# Candace & Michael

# About Us

We are high school sweethearts that have been together for 16 years and married 12 of those years. We both grow up in small country hometowns and still live close in the country. We are both driven to strive in our careers and been successful. We love hanging out with our family and friends. We enjoy camping, being outdoors, trying new things, and spending time with our 4 legged boy, Vixen.

## about michael

(written by Candace)

Michael is so much fun to be around! He enjoys hunting, fishing, riding side-by-side, camping, working on vehicles, teaching the family and neighborhood kids how to fish and how to fix things. Michael is the "go-to" person in our group of friends when something is broken and/or needs fixed, I guess you would call him the jack of all trades. Michael is the most thoughtful person I know and he is the rock that supports me. Michael is a hard worker, dependable, very caring, and devoted man. To see the smile and joy on Michael's face when he held our son, Owen, made my heart so happy. To know that I will get to continue seeing those smiles and tears of joy with another child, warms my soul.

## about candace

(written by Michael)

Candace is a loving wife, daughter, sister, and friend. Candace will light a room with her smile. She is a very caring, intelligent and a sincere person. Candace enjoys spending time with her nieces, running, camping, shopping and helping with fundraisers. Candace also enjoys spoiling and spending time with Vixen.

# Our Home

We live off the road on 7 acres in a single-story ranch home. We have a pool in the backyard and a fenced in yard for Vixen. We have a pond down the hill, were we do some fishing. We have a small garden that we plant with vegetables each year. We have a detached barn that Michael works in often on family and friends vehicles. There is a lot of land to run and enjoy. We live in a quiet neighborhood, and our neighbors are like family. We live within 10 miles of a park, shopping area and fire station.

Our fishing hole in the backyard

Pool party time

Our home away from home

## favorites

### Michael

- Occupation: Maintenance
- Movie: Fast and Furious
- Food: Pizza
- Dessert: Peanut butter pie
- Holiday: Christmas
- Vacation Spot: Any campground
- Childhood Memory: Working on cars with my dad
- Hobbies: Hunting and fishing

### Candace

- Occupation: VP, Regional Manager Banking
- Movie: White Chicks
- Food: Chicken and dumplings
- Dessert: Sugar cream pie
- Holiday: Christmas
- Vacation Spot: Campgrounds
- Childhood Memory: Summer vacations to the beach
- Hobbies: Running and shopping

# Our Family

We have an angel son, Owen, which watches over us every day. This year, Owen would have turned 4 but he passed away when he was 3 months old. In his short time with us, Owen taught us that you don't give up, you live each day as it could be your last, to surround ourselves with a good support group and to give back to others that are struggling. He has made us the people we are today.

We have a lovely labradoodle that is 2 years old, his name is Vixen. He is playful and full of energy. We enjoy taking him camping with us and on walks.

On Candace's side of the family she has a mother and father that have been married 36 years, a sister, a brother, 4 nieces, and 1 nephew.

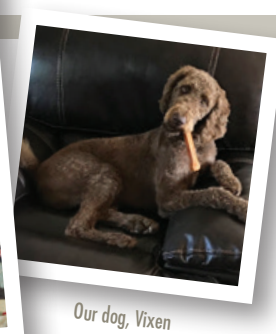
On Michael's side of the family, he has a mother, his father passed away last year, has a sister, a niece and nephew.

We spend a lot of time at the house with our family and friends hanging out by the pool, fishing in the pond, and riding the side by side. We love to celebrate birthdays! On each person's birthday we get together, mom makes their favorite meal and we hang out.

Christmas is a special time around our home. Owen was born on Christmas Eve, so each December we host a euchre tournament at our home for family and friends. The funds raised go to the Ronald McDonald House to help other families. We also celebrate Owens memory with a paper lantern launch, we write him notes and let the lanterns fly.

As a family we do a lot of races and fundraisers to raise awareness for premature births, heart health, and other causes. This is a way for us to celebrate Owen's life, share his story, and help others.

Our son, Owen



Our dog, Vixen

Candace's family

A new bundle of joy in the family

Zoo Crew with our Niece, all aboard!

Smile - family time

Team Owen at Heart Mini

Fun with Friends in Vegas

The moms in our lives

Stopped on the bridge for a family photo

We dressed in same colors, of course we needed a picture

# Dear Birthparent,

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We are so thankful for you, your child and the opportunity for us to be parents. We met when we were in high school through mutual friends, we have been together for 16 years and married for 12 years. We have chosen to adopt to grow our family and share our love with little ones. We are a loving couple that values spending time with family and friends, living life to its fullest and living each day like it could be your last. We both are hardworking individuals that strive in our occupations, Michael works maintenance at a local vocational school and Candace is a Regional Manager for a bank in our hometown. It's important to us that you know your child is going to be prayed for, cared about and spoiled with love and happiness. Thanks again for being part of this life changing opportunity, we are very grateful!

Sincerely,

*Michael & Candace*

# Why Adoption?

We chose adoption because we have a lot of love and want to share it with growing our family. We want to show the love and joy that we have. We have been through years of the emotional roller coaster of infertility, the hope and joy of becoming parents and loss. Sometimes, you don't always understand and know why things happen, but you have to have faith that all things happen for a reason. With the experiences we have been through, the people we have met throughout our journey, the children that are out there to love, adoption is the answer for us. This is the first time adoption for us, but it won't be the last