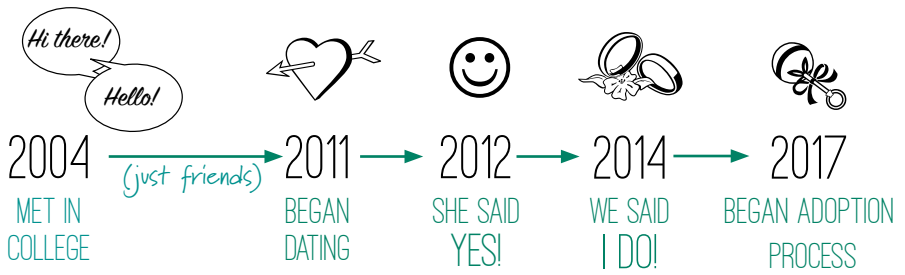
# SHAWN & RACHEL

# ABOUT US!

We met at college in 2004 through mutual friends. Shawn thought that Rachel was "just one of the guys" until a fateful camping trip in 2011. He was a little slow on the draw, as Rachel had already realized 2 years earlier that she had a crush on her nerdy friend Shawn. Once he realized it we began dating and have been married for 3 years.

Shawn graduated from college with a degree in computer science, but realized after entering the workforce that he truly wanted to be an elementary school teacher. He went back and got his master's degree and has been teaching first grade for the past four years. Rachel graduated with a degree in English and psychology. She previously worked for a local attorney, but switched careers for a job that offered more flexibility for starting and raising a family.

We would consider our friendship to be the foundation of our relationship. We truly enjoy each other's company, share a similar sense of humor, and have many of the same interests and hobbies. We like to joke around and try to make each other laugh as much as possible. Our future child is going to have to put up with us being silly and dorky, and being an embarrassment to them!



## Hello! I'M RACHEL

Written by Shawn

Little did I know that Rachel, who I had been friends with for years, would turn out to be the love of my life. She is such a kind and caring person (except for when we are facing each other in a board game) that I can imagine myself with no one else. Each day she makes me laugh and smile by doing something I never expect. I really enjoy doing absolutely anything with her, whether we are just watching tv, or hiking, or going out to eat.

I see the devotion that she has shown in being a good aunt to our nieces and nephew and I just know she is going to make a fabulous mother. She has the energy to get down and play with them in whatever game they came up with. I see the nurturing side of her when she is with them and always makes sure that they are safe. It is easy to see that Rachel is ready to share her time and energy with her future child.

## Hello! I'M SHAWN

Written by Rachel

I consider Shawn "nerdy" in all of the best ways. He loves to play board games and video games, and loves to read. He isn't afraid to be himself, and will teach our children to be confident and to let their personalities shine.

Shawn has a great sense of humor and loves to play games and run around with our nieces and nephew. My nieces love to tell me that "Shawn is so silly!" He is also extremely patient. Whether he is facing a group of rowdy first-graders, or a whiney wife who wants to go out to eat for the umpteenth time that week, he always keeps his cool.

# MORE ABOUT US!

| Favorites | Shawn | Rachel |
|---|---|---|
| TV Show: | Scrubs | Chuck |
| Color: | Forest Green | Teal |
| Food: | Stromboli | Chips and Queso, Pierogies, Ice Cream |
| Vacation: | Myrtle Beach with family | Jamaica |
| Holiday: | Thanksgiving | Christmas |
| Cartoon: | Dragonball Z | Garfield and Friends |
| Childhood Memory: | Camping & boating with my dad and brothers | Swimming with my family in our above-ground pool |
| Hobby: | Reading, Running, Video Games | Reading, Singing, Shopping |

## MORE FAVORITES!

**Shawn:**

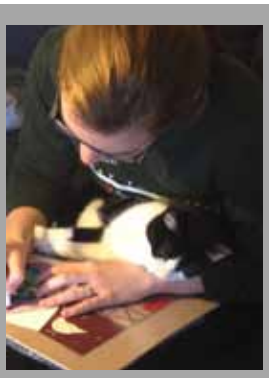
• Camping and hiking with friends and family • Helping my students achieve their goals • Visiting new places with Rachel • Going to hockey games and cheering on my favorite team • Board game nights with friends • Star Wars

**Rachel:**

• Playing board games and completing jigsaw puzzles • Shopping with my mom • Chocolate and peanut butter ice cream • Cats • Convincing Shawn to go out to eat • Going for walks

## About AURORA

Aurora is the classic scaredy cat. Anytime she hears the doorbell ring she runs and hides. Once she realizes you are not here to get her only then will she slowly come out to greet you. The way to Aurora's heart is through food, she will love you forever if you give her part of your dinner (she especially enjoys cheese, cookies, and pizza crust). She likes to lay on papers you are trying to read, and her favorite room is the bathroom (sometimes we find her in there sitting in the dark by herself).



# OUR Home

We have a three bedroom ranch home. We moved in almost two years ago, and have enjoyed turning the house into our home. Our neighborhood is only a few minutes from the local mall and numerous shops, schools, and restaurants, but is still very quiet and friendly. It is a great place to ride your bike, or go for a short walk. We live in a small town, but are less than an hour away from the nearest metropolitan area, the local zoo, and various sports venues (including a professional hockey arena for Shawn).

# OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

*Family is extremely important to both Shawn and Rachel.*

Shawn's family consists of his parents, two brothers, one sister-in-law, one soon-to-be-sister-in-law, and one nephew. His parents, older brother and his family live within an hour of him, while his younger brother lives out of state. Family get togethers were a huge part of Shawn's life growing up and his family still makes sure to get together as often as they can to share stories and great food. All of his family members have expressed the utmost support in Shawn and Rachel's decision to adopt and will support the new child however they can.

CELEBRATING NEPHEW'S 1ST BIRTHDAY WITH SHAWN'S FAMILY

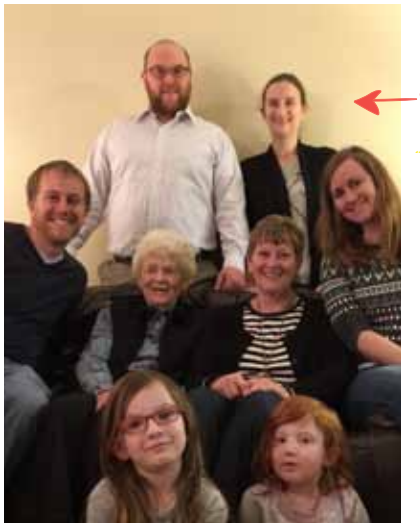
Rachel's family consists of her parents, two sisters, their husbands, and two nieces. Her oldest sister, brother-in-law, and nieces live less than an hour away, while her parents live about two hours away, and her other sister and brother-in-law live out of state. Rachel often uses her days off to spend the day with her nieces and sister (who is a stay-at-home-mom). More than anything, Rachel's family would like to see Rachel and Shawn grow their family with the addition of a little one. Her oldest sister has already given her several parenting books, and Rachel's mom made a baby quilt using fabric leftover from a quilt Rachel made while in college.

SHAWN & NIECE AT A CONCERT

We have a good group of friends that we try to see as often as possible. Hang outs with our friends often involve going to local comedy clubs, board game nights, or just hanging out by a fire. Several of our friends have children of their own, and we look forward to play dates and group outings.

FRIENDSGIVING!

FAMILY REUNION



CHRISTMAS WITH RACHEL'S FAMILY

HOCKEY GAME WITH SHAWN'S PARENTS

RACHEL'S SISTERS, NIECES & BROTHER-IN-LAW

VACATION WITH SHAWN'S BROTHER & FIANCEE

# Hello!

We appreciate you taking the time to get to know us.

We met each other about 13 years ago at college, and remained friends after graduation. About 5 years ago we started dating, and we have now been married for 3 years.

We both knew before we got married that children would be an important part of our lives (we agreed early on that we wanted to have 3 children). Early in our marriage we struggled with infertility, and while undergoing infertility treatment, we realized that we were being called to grow our family through adoption.

Shawn is a first grade teacher, and Rachel works in retail. Once we are able to welcome a child into our home, Rachel plans to work part-time only so that someone is always home with our child.

We are extremely excited about raising children. We plan on taking our future children on many camping and hiking trips. We love to read, and have already started a small collection of books for our future child (if we are honest, most of the kids books we have so far are Star Wars themed...). If our child is of a different ethnic or cultural background, we look forward to exploring their heritage with them.

Thank you for taking the time to learn our story. We wish you peace and strength in the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

SHAWN & RACHEL

## What adoption means to us

For us, adoption means family. We have both always felt called to have children, and adoption gives us the opportunity to have that calling fulfilled. Adoption will allow us to become parents, to raise children, and to have the family that we have dreamed of having.