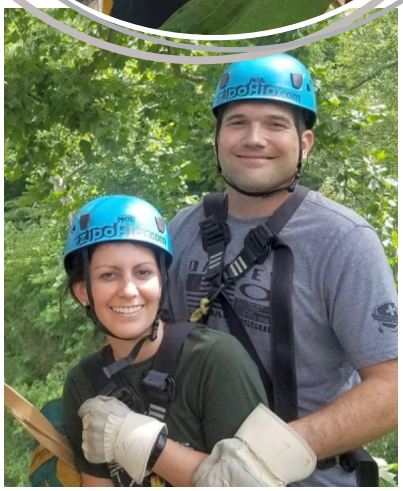
Derek and Stephanie

Mountain hiking at Lake Tahoe

About Us

When asked how we met we always laugh because it was our parents who introduced us! We met in 2006. Both of our parents were old acquaintances who ran into each other at the mall one evening and thought it would be a great idea if their children were “friends”. Within that first year, Derek moved one minute down the road from Stephanie’s parents where she lived until graduating college in 2010. We were married that same summer on July 24, 2010, which is also Derek’s parents’ wedding anniversary!



Zip line adventures

Our relationship is like a true Yin and Yang. Our differences compliment us and encourage us to try new things. When we first met, Stephanie had never eaten a chicken wing or any condiment other than ketchup. Now she will eat almost any condiment and loves chicken wing pizza! Similarly, Derek never read a book for fun and he didn’t have any hobbies. Now, he loves to read historical fiction novels and he has more hobbies and collectibles than his garage will hold! Together, we enjoy weekend road trips, cooking meals while jamming to 80’s and 90’s hip hop and country music (we even have a mini disco ball!), bonfires and cookouts, playing board games and Super Nintendo, shopping, going out to eat, and spending time with our friends and families.

Enjoying an evening walk at a nearby lake

Derek is an HVAC Technician by trade but now works as a Project MEP Coordinator for a construction company. Stephanie is a middle school technology teacher for the school district in which we now reside. She also runs an after-school Robotics Club.

About Derek
by Stephanie

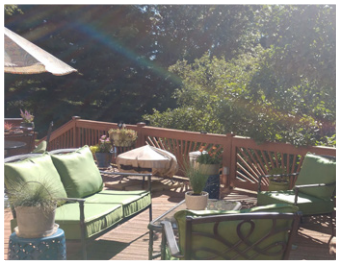
Derek is my absolute best friend. He is always thinking of little ways to make my day better. The saying "chivalry is not dead" is true with Derek - he is a true gentleman who opens the door for me, carries my shopping bags, and offers to clean the toilets! He loves to make me laugh when I am grumpy or sad (usually by singing a really dumb song he made up), and when I don't feel well, he takes care of and spoils me. Derek is the most selfless person I have ever known. He enjoys helping people, friends or strangers, and he never expects anything in return. He makes friends wherever he goes. He is respected and appreciated by his coworkers. He is adored by his family. Derek has been excited about being a father since the first day we met. He loves children; most of the time he acts like a big kid, and usually at a gathering you will find him with the kids rather than the adults. Derek had amazing father figures in his life, and I know one day he will be that role model for our son or daughter.

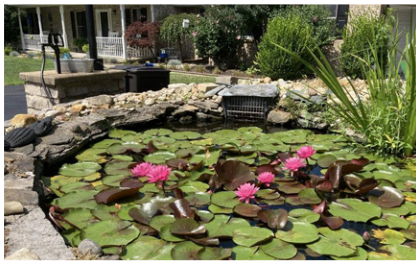
Restaurant: Texas Roadhouse
Snack: Chips
Book/Movie Genre: Fiction/Mystery
Superhero: Superman
Season: Summer & Fall
Hobbies & Interests: Bonfires, golf cart rides, working on projects around the house, fishing, hunting, taking Steph shopping
Childhood Memory: Going to Kentucky to see my grandparents, 4th of July parties at my parents' house.
Occupation: Project MEP Coordinator
Education: Technical Degree in HVAC/R Technology

About Stephanie *by Derek*

Stephanie is the most strong-willed, dedicated, hardworking person I have ever known. She takes situations head on and thinks of every detail with anything she does. Steph has this spark in her that everyone sees. When you spend any length of time with her you soon realize how intelligent, genuine, and special she is. On our first date there was something that made me gravitate towards her. Meeting her was a life changing event for me, and to say she is my best friend would be an understatement. Her smile and laugh are two of my favorite things about her. She has a goofy personality and is very ornery. We have so much fun together on our short weekend trips, where she shops until I drop. When she has a headache or doesn't feel good she tells me, "Maybe you should take me shopping so I will feel better," which is code for, "take me shopping!" She is an amazing woman, wife, daughter/granddaughter, friend, and educator. I cannot wait to see her in the role of a mother. I know what she adds to my life, and I can only imagine what she will add to our child's life.

Restaurant: Applebee's
Snack: Nachos
Book/Movie Genre: Fantasy/Science Fiction
Superhero: Iron Man
Season: All of them! (the beginning of each new season)
Hobbies & Interests: Reading, being creative, growing plants, sewing/quilting, house projects, mini road trips
Childhood Memory: Playing with my cousins and using our imaginations
Occupation: Middle School Teacher
Education: Masters in Educational Technology

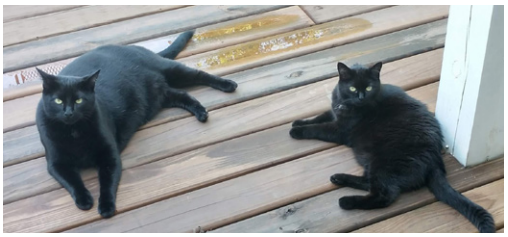




Our Home

Our home is a one-story ranch style located in the country, about ten minutes from town. We have three bedrooms and three full bathrooms, one of which is located in our fully finished walk-out basement. We have a little over an acre of land surrounded by pine trees and wooded areas. Our house is situated off the road and we have a long, paved driveway, which is the perfect setting for all types of play! When sitting on our front porch you might see runners, bikers, golf carts, dog walkers, and children playing in their yards. While sitting on our back deck you can observe all types of critters, including a herd of deer and a flock of turkeys.

Our Family & Friends



Besides ourselves, our little family consists of our two cats, Larry and Birdy. Birdy is the oldest who showed up at our house as a soon-to-be mama one evening about 12 years ago, and we got Larry as a kitten in 2017. Contrary to popular belief, Larry and Birdy have distinct personalities. Larry loves to play with toys and he loves to go outside and explore. He loves attention. Birdy knows what she wants (treats!) and she knows how to tell her humans. It takes her a little longer to warm up to new people, but she is also a cuddler.

We both grew up in households that valued family, tradition, and religion. Derek has two siblings and a large extended family. His paternal grandpa had 17 brothers and sisters! Stephanie grew up as an only child but her mom and dad have brothers and sisters resulting in very large family gatherings. Stephanie's great uncle started a church that we currently attend, so we also have a church family. Many of the members that still go to the church helped raise Stephanie as a child, so they are very excited for the possibility of Stephanie and Derek adopting a child. In addition, we have many close friends that we would also consider family. We are blessed to have so many loving and supportive people in our lives.

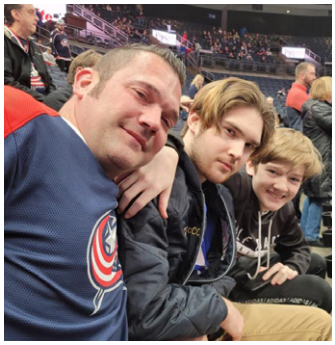
Trunk 'n' treat with Derek's Mom and Steph's Grandma

Derek's Family

Road trip with Steph's family

Having fun with our good friends

Steph's family attempting to get a picture of all the grandkids



Derek & his nephews at a hockey game

Making corn with Steph's Grandma

With neighbors and their kids at a high school football game

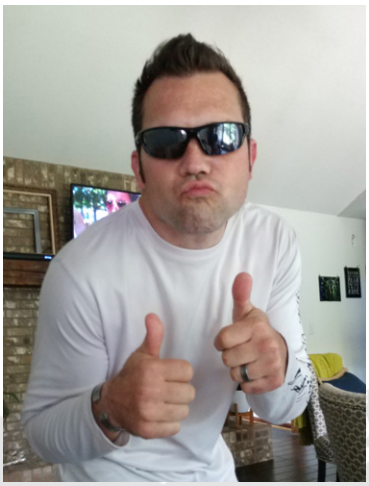
Weekly pizza night with Steph's Grandpa & Dad

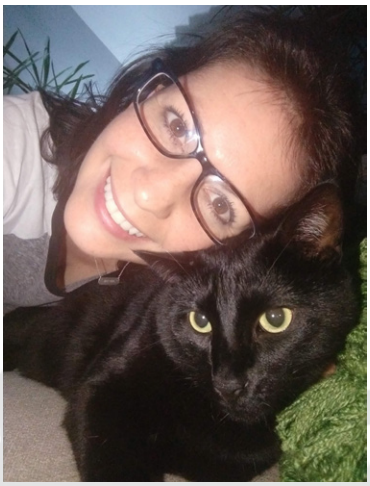
Dear Birthparent(s)

We cannot imagine the pressure, stress, loss, and urgency you are wrestling with right now. The fear of making the wrong decision and picking a family that doesn't match with what you want for your child's future is one of the hardest decisions that one could make. We both come from very strong families that are so excited for a new addition, and we would love nothing more than to welcome a child into our world to love, teach, and nurture. We want to express our appreciation to you for considering us for the privilege and opportunity to share someone with you that is so important and special.

You will be in our thoughts and prayers,

Derek AND Stephanie





Why Adoption?

When we first started dating, we talked a lot about what each of us pictured in our future family. Even before we knew we would have difficulties having children of our own, we both wanted to adopt. We pictured having one or two of our own and adopting one or two children as well. We cannot put into words what it would mean to be chosen to help expecting parent(s) rest easy knowing that their child, regardless of race or gender, would be in a safe and loving environment.

Building Blocks Adoption Service Inc.