Hello there,

We wanted to thank you for looking through our book. This book serves only as an introduction to who we are, and, given the chance, we are excited to learn more about you as well. We can't imagine how difficult of a decision you have in front of you. We respect you and we admire the strength it takes to make this consideration.

John, Laurel, and Oliver
We've always known it would be nearly impossible for us to have biological children. We talked about this extensively when we realized we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together and we both knew adoption was something we wanted.

We decided to still try for a natural pregnancy, and it was successful! It was also incredibly rough, high-risk, and ended early. Our son, Oliver, was born weighing 2lbs, 3 oz. He spent 71 days in the NICU before coming home.

After that last pregnancy, we were excited to go back to the discussion of adoption and are so happy to welcome a new little one into our lives!
Views on Openness

We plan to share your child’s adoption story with him or her from the beginning. We are planning on buying books and explaining how loved they are by everyone in their life. We want them to know how brave you are and how difficult it was to make this choice.

Our number one goal is to make sure your child knows how loved they are by everyone.

Our family and friends are very loving and any child would be loved by them all.

We are happy to adopt from any culture or ethnicity. Our family is happy and excited about the prospect of a new baby!
We met in 2013 through an online dating site. By chance, we were both in the same University. Our first date was dinner, and we ended up staying at the restaurant for 5 hours just talking.

After Graduation, we moved to a new town so Laurel could do an internship. In December 2014 we became engaged and got married in Dec 2015.

We got married on Dec 19, 2015, in hopes of a white wedding. It ended up being the nicest day of the year and nearly 70 degrees.
A little about John...
—written by Laurel

John works at a hospital during the weekends, and is a stay-at-home dad during the week. He talks often about how lucky he is to be able to be a stay-at-home dad.

John is my best friend. He is one of the most compassionate, funny, loving person I've ever met.

One of my favorite things to do is watch John interact with Oliver. He is Oliver's favorite person, and for good reason. John is amazing with kids, and always knows how to make them laugh.

A little about Laurel...
...written by John

Laurel is a Speech-Language Pathologist with the school district. She is the most patient and understanding person I have ever met. She teaches her students how to interact with people, hold a job, and advocate for themselves.

Laurel is very smart, kind, and loving. Everyday she makes me a better person. She brings out the best in people.

Laurel is an amazing mother. Not only does she help Oliver communicate she helps others to understand him. She was in the NICU every day with Oliver. Kids know as soon as they meet her that she is a very loving person.
Choosing us for your child also means choosing Oliver. So, we wanted to tell you a little about him. Anyone who meets Oliver nowadays is surprised to hear how early he was born. He still has a few difficulties from being born so early. He sees several therapists a month and works very hard to talk, walk, and jump.

Oliver is a very social 3 year old. He loves to watch others and then try something out after seeing it first. We call him the animal whisperer. He has never met an animal he hasn't liked. He loves babies. He points them out in books and on TV. He has his own baby he carries around the house, tucks into bed, and feeds. We have been preparing him that he may have a new baby brother or sister, and he becomes giddy whenever we talk about it. He will be an amazing big brother!
We live in a 3-bedroom, 3-bath house at the bottom of a cul-de-sac. From the top of our street, you can see the elementary school. We have a massive hill in the back yard, perfect for sledding.

Our subdivision is very diverse, in age, ethnicity, and lifestyles. There are a large number of families, and everyone plays outside.
Laurel has 1 sister, Heather, and a brother-in-law, Steve who live in the same town as us. Laurel's parents (live less than an hour away.) They live on a farm. They have chickens, cats, a dog, and beehives. We visit at least once a week.

Oliver is the only grandchild so far, and everyone is excited to have a new member join us soon!

John has 2 sisters (they're twins!) Kristin and Robin. They are both in the Navy. Robin is stationed in Italy and Kristin is stationed in California. They visit when they can, and love to video chat. John’s parents (Grandpa and Nana) have a summer home in Missouri and come up every year.
Our Favorite Activities

We both have a ton of hobbies! Laurel is in an A Capella Chorus, and enjoys crocheting and going to comic conventions. John loves to be outside! Target shooting, fishing, hiking, or riding roller coasters.

There are 7 parks within 5 miles of our house. We love to play outside, go to the mall, go to the library, and run around the neighborhood.

Our friends are a huge part of our lives. Everyone is so supportive of us expanding our family.

Together, we love to go to museums, explore new places, play board games, video games, and go to the movies.
We are so grateful to you for considering us as potential adoptive parents. We hope to learn more about you, your family, and your desired openness in your adoption, should you choose us to parent your child. We know that you love your child and want the best possible life for him or her. We want you to know that we would love and care for your child with all of our hearts. We can't wait to learn more about you and your family. We look forward to hearing about your hopes and dreams for your child.

- John, laurel, and Oliver