Our heart is for you, and we want to honor you in this process and in the years to come. **We want you to know that our desire is to honor, love, and cherish your child to the best of our abilities - to see your child for who they are and champion them in their own unique personality, gifts and desires.**

There are so many dreams in our heart for your child, should you choose us. We have a passion for travel, adventures, the outdoors, and to create lifelong, curious learners. We're lovers of God and lovers of people. We hope to guide them on this journey as well.

We look forward to sharing our hearts with you through this book. We pray that you see a clear picture of our hearts and genuine love for both you and your child.

- Gabe + Shannon



Shannon

It's so nice to "meet" you! I am a stay at home, homeschooling mom. It is super family friendly and flexible. In my opinion, there's nothing sweeter than a quiet morning with a cup of coffee and my cat snuggled on my lap. I love gardening, hobby farming, and natural remedies. I love to read, and I enjoy movies with the family. I love hosting others in my home and mentoring teens, young adults, and newly married couples. I enjoy walks and going to the gym. I love traveling a lot. Like, a lot! I love to learn about new cultures and visit new countries and places. Mostly, we visit our family that doesn't live close by. It's important to me to keep those relationships secure.

GET TO KNOW



Jewel

Jewel is almost 10 and tells us every day the countdown until her birthday. She is very joyful, strong, and intense. She is very creative and brainstorms ideas that are so imaginative. She enjoys life to the fullest! She is quite the performer and wants to be on stage to do a play or a musical someday. She enjoys music and making her wild ideas come to life. If you could think of a happy rainbow unicorn with glitter bombs to bring cheer, then you'd have Jewel! She has been praying and drawing her baby brother or sister for years. She can't wait to rock the baby, help with feedings, and has been "training" to be the best big sister.

Gabe

Thank you for taking the time to get to know me! I have a love for the outdoors, music, and games with the family. I love hunting, fishing, hiking, snowboarding, walking etc. I love playing guitar along with some piano. Playing board games or doing puzzles with the family is great. We talk, connect, and laugh. It's just a good way to unplug. Every year since Nathan was 4 years old, he has gone moose hunting with me. First it started as day trips, now we go on an annual week long moose hunting trip with family and friends. We also have a hobby farm! We like to eat healthy, and if we have the means to raise and grow our own food, we will do so.



OUR FAMILY

Nathan

Nathan is 12 years old. He is a bright, artistic, and funny kid. He loves being around others, however he's pretty shy when he meets new people. If he makes a friend, he's super loyal. He can be sensitive and sensitive to the needs of others. He has a tender heart. He loves all things tech. He enjoys robotics, legos, video games and coding. He also loves Star Wars, Avengers, and Lord of the Rings series. He's an avid reader and flies through school and books easily. We like to call him "the professor". Nathan has a deep deep love for family. He also likes to be prepared for everything. He's looking forward to the day when the baby is old enough to play with.

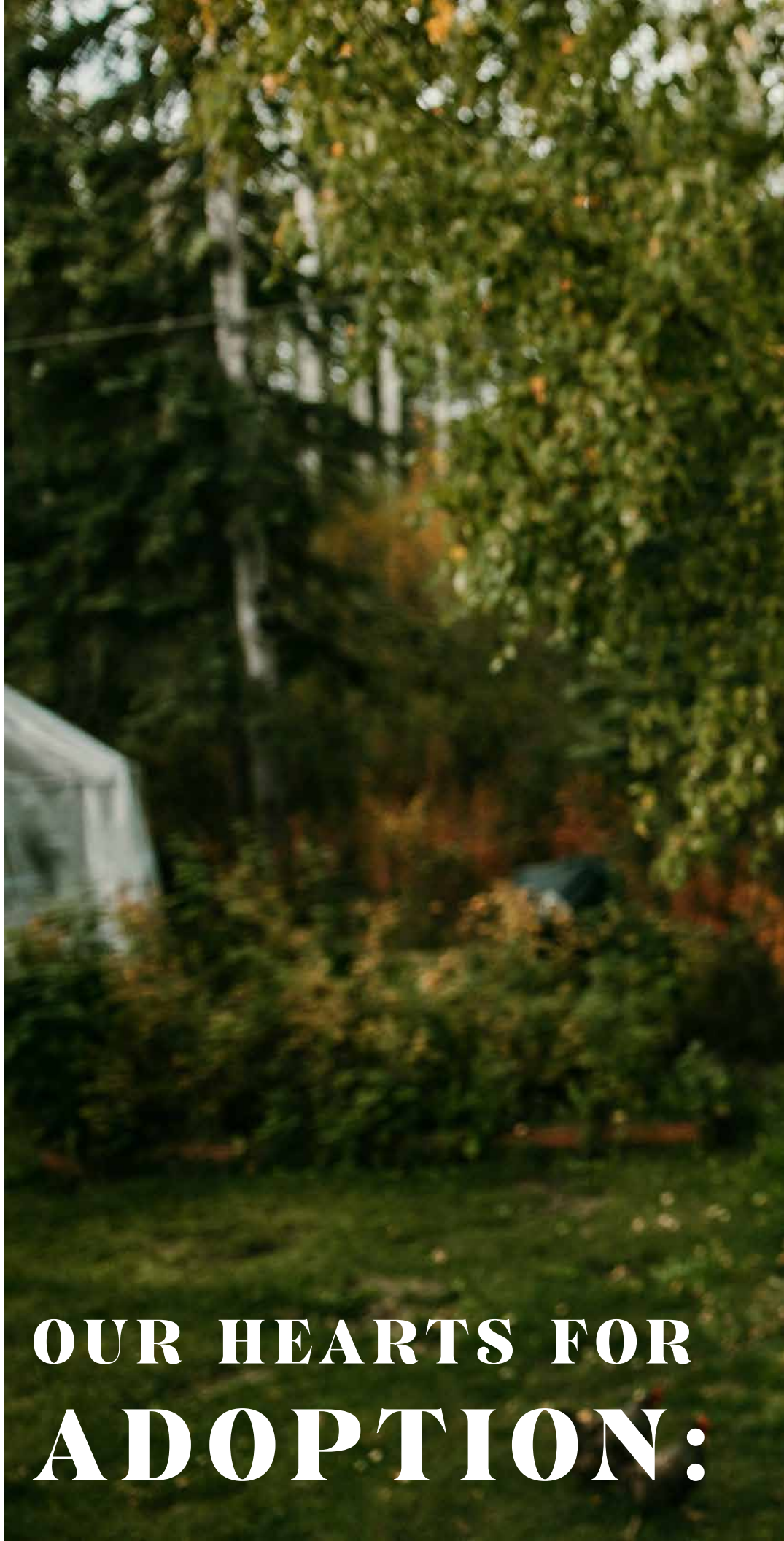


*We would be
honored to
walk this road
with you...*

I (Shannon) was told at a young age that I would have difficulty getting pregnant due to a series of issues that was later diagnosed as Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome. When Gabe and I met, I remember a hard and good conversation about infertility and adoption. We both had adoption in our hearts before we were married.

We are thankful for the two children that we have had biologically, however we know that we have so much love in our hearts for more children. Based on the high-risk pregnancies we've had this is the best way to grow our family. We are so eager to come alongside an expecting mother through adoption. We hope to love your child with the same deep love you have for them yourself.

**OUR HEARTS FOR
ADOPTION:**





OUR LOVE STORY:

how it began...

We were both 22 years old when we met. We were introduced through a mutual friend. I, Shannon, wanted to learn the guitar. Our friend recommended Gabe to me, reassured me that he would be a kind and patient guitar teacher, and he sure was. Those guitar lessons led to a good friendship. After a few months, we both had trips out of town, and that's when I realized I had fallen in love with Gabe. But, I think everyone around us knew first.

the proposal...

Being a somewhat traditional man, I still would not ask her to officially marry me until I had her dad's blessing and a nice ring to put on her finger. So, we set off to meet the family in California. Our time was full of fun, and they made sure to put me to the test to see if I was the right guy for Shannon! Shannon's dad gave me his blessing. Once I had the ring, I arranged for Shannon's best friend to take her to have a spa day. Later, we had a nice dinner together. While we were having dinner, her folks were prepping the next location. I had arranged for them to put lights up in a gazebo down by the lake. After dinner, we drove out to the gazebo, we danced, talked, and I officially popped the question!



**WE HAVE BEEN
MARRIED FOR 19
SWEET YEARS!**



The wedding...

We had a beautiful candlelight ceremony in the evening with snow falling. We were surrounded by family, friends, and our entire church community. Gabe surprised me with a song that he wrote for our wedding. He formed a band from his groomsmen. It was such a romantic, meaningful song. I was blown away by the lyrics and how intentional they were for us



LIFE IS FULL OF FUN!



as a couple...

We love hanging out together and have made it a habit to date one another, even as a married couple. We love to play board and card games, bowling, movies, walks, puzzles, and working together on the hobby farm we have. We love coffee dates and super nacho dates at the local Mexican restaurant down the road. We love going for drives or road trips. We try to connect every night after the kids get tucked in bed.

as a family...

We love watching shows and movies together as a family. We play games together of all sorts. We usually go to California once a year to visit our family and enjoy the California weather. We also go to southeast Alaska to see Gabe's family once a year as well. We enjoy camping and visiting all over the state. We take an annual fishing trip with Mimi and Papa once a year. We love to adventure on off road vehicles like four wheelers. We kayak and fish. We hike and like to pick berries together.





**WE ARE SO READY TO ADD TO THE FAMILY AND
MULTIPLY THE FUN IN OUR HOME!**





**MORE
ABOUT:**
Shannon



I ABSOLUTELY LOVE BEING A PARENT. I CAN'T WAIT TO ADD TO OUR FAMILY. I AM SO LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING A BABY IN OUR HOME AGAIN TO LOVE AND **TO HOLD AND CHERISH.** IT WILL BE WONDERFUL TO ENJOY THE INFANT AND TODDLER STAGES AGAIN. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING OUR TWO CHILDREN AS OLDER SIBLINGS, LOVING ON AND HELPING WITH THE LITTLE ONE.



*in the words of
her husband...*

My wife is amazing. She has a gift of pulling out your potential and helping you see it and achieve it. She doesn't hold back, she loves with all she has, and she will pour so much into you to help you succeed or even just be a great friend. She has many gifts/talents, she is smart, goofy, an excellent communicator, and she is still very loving, kind, thoughtful, and loves quality time. She is very intentional and good at making time for me.

Shannon is an amazing mom. She teaches them, coaches them, loves on them, and has a spontaneous fun side. She loves to play games with our kids and makes sure our family/children have a well-balanced social life. She will get on the floor and play with the kids or sit and cuddle on the couch while we watch a movie. She desires to include our kids in most things and not leave them on the side lines. One thing is for sure - if Shannon doesn't know something about parenting, she will find any means possible to learn it.



**MORE
ABOUT:**
Gabe



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW FAST OUR KIDS HAVE GROWN UP. IT WILL BE GREAT TO HAVE A LITTLE ONE TO PACK AROUND AGAIN AND HEAR GIGGLE. ALL THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF LIFE HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER AND ARE FUN. FROM THEM LEARNING TO ROLL OVER, CRAWL, WALK, AND TALK, TO OLDER KIDS WHEN THEY DRIVE A FOUR WHEELER AND HOLD AN INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION!



*in the words of
his wife...*

Gabe is the most patient, steady, safe man. When I got to know him, one of my first thoughts was that he would make an amazing dad. He is kind, generous, and serves others well. He is always willing to help us or others. He is fantastic at research, which comes in handy for planning vacations, how to fix vehicles, or trying a new recipe. He's an amazing cook and grill master. He is a really good listener, he is careful with his words, and he is a great boss. He is very well respected in the helicopter community.



Gabe's a great Dad. He is incredibly patient with the kids, and he is gentle. He loves to play with the kids. He plays games of all sorts! He loves to take the kids on fishing and camping adventures. He likes to stargaze and watch the Northern Lights. He is a huge encourager of the things the kids pursue. He's at all of the kids' events, games, and performances. He is a talented musician and helps both kids with their instruments. Gabe also tucks the kids in bed every night. He prays with them and they talk. Gabe is amazing at the baby stage. We are looking forward to having a baby again in our home!

OUR HOME



We have a traditional built split entry home. We have four bedrooms, 2 baths, and a very large back yard. We have play sets and tree forts with a zip line. We also have a garden area, a chicken coop, and some exterior buildings for bikes, kayaks, and four wheelers to ride.



Each child has their own room, and we've allowed them to design and decorate it (within reason). We want their rooms to be uniquely theirs and to give them a space where they are comfortable.



Since we do a lot of time in our home, we keep the aesthetics fun and vibrant with color. We have a wall of art that we update often with the kids' sketches or drawings. We decorate for most of the seasons and make or create most of the décor. A lot of life happens in the open floor plan of our living space. We have one big open room for the kitchen, living room, and dining room. This has been great for our kids no matter the age. We homeschool at the dinner table or at the counter top/island. We have a buffet cabinet full of books, art supplies, and curriculum. We have a lot of natural light and windows. We have books everywhere... I mean everywhere. I don't think that there is a surface in our main living spaces that doesn't have at least one!



OUR COMMUNITY

Alaska is a beautiful, breathtaking state full of diversity in every way. Huge mountains, lakes everywhere, rivers, streams, and tons of places to explore. It's so nice to be in nature all the time and easy to get away for camping. Alaska has a lot of diversity for its small size. We have an incredible homeschool community, which is why we choose homeschooling over public schools. There are many, many programs available, and our kids do everything from PE with other kids, horseback lessons, sports, robotics club, speech and debate, and even ninja warrior training. You name it, we've done it! The state of Alaska gives homeschooling families a generous allotment to pay for school needs and extracurricular activities. There are schools and playgrounds everywhere for the kids to enjoy.



meet our pets!

We have a beautiful, calm, and gentle 6 year old golden retriever named Bella Love. She was gifted to us as a Christmas present from Mimi and Papa. She is seriously the most gentle dog. She loves to play fetch and play with the kids in the yard or go for hikes. We have a beautiful cuddly cat named Shifu. She's still fun and frisky but also super chill. She puts up with a ton from Jewel. She lets her push her around in baby strollers and is kind of like a super chill rag doll. She is highly tolerant.



OUR GREATEST

Shannon's Side...

I love my family. The majority of them live in southern California and range from really fun/goofy, brilliant, to very straight forward business minds. They all have big hearts and love in their own style. My dad, Patrick, passed away when I was 25. He was very caring, funny, and loved adventures. My Uncle Chuck, his twin, is adventurous and funny, just like my Dad was. I have a brother, Robert, that is about 10 yrs younger than me. I am also close with my cousins Mary and Patrick and my Grandma Betty (the rock of my family); we all stay very well connected.

I have a great relationship with my parents, my mom, Mary, and stepdad, Greg (they go by names Mimi and Papa), and we see them several times a week. My parents help with the kids on Thursday afternoons. They also have the kids overnight once a month for special time together. They are very involved grandparents, and they are excited to meet their new grandbaby. They have already prepared and thought through a new pack n play and car seat. I'd say they are ready!





SUPPORTERS

Gabe's Side...

My parents are Debbie and Eldon. My sister is Sonja, and she is married to Isaiah. They have two daughters, Madison (22) and Lauryn (19). Erin is my other sister. She is married to Chris. They have four children Isaiah (21), Tessa (16), Destiny (14), and Averi (7).

We see my parents twice a year. We text regularly and talk on the phone occasionally. They normally come up once a year for a holiday, and we try to meet up with the whole family once a year at someone's house for an extended stay. As they are hitting retirement, we are excited that we will see them more. They are very excited, and they pray for the baby often. We Facetime our nieces frequently, and we've had lots of them visit us and stay for spring break or after high school transitions. We see one of my sisters, Sonja, several times a year. She's great with the kids! We see Erin every year or every other year. We also have a great relationship and text and talk often. The kids are bonded well to them and their cousins.





Our Future:

Our family plans are to continue our hobby farm and expand our apple orchard. We are hoping to buy more land for our family to enjoy. We plan to travel to Zambia and Uganda, as well as other places for missions. We have a goal to travel to Italy for our 20th wedding anniversary, although we hold those plans loosely as we prayerfully hope to add to our family! We are hoping to start a small coffee roastery to combine our love for travel, coffee, and missions. That would involve traveling to parts of Africa, South America, and Central America. Our plan is to help create opportunities for our children to adventure and explore. We want to partner with their dreams. We know that we would love to grow our family. We may only have 3 children, but we want to invest in our children's friends, teams, and community, as our heart is to always be involved.



Our Faith:

Saying yes to Jesus was the best choice we've ever made. We do our best to live out what we believe in everyday life. We do our best to weave the Bible into our lives every day as organically as possible. We believe that Jesus was the very best example of love. **This is more than just religion - it is the true experiences of our lives. We do our best to let love be the motivator for all we do.** We also create space for our kids to journal with the Lord, sharing their hearts and burdens. We pray with them often. We share what the Lord is showing us and what we believe God is leading us to do.

We have been an active part of our church community for many, many years. **One of the best ways for kids to grow is in a healthy community,** so we commit to small groups, invite others into our home, and encourage them where we can. We also bring our kids to serve wherever possible. One year we took the year off and did a missions training school and then spent two months in Uganda. It was a life changing experience for all of us.







Education:

We are open to any of the schooling options; however, we have found that homeschooling has been an incredible way to challenge our children and help them thrive in their own gifts and pursuits. It's not a one size fits all approach. This has also created so many opportunities for our kids to be around SO many other children. Our community is set up for homeschooling families. It also creates tons of opportunities for siblings to be friends and for family to really connect. Our family has a love of travel and adventures, so we want the flexibility that also comes with homeschooling. It's easy to accommodate! We are firm believers in good, quality education, so there will be schooling, but it will be fun, hands on, and full of books!

We don't believe in a one size fits all approach to life, so depending on the gifts and dreams in our children's lives, we will help them pursue that. Whether that's college, full time missions, or trade schools, we are open to what the Lord has placed on each child.

We've been saving money for our kids since they were born. We will do our best to see that it's invested or growing in some way to multiply what we can do to help them. We also believe in hard work, and we believe our kids can also work towards some of their dreams and pursuits.

BEFORE YOU GO:

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and considering us as a family for your child. We are praying for you. We believe that God will speak to your heart about the right fit for your child. We bless you, and we believe that despite what you may be going through, you are absolutely loved and seen by the Father. **We honor you, we honor your brave choice to have this baby, and to seek out the very best for your child, whatever that path may be.**

We plan on making adoption the story of our lives. We will be talking about it organically. It will be something that we will all be proud of. **You are someone we will always love and honor with our words and actions.** We believe in the beauty of **culture and diversity**, and even if our child is not a similar ethnicity, we will go after learning and including that as a part of their lives in a way that glorifies God's original design. God created every single person and people group on this earth to display His heart, and it will be fun to discover that all together.

We want to ensure your heart that your wishes will be honored, and we will be consistent with sending updates and photos. We already are praying for you and will continue to do so.

- Gabe + Shannon