# Nolan *and* Haley

# About Us

We met a few times in college through mutual friends, but it was always in passing. April 2010, we finally shared a conversation when out with a mutual friend, and we realized we had been missing out for years. Nolan had just won a pair of movie tickets at work, and instantly offered to take Haley out to dinner and then the movie. It wasn't a great movie but the company was life-changing. Graduation was just around the corner, and Nolan was planning to visit Egypt for almost three weeks. When he returned from his trip he wanted be near Haley, so he moved in to the couch after just 3 months of dating! Years later, on July 25th, 2013, we got engaged in the first house we shared together. On April 12, 2014 we got married and had a wedding with close family and friends. We have been married for three and half years and there hasn't been one day where we haven't laughed or shared a happy moment.
We also have a special bond due to our occupations. We are both in the field of education, Haley is a Special Needs Preschool teacher for a large urban school district and Nolan is an Orientation Mobility Specialist, working with students with visual impairments in a variety of school districts. Our jobs have taught us how to celebrate the small successes in life, how to appreciate differences in cultures, and, most of all, how to be patient! Our relationship and home is built on trust, communication, honesty, and laughter. We are each other's best friend. Our favorite times spent together is going to sporting events and concerts, kayaking, taking our dogs hiking, and exploring local neighborhoods' shops, farmers markets, and restaurants.

## About Haley
(written by Nolan)

Haley is an extremely passionate person, and she will always remain true to herself and her morals. I think that is what I appreciate, love, and am inspired by most. Whether times are great or bad; her family, faith, friendships, and students will always remain the priority in her life. Since we met, I have been in awe of her drive and hard-working nature. While most college students are concerned about their social life, Haley was focused on her student teaching and her job at the science center. She would always be thinking about creating the best lessons, and the well-being and prosperity of her students. These simple, daily moments were when I knew I loved Haley, knew she would be a wonderful mother, and knew she would guide us to become a beautiful family one day. She has the ability to recognize the promise in everyone, and she has the courage and patience to help them achieve it. Whether student, friend, or family, she will always be there. I feel very lucky to be her partner. I could not imagine my life with anyone else, nor do I want to. I am beyond excited to start our family together.

## About Nolan
(written by Haley)

Nolan is the MOST selfless, caring, level headed, and funny person I have ever met in my life. I am so lucky to have him as my husband and best friend. He is always willing to put others before himself and offer a helping hand to who ever needs it. I tend to be the worrier in the family, however Nolan can easily calm me down. He makes me laugh and eases my worries away. I always tell him he should have been a writer for Saturday Night Live, because he can make me laugh no matter my mood. Through out the past five years I have seen Nolan grow and become an uncle to our 5 nephews. He truly treasures the time he spends with them and does whatever he can to make them feel happy, loved and supported. I can't wait to witness him becoming a father, because he is going to make such a devoted, loving, and self-less parent.

# Our Family

Nolan's family at the zoo

Both of our families are very close, loving, and supportive. Haley's parents enjoy camping, hiking, golfing, cooking, and kayaking. Haley's younger sister currently lives with us while attending college. Nolan's mom enjoys sewing, cooking, gardening, and traveling to visit extended family. Nolan has an older brother and sister, and 3 nephews. We enjoy spending time with them going to the zoo, playing outside, swimming, reading books, playing games, and celebrating holidays and birthdays together. Haley is also very close to her older cousin. She has two sons, which we consider as our nephews. We visit them as much as possible for holidays, birthdays, and during summer break. We enjoy going swimming, reading books, playing with dinosaurs, singing songs, nursery rhymes, playing basketball, and doing puzzles. We always look forward to spending time with all of our nephews; they are a huge part of our life and some of our best memories are spent with our family. All are very excited about our plan to adopt! They have been supportive in our lives every step of the way and will continue to be supportive of our growing family.

Haley with her family

## Our Friends

We have a very strong group of friends. We spend a great deal of time together, going to dinner, kayaking, going on trips, playing sand volleyball, hiking, and having cookouts and holiday parties. We are always there for each other through the big and little adventures of life. They have been very excited and supportive of our adoption journey. They can't wait to have a new member join our crew.

Hanging out with friends

Haley with family at cousin's wedding

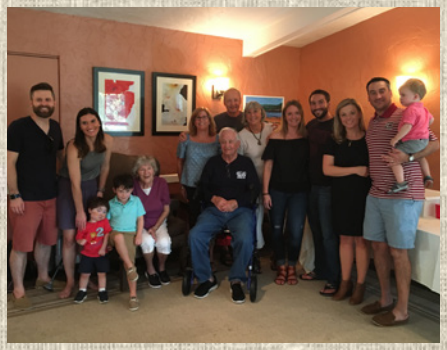
Celebrating Christmas with our nephew Crosby

Nolan's mom Debby with nephews

Super Uncle Nolan and Super Theo!

Hanging out at an outdoor movie

Haley at a wedding with friends



Celebrating Crosby's birthday with family

# Our Home

Our home is in a quiet, suburban family-friendly neighborhood within walking distance to playgrounds and schools, where we often take our two dogs to run. We are near a large city, a smaller local downtown area where we enjoy local activities and attend church on Sunday. We are also near a large body of water where we like to hike with our dogs and go kayaking. We have a fenced-in yard, where we like to host cookouts with friends.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Chicago

At the aquarium with our nephew Owen

At the zoo

Vacation in Chicago

## Fun Facts:

| | HALEY | NOLAN |
|---|---|---|
| Favorite Color: | Blue | Green |
| Favorite Food: | Pizza | Tacos |
| Favorite TV Show: | Scandal & Modern Family | Live Sports |
| Favorite Movie: | Silver Linings Playbook | Eternal Sunshine and the Spotless Mind |
| Favorite Sport to play: | Volleyball | Basketball |
| Favorite Sport to watch: | Hockey | Football |
| Favorite Childhood Memory: | Spending Christmas Eve with my family and going to church Christmas morning | Participating in sports, or just roaming the neighborhood with friends, doing kid things. |
| Favorite Hobbies: | Listening to records, going to concerts, yoga, playing volleyball, kayaking, reading, and hanging out with my family and friends. | Listening to records, kayaking, going to concerts, playing basketball, reading, listening to sports talk radio, trying new restaurants |

## Dear Birth Parent,

We would like to thank you for taking the time to look at our profile. We feel extremely honored that you are taking the time to get to know us and are considering us as a family for your child. We cannot help but to have immense respect and adoration for your strength. Our promise to you is that we will love, support, and do everything in our power and hearts to give your child a happy, strong, and fulfilling life as a part of our loving family. We have a great deal of experience with young children, being both in early intervention fields, we love to build relationships with our students and watch them grow. We know how important it is to celebrate a baby or young child's small successes. We hope to celebrate your baby everyday of his or her life, just because they are such a special part of both our worlds. We also have had the chance to experience working with many different people from different cultures and abilities. This has taught us to appreciate and love everyone for his or her differences. We are excited to welcome a child from a different race or cultural background, knowing that we will support them by educating ourselves and showing them how to love and appreciate every piece of who they are-inside and out. We hope to teach and lead by example how to be empathetic and love others for who they are. We want you to know that we have been praying and dreaming for our angel baby and we can't wait for the moment we get to meet him or her.

*Nolan and Haley*

Vacation in Bahama with friends

Visiting our nephew Eli

Hanging out at an Art and Jazz festival

At our family reunion with our nephew Owen

## Why Adopt

When we were dating, we discussed family and shared an interest in adopting. After years of fertility treatments and no answers from doctors; we decided now is the time to put our plan to adopt into motion! When we started looking into adoption deeper, researching agencies and blogs, it was the first time in our 3 years of struggles that our hearts burst with excitement!