



**COLIN AND LAUREN**









**DEAR EXPECTANT PARENTS,**

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to meet our family. We know that it is an extremely difficult and selfless decision to place your child for adoption and we are so grateful that you would consider our family. We admire your strength and courage, and hope this book gives you a better understanding of who we are and the kind of parents we will be to your child.

Love, Colin and Lauren



*our* hearts for  
adoption





We both have always wanted a large family, and having kids was something we bonded over when we were dating.. A year after we were married we learned that Lauren has a chromosomal issue that made it extremely difficult for her to naturally conceive. We then pursued infertility treatments and were able to conceive our son, Owen with egg donation using Lauren's sister's eggs. He was born in 2014.



When we were ready to grow our family again, we pursued adoption. Adoption was also something we talked about when we were dating, before we even knew we would have infertility issues.



Orion was born in 2020. We have a very open adoption plan with his birth parents and their extended family. We are so thankful that we are able to know them well, and in turn that they know Orion and us. well. It is a beautiful relationship.



Last year our boys started talking to us about adopting another sibling. As a family we prayed about growing our family, and felt like the Holy Spirit was nudging us to adopt again.. We feel very thankful for everything God has provided us, and are very excited to grow our family.





## *First Impressions*

I was first attracted to Lauren's beauty, confidence, and the ease in our communication. - Colin

I was attracted to Colin's appearance, laid-back personality, and how genuine he was. - Lauren



## *about us*

### HOW WE MET

Our story began in 2008 in Brooklyn, New York.. We had separately moved into a brand new building and there weren't that many people who had moved in yet. One day when Lauren was returning from walking her dog she pressed the elevator call button and, "a bunch of very hot guys left the elevator". Colin was the last guy to exit and after Lauren went in the elevator, Colin turned and said, "Hi! I'm Colin, 20" - and then the doors shut.. Upon entering her apartment she shared with her sister, Jordan, "Guess what? Brooklyn was worth it!".

We knew very quickly that we were each other's person. It was the first relationship for both of us where we didn't have to play any games, everything was effortless and felt like we had known each other for years. We dated for 9 months, got engaged, and we married in Nashville, Tennessee 2 years after we met. We have now been married for 14 years.

We are best friends. We love hanging out with our boys, being outside, traveling, spending time with our friends and family, and our church community. We make a great team because we balance each other out.



## *"Meet"* COLIN

I am from Northern Virginia. I have an older sister, named Karen. After graduating High School, I signed up for 6 years in the Navy. I was able to travel the world and obtain valuable experience as a Nuclear Operator. After the Navy, I moved to NYC to work as a Power Plant Operator. Now I work remotely for a wind power company, which is awesome because I get a lot of time to be home with our family.

I love to snowboard, be outside, work on building projects, and help coach Owen's baseball team.







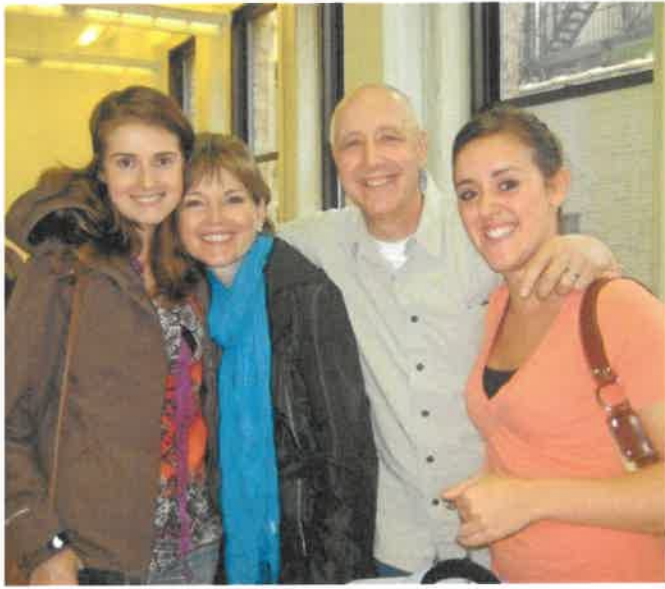
*"Meet"*  
LAUREN



I am from Nashville, Tennessee.. I have a younger sister named Jordan. I moved to NYC when I was 19 years old to pursue modeling. Then I went to the Fashion Institute of Technology, and studied Advertising. After college I worked for a high Fashion photographer and nannied for multiple families over the course of 12 years..

Once I gave birth to Owen, I became a stay-at-home mom and now I homeschool. When I am not taking care of the boys, you will find me in the garden or taking care of the chickens.







COMMITTED, LOVING, HONEST, RESOURCEFUL

*"Meet"* LAUREN, IN COLIN'S WORDS

Lauren was born to be a mother, and I mean that in the best way. She has pursued personal interests and experiences, but always with the ultimate goal in mind to be the best mom she can be. She is passionate and caring. She is very engaging, and I have seen her provide comfort to our own children as well as the children of family and friends in a way that is reassuring and allows for the opportunity for the child to build up their own confidence. She has inspired me to be a better dad.

Furthermore, despite her passion and full capability to parent individually, she interacts well with me and other parents for the benefit of all children. I like that she is strong willed and willing to stand up for who she loves and what she believes in. She will not stand for cruelty and finds creative and fun ways to foster a caring environment for kids to grow and thrive.





### *"Meet"* COLIN, IN LAUREN'S WORDS

Colin is a wonderful human being. He is laid back, but firm in his convictions. When he commits to something, he follows through with it no matter how many setbacks may arise. Which has been proven by staying on the phone and being patient with customer service representatives, even if the calls last hours - he sees the issue through. He loves us deeply. He is committed to doing whatever it takes for the betterment of our family. Even when that meant working his 12-hr rotating shift job and going to school full time to complete his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He also has a great sense of humor and we laugh a lot.

Colin is an amazing father. He loves to play with the boys: wrestling, kickball in the backyard, hide and seek in the summers, teaching to ride a bike or how to snowboard. He is SO patient. Our marriage is very strong because of our mutual faith, shared values and goals, and openness with one another. We make time for family dinners and weekend fun, being mindful to not let work consume all our time.

**STRONG, DEPENDABLE, GENEROUS, EMPATHETIC**



## Owen & Orion

Owen is our oldest child. He is funny, smart, caring, tenacious, and sensitive. Owen enjoys playing little league baseball and Colin helps coach his team. He is a very creative and artistic kid. He plays piano, writes and illustrates stories, and is helping build a "ninja" playground in the backyard. Owen has many friends at church and in the neighborhood. He is so excited about adopting again because he is very close to Orion and is looking forward to having another sibling.

Orion is our younger son, and his adoption was finalized in 2021. He is a wonderful helper who always wants to participate in every activity we do. Whether that is collecting eggs from our chickens, helping in the garden, or making dinner. He is very close to Owen, and they play well together. Orion is nurturing and affectionate to all, especially with our dog. He is social and enjoys playing with friends, building with legos, and riding on the tractor with his Grandpa.



# Family Fun

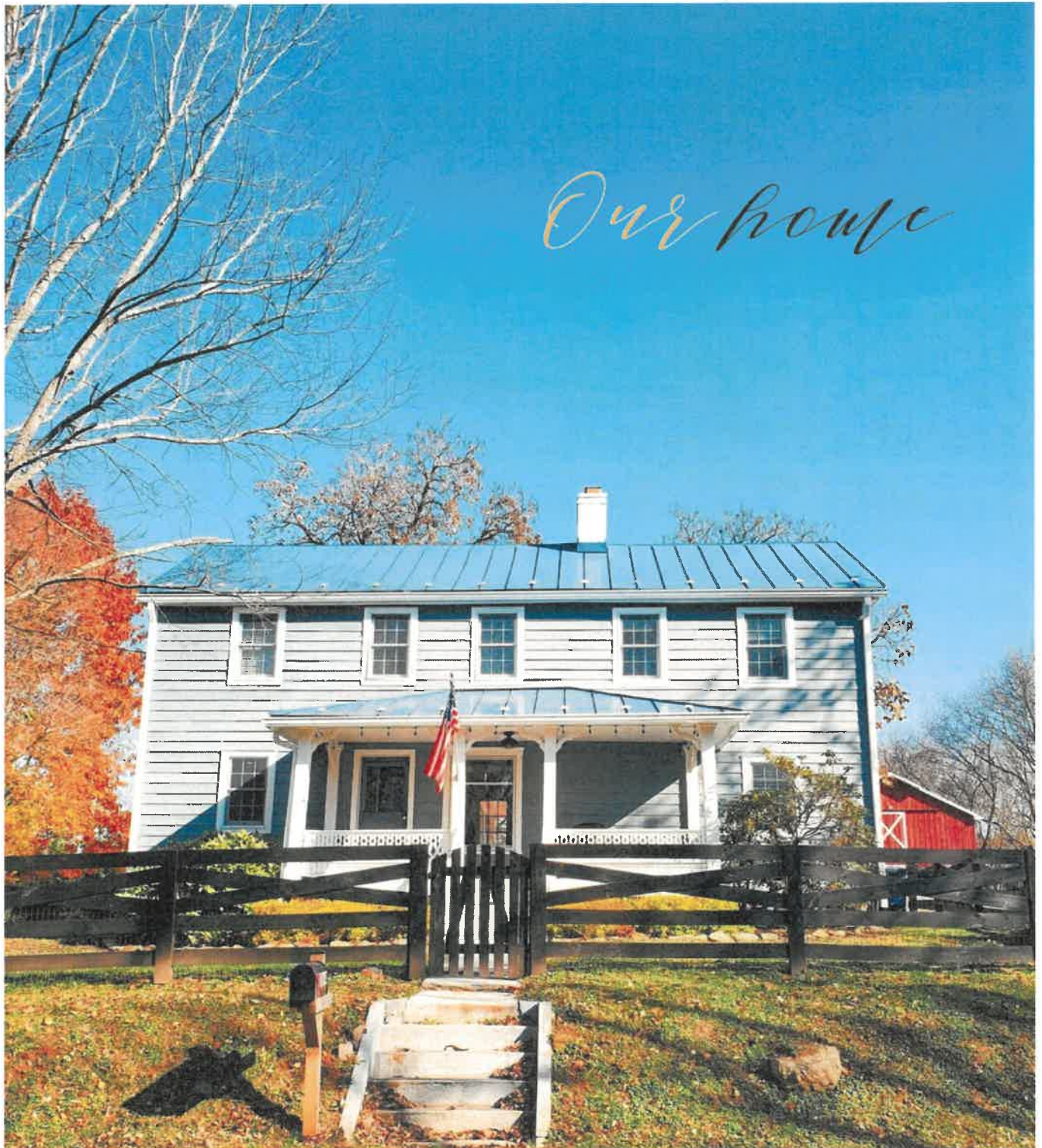
We love to spend time together and make the effort to go on lots of adventures near and far. We love to travel, especially to visit family and friends. We want our children to experience different cultures and life outside of Virginia.

We really love to be outside. We enjoy hiking, gardening, kayaking, and experiencing natural wonders. Lauren's parents live on a lake in Tennessee. So every summer we kayak to a waterfall, have a picnic lunch, and then kayak home. It is a special adventure that we look forward to every year.





*Our house*







Our garden in the early spring. You can see the sweet peas growing up the trellis, and horseradish in the garden bed.



Our puppy, Gertie



We live in historic small town, and our house was built in the 1850s. We have 3 bedrooms, and 2 baths - on a little over an acre of land. We also have a barn that we converted into a living space, where our guests stay when they visit. We have a golden retriever, chickens, a goose, guinea hens, and a garden. Although our home is in the country, we can walk or bike to our town. There is a grocery store, library, several restaurants, a community park with a pool, and 2 playgrounds We live about an hour from Washington, D.C... There is a diverse population in Northern Virginia that is open to multicultural and adoptive families. We love living in the country, but having access to the big city when we want to visit.



## family traditions



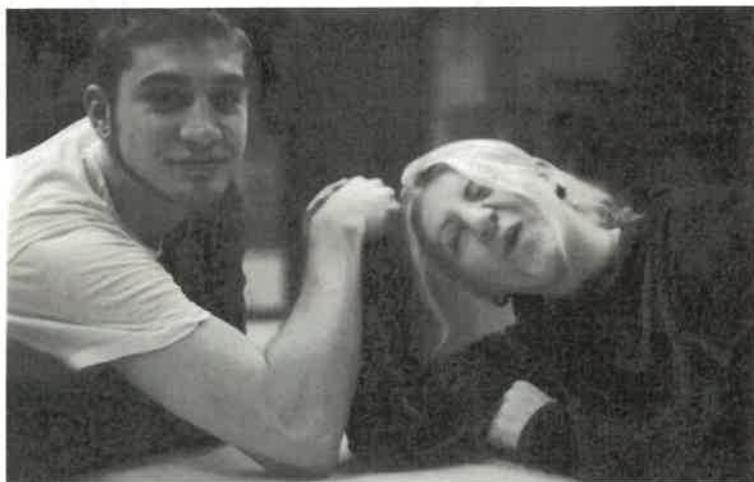
As a family we have many traditions. We look forward to them each season. We love dressing up for Halloween as a family! Last year Owen was a ninja, Orion was a sushi roll, and Colin and Lauren were chopsticks. We also travel to Missouri and Indiana every summer to visit Lauren's and Colin's cousins, we were very close with our cousins growing up and it is so special to us that our cousin's kids and our kids are growing up together, too!

We have created new traditions with our kids. Every spring, we visit to local farm and visit their baby goats. It is something we look forward to every year! We go apple picking in the fall then come home and make homemade applesauce. The kids love to carve pumpkins. The past several years, we have cut down our own Christmas tree and decorated it together after.









## *Colin's Family*

Colin has one sister, Karen- she and her husband David, and their kids Hayden (8) and Nikos (3) live in Los Angeles, California. His dad Jim lives in Tennessee.

His extended family lives in Indiana.







COLIN'S  
EXTENDED  
*family*







Kiolo.com



## Lauren's Family

Lauren also has 1 sister, Jordan, who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Her parents are Randy and Leta, they live in Nashville, TN. All of Lauren's extended family lives in Missouri and Arkansas.







LAUREN'S  
EXTENDED  
*family*





## PARENTING PHILOSOPHIES

We understand that parenting is an awesome responsibility, and we are very much looking forward to raising another child together. We are especially focused on these aspects of parenting: consistency, routine, structure, connection, creating safety, meeting both physical and emotional needs, giving ample attention, and acting together as parental partners with one voice.

We hope to impart the values that grow out of our strong Christian faith and want to instill humility and selflessness in our children. We want our children to develop their own personal faith; to raise our kids to be loving people who love others; who value family and enjoy spending time together with family; and who have goals in life and meaningful careers. We are very spiritual people who believe in a loving God, expressed through the Christian faith. We attend worship weekly and enjoy participating in a life group, as well as other ministries within our church.







In our free time we like to work on house projects, visit with our friends, antiquing, watch football, explore nearby towns, and cook together. Our area has many farms and we enjoy strawberry picking in the spring and apple picking in the fall.



*Our*  
HOBBIES AND INTERESTS







## TRAVELS + ADVENTURES

Colin and Lauren bonded over a love of travel when we were dating. We have been fortunate to share that passion with Owen and Orion, especially to visit family and friends.



Washington D.C. with  
Grandma Leta



Universal Studios with LA  
cousins



Chesapeake Bay



Kayaking in Tennessee

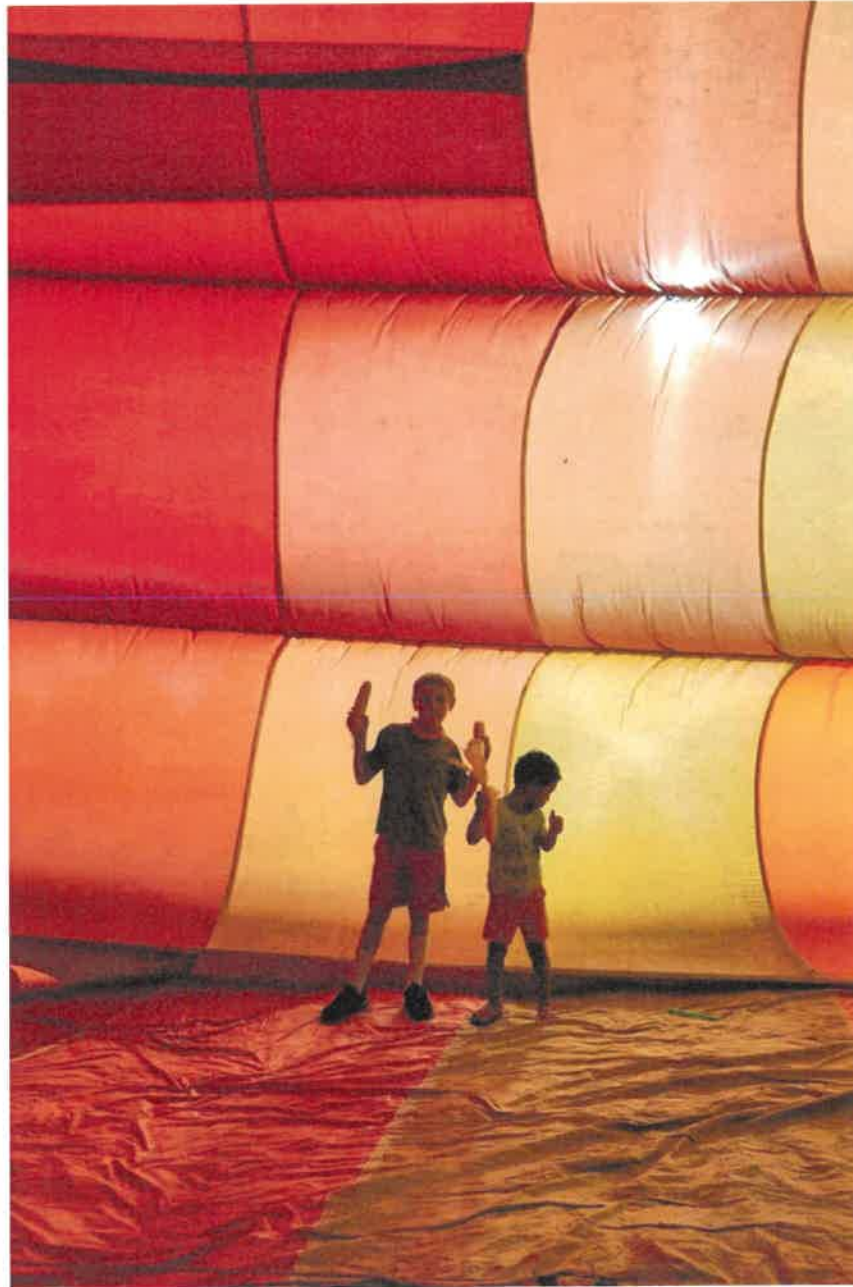


Visiting friends in San Diego



Istanbul, Turkey





INSIDE A HOT AIR BALLOON  
IN PENNSYLVANIA

# THANK YOU

We have been so very blessed with the conception and birth of our son Owen, and adoption of Orion. We look forward to growing our family through another adoption. We love being parents to Owen and Orion, and want to share that love with our forever family.

We look at adoption as a very sacred exchange. We understand that it is not done lightly on either side.

You have our solemn promise that we will dedicate our lives to your child, providing them a full life of love, nurturing, and wonderful memories. Thank you for reading our story and considering our family for your child. We pray you are blessed through this process.

with love,  
Colin and Lauren and Owen and Orion