

# *Shelly and Ben*



# Hello!



Dear Birth Mother,

We are truly honored that you are taking the time to learn about us. We understand the decision you are facing is an incredibly challenging and courageous one, and we are humbled by your strength. We pray for discernment, grace, and peace as you make your decision. If you should choose to go on this journey and choose us, we will be forever grateful for the trust you place in us to love and nurture your child. We are excited at the possibility of sharing our lives with your little one, and we hope this profile gives you a glimpse into who we are, our values, and the life we hope to share.

With all our love and respect,  
Shelly and Ben

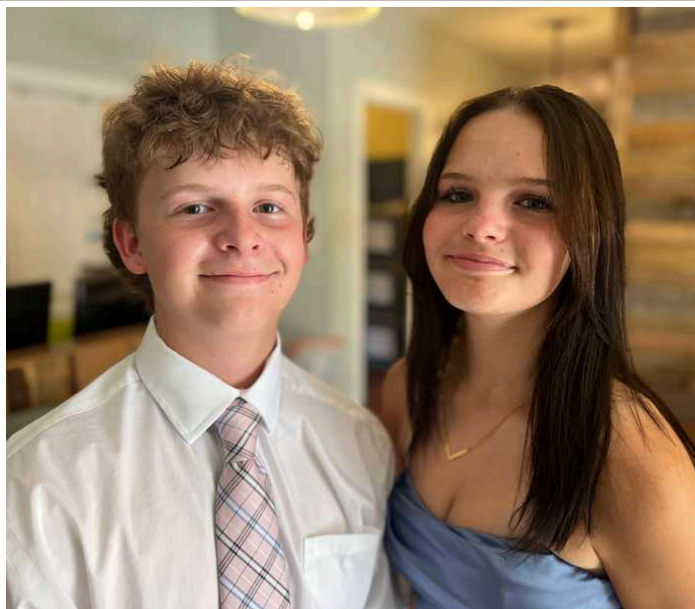
# *Our Story*

Why we are adopting



We met in December of 2019. At 36, Shelly had never been married and was considering ways to become a mom on her own. Serendipitously, Ben, 41 and a divorced father of two, came into her life answering different prayers. A few months later, Ben introduced Shelly to his children, and we all quickly grew to be a family, adding Lincoln, our doodle, about a year later. In October of 2021, we were married. The kids live with us 50% of the time, and we have a good coparenting relationship with their mother. From the beginning, we knew we wanted to have a child together and understood that adoption was always a possibility. We tried fertility treatments for two years and after two failed IVF attempts, God has led us in this direction. Though the path to this point has had its challenges, we firmly believe that adoption is a gift and the journey we are meant to take to complete our family.







Hi, I'm Ben, husband of Shelly and dad of two amazing kids! I am a fun-loving, light hearted guy who loves nothing more than spending time with my family and friends. I always try to bring a positive attitude and mindset to everything I do in life. Being supportive to Shelly and the kids is always my top priority and what drives me to do my best.



## Meet Ben



I was born in Cookeville, TN and moved to Knoxville, TN in 1985 where I have lived ever since. I feel like I was beyond blessed to have been raised by my loving parents, Larry and Pam, who have always provided me with unconditional love and support. I also have an amazing sister, Kelly, who is 2 years older than me. I have always wanted to be able to provide the same family environment to my kids that I had growing up and want them to feel blessed the same way I was.

# More about Ben



In late 2019, I met my wife, Shelly and immediately saw in her so many things that I admired and wanted to get to know more about. It seemed like the more we learned about each other and the closer our relationship got, the more we realized how our personalities, though not exactly alike, complemented each other in so many great ways and made us realize we were perfect for each other. One of the things we talked about even from the earliest stages of our relationship was how we wanted to be parents together. Shelly was very clear about how important being a mother was to her and I want nothing more than to be able to raise a child with her as our own.



My kids are two of the most important blessings in my life and changed my life from the day that each of them were born. I hope they have received as much joy as they have given me over the years and we have had some truly amazing memories. Shelly coming into their lives 5 years ago has been such a blessing to them with her loving nature and by providing them with a strong, supportive role model. They are so excited to have a younger sibling to teach and love! They are smart, loving and live life with energy and enthusiasm. They both really inspire me in their own different ways and really are a joy to be around.



Here's a little about me.

I want nothing more than to be a mom. My family is everything to me, and we are eager to complete it.

I cherish time with my friends and family and work hard to foster those relationships. I am a natural caretaker and a fierce protector. I am reflective and empathetic, seeing situations from multiple perspectives. I generally assume the best in others and try not to judge a situation without context. My husband brings my silly side out, and I adore him for that gift. I believe these parts of me will show up in being a loving, supportive, accepting, fun mom.



## Meet Shelly



I am motivated and driven. I believe in the power of education and the difference it can make in the world. In fact, it's my life's work. I taught 3rd and 4th grade before becoming a school principal, and LOVED both of these roles! I am now a director of multiple schools within our district. This position both fulfills my need to make a difference while also offering the flexibility needed for family life. In 2023, I also completed my doctorate.

# More About Shelly

## As a Parent



I love being a bonus mom and a dog mom. My whole life, I have also wanted to be a momma! When I think about me as a parent, the word balance comes to mind. I believe life should be fun and playful, while also focused on goals and achieving our best. I believe in high levels of support when facing obstacles balanced with allowing a child to learn from mistakes as they overcome those obstacles. I want to be the type of mom that a kid can rely on for support through the tough times and for celebration through the joyous times. I am lucky to have a husband that is such an amazing father and role model. Our child would know that our love knows no bounds.

## Fun Facts



For Fun: Reading, watching the kids play softball and baseball, any time with my husband, and playing with Lincoln

Travel: The world is a big place, and it's important we experience it. I've traveled abroad and throughout the US. My favorite was an MLB park trip we took as a family to the Northeast in 2023.

Favorite family activity: We love to play board and card games together. These nights involve lots of laughs and healthy competition. Winner cleans up!

Sports: I married into a sports family and have come to love watching football and baseball, but I'm definitely not an athlete myself!







# Meet Our Daughter



Hello! I am the youngest of the family so I would be so happy to add another addition to the family. I am very fond of writing poems and just writing in general. I enjoy making people laugh and making jokes. I am in 9th grade. I'm on my high school softball team, and I will start flag football this late fall. I've been known as very creative and energetic. Having another sibling would be awesome! I can't wait to have a little brother or sister to spend time with.

---

## Fun Facts



- I love almost every sport
- I love going to the beach and getting hit by waves
- My favorite food is chicken and mac and cheese
- I love reading books and watching shows
- I love big cities with lots of things going on
- I am a big fan of all animals(I have 5!!)
- I love watching the NFL and MLB.



Hi! I enjoy being around other people as much as possible, especially athletic activities. I play baseball, but I know a lot about plenty of other sports and activities, too. I would say I am a pretty laid back person, but enjoy talking to other people and cracking a few jokes. I am and have always been excited to have another sibling. I think having another sibling gives new perspective, and I am eager to meet them and create a great relationship.



# Meet Our Son



## Fun Facts

I love all things sports

Steak is my favorite food

The lake is one of my favorite places

I love watching movies and playing games

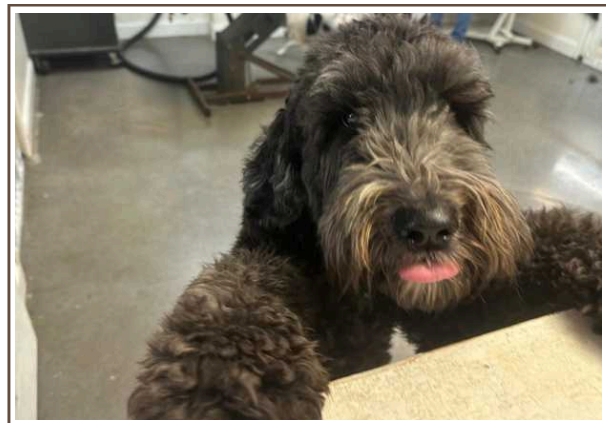
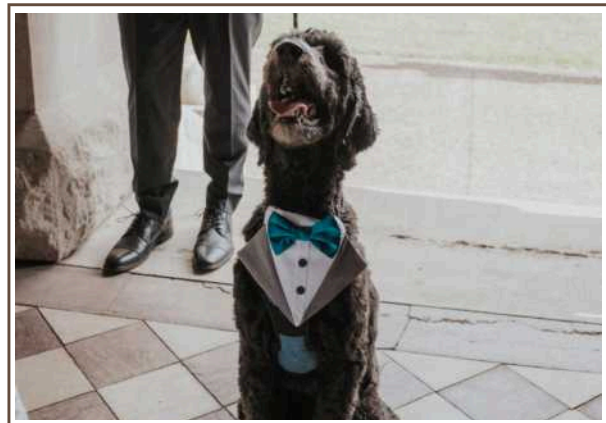
I am a Tennessee Volunteers fan through and through



# Meet Lincoln



Meet the fifth member of our family, Lincoln, our silly Goldendoodle! He has a gentle, loving personality and adores being around people. Whether he is catching the frisbee in the yard, snuggling on the couch, or simply keeping us company, Lincoln brings so much joy and laughter to our home. He's incredibly friendly and always seems to know when someone needs extra comfort or love. We know he'll be a loyal companion to a little one. He seems to have a sixth sense with small kids or seniors, knowing to be even gentler than normal. He's ready to share all his cuddles and playtime with a new best friend.





# Our Home and Community



We live in a great neighborhood for raising a family! There are plenty of families around with kids of all ages, neighborhood activities, and a neighborhood pool. Our home sits on a low traffic street. We have a large, fenced in backyard, perfect for regular wiffle ball games! We also have a fire pit, sitting area, and partial basketball/pickleball court, creating an optimal space for family gatherings. The house is spacious, with four bedrooms. We spend most of our time in the large living room or the kitchen hanging out together. We honestly, would rather be at our home entertaining or having family time than anywhere else!





# Our Support System

"Grandparents are the perfect mix of wisdom, love and a splash of magic. "



Ben's parents, Pam and Larry, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! While they live about a little over an hour away, they are very involved grandparents, traveling to attend the kids' games, birthday dinners, and making holidays unforgettable. They look forward to having another grandchild to spoil!



Shelly's parents, Frances and John, are both remarried. Frances and Rock (Rock not pictured) and John and Pam (pictured on the next page) all live close by and could not be more excited at the prospect of creating memories with a little one. They all love Casen and Layla dearly, embracing the opportunity to be bonus grandparents. A grandbaby would complete their hearts!







# Our Support System



"Aunts and uncles are the party hats at the top of the family tree."

Shelly's sister, Megan, and Ben's sister, Kelly, are pictured above. Megan recently married Brad. They live in Nashville, but travel to Knoxville often. They hope to start a family soon too, and it would be an incredible experience to allow cousins to grow up together. Kelly has been married to Blake for over 20 years, and they have two incredible kids, Libby and Knox. While they live in Memphis, we all meet together a few times per year and stay in touch, ensuring the distance does not impact our feelings of family.

We have an extended support system of incredible friends and extended family members who are ready to be a part of this journey, further ensuring a child grows up feeling loved and accepted.







# Our Promise



Our promise to you is simple: to provide your child with unconditional love, support and a nurturing environment where they can grow and thrive. We will always celebrate their individuality, encourage their dreams, and be their biggest supporters through every milestone. We promise to balance not taking life too seriously with being vulnerable and open when life brings a challenge. We promise to offer a home filled with laughter, warmth, and fun. Your child will always know the love and courage that brought us together, and we will honor your story as part of their own.



