



PAUL *and* KELSEY

EVERY FAMILY HAS A STORY...

welcome to ours.





hi there!

IT'S SO NICE TO "MEET" YOU.

We want to share our sincerest thanks and deepest gratitude for viewing our profile. While it may be difficult to get a full picture of who we are from just a few pages, we want you to know that, first and foremost, our family is founded on love. We love to travel, love adventure, love food, love our day-to-day life, love our friends, and most importantly, love our family. Our family comes first and will always take priority over anything else. Our love for our family runs deep and we hope that you can feel that through these pages.

Kelsey and our amazing daughter Ava are both adoptees. We have a unique, first-hand understanding of the complexities, grief, happiness, love, and uncertainties that come with placing and raising a child through adoption. We are incredibly blessed to have built our family through adoption and excited to grow our family again through adoption.

We cannot begin to imagine all your thoughts and feelings as you look through these pages. We will love, honor, and support you throughout this process and with whatever you ultimately choose is best for you and your baby.

PAUL + KELSEY

This is our story

WE MET IN OUR SOPHOMORE YEAR OF COLLEGE.

We were placed on a group project together. Paul was immediately drawn to Kelsey's warmth, thought she had a positive vibe, and knew he wanted to get to know her better! Kelsey was attracted to Paul's humor, witty personality, and kind heart. We dated for the remainder of college and after three years of long-distance dating, we realized that we had found the partner with whom we each wanted to share our life. ***Paul proposed in 2010 and we were married in Chicago, the city where we met, on November 12, 2011. After our wedding, Paul moved out to New York City where Kelsey lived. We lived there for a year and a half and then moved to Indianapolis. Settling down in Indianapolis made sense for us because it is a great city to raise a family and allowed us to be closer to both of our families.***





What led us to adoption?

ADOPTION WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING WE CONSIDERED AS WE BEGAN TO THINK ABOUT GROWING OUR FAMILY.

Kelsey is adopted and has a younger brother and two cousins who are adopted. When we struggled with fertility, there was no doubt in our minds that adoption would be our journey to becoming parents. Our hope is that we can love and support our future child with the many ups and downs that come with being an adoptee. Kelsey has been through many of these herself but also respects that no two adoptees are the same. An amazing outcome that came from Ava's adoption is the extended family that we gained in Ava's birth family. Ava is so lucky to have a birth family who loves, supports, and wants what is best for her. ***And our hope is that this will be true for any future child we are entrusted to raise and parent. Adoption is beautiful and sorrowful, but it brings families together. It brought Kelsey's family together and has brought our family together.***

Meet Kelsey!

as told by Paul



I never doubted Kelsey would be a great parent, but seeing her as a mom to our daughter has made me fall in love with her all over again. In a word, she is selfless. She will give her time, energy, love, and even her last bite of cake to others, especially Ava. Her devotion to her friends and family knows no bounds, and I will forever be thankful to have her as a partner and co-parent.

Kelsey is a former teacher, but though she is no longer in the classroom, she still teaches every day as she helps Ava discover the world around her and helps me become the best version of myself as a father and partner. *I have no doubt Kelsey's heart will grow by two should we be fortunate to add another child to our family, and I know she will continue to serve as the rock of our household.*



Meet Paul! *as told by Kelsey*

Paul is steady, constant, generous, funny, intelligent, and the very BEST dad. His love for Ava is unwavering. He plays endlessly with Ava, makes her laugh, is goofy, and provides for our family daily. He is the foundation of our family. I am forever amazed at the man he is and love him more today than I did the day I said: "I do."

Paul is an attorney who works extremely hard, which is a testament to his character. This dedication and passion go beyond his job and career and pour into all aspects of his life. He is a wonderful son, nephew, cousin, uncle, friend, brother-in-law, husband, and father. *I am so blessed to have Paul as my partner and Ava's dad. He keeps me grounded, and his love is unconditional and enduring. I can't wait to see him become a father again!*

meet our daughter!



Ava is 2.5 years old and is truly the center of our world! She is kind, caring, goofy, adventurous, and joyful. She loves to dance and listen to music - proven by daily dance parties in our home. Ava is very loving and friendly; she loves to snuggle, and makes a new friend wherever we go! Her teacher says that she is a class favorite amongst all the other kids at school.

She is smart, independent, determined, and a quick learner. At only 2.5 years old, she can count to 10 in Chinese, knows her numbers 0-20, and all of her shapes, colors, and letters. Ava loves to read, every night is a battle because she always wants "one more book." We often joke that she is going to be a negotiator or lawyer; we truly believe that she is going to change the world one day!

Ava is very active. She loves to run around and be outside. If it is warm, you can find her playing with her water table, taking Gibson on a walk, playing at the park, or riding her bike. If it is cold, you will still find her outside bundled up, wanting to be pulled in a sled or go "ice skating". Because she has so much energy and loves to be active, we have Ava in dance class, gymnastics, and soccer. All of which she loves! She has brought us so much joy and we never knew we could love someone as much as we love her. We cannot wait for her to become a big sister, she has already been practicing on all of her dolls!





Our
daughter
brings so
much joy
to our
lives.





home sweet home

WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE WHERE WE LIVE!

Our home has three bedrooms and is on a quiet street in Indianapolis. We are close enough to downtown that we are able to walk to local restaurants and take bike rides, but far enough away to have a yard and space for Ava and Gibson (our dog) to grow and play. Our neighbors are friendly, and many of them also have small children, so on any given day you see kids playing outside and riding bikes. It is truly a great neighborhood.



We love our neighborhood because it is dog-friendly. Gibson is our rescue puppy who acts like a big brother to Ava. He is a small, mixed-breed dog who loves to play and snuggle. Ava loves to feed him and play with him and always makes sure we take Gibson along with us on our adventures. He is gentle with her and very protective. We are sure he will be the same with another little one in our home!



Things we love



KELSEY LOVES:

Reading books and learning • Working out, hiking, & being outdoors •
Cooking, baking, & eating! • Performance Arts – singing, dancing, acting,
musical theatre • Spending time with Paul, Ava, & Gibson!



PAUL LOVES:

Reading books & exploring history • Running, hiking, & being outdoors • Eating
any and all foods - especially anything with chocolate & peanut butter • Teaching
as an adjunct professor at the local law school • Dance parties with Ava



AS A FAMILY WE LOVE:

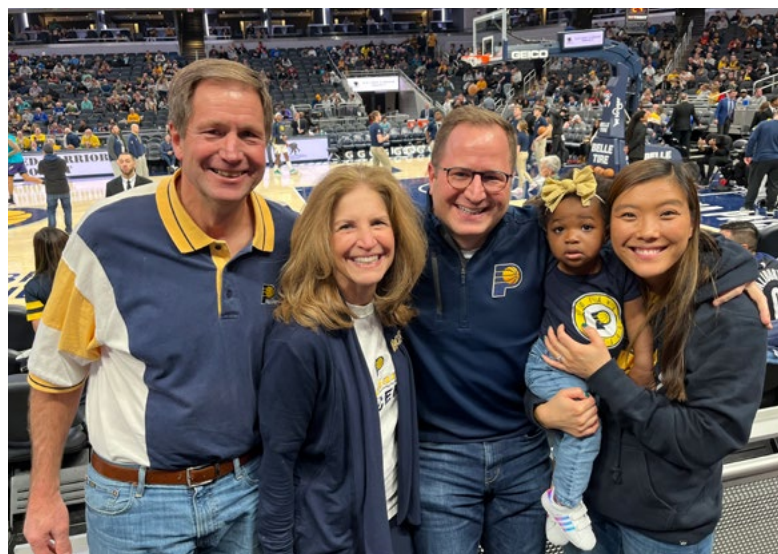
Travel nationally & internationally. We have both been to every state and have a list running for Ava. We also want to visit the seven wonders of the modern world.

Eat and eat some more. We named our dog, Gibson, after a restaurant in Chicago where we would go on dates and held our rehearsal dinner.

Family and Friends. Spending time with our loved ones is a priority and we will hop on a plane if even for a day just to spend time together.

Have fun, go on adventures, and explore new things. We love that we live in a city where there is a ton of culture, people, places, foods, and experiences offered. As a family we love to go and experience all the city has to offer.

Being outdoors. Ava loves being outside. We take hikes and walks as a family. We love to visit new parks and go swimming. Ava loves to ride her bike around our neighborhood.



our extended family

PAUL'S FAMILY I am an only child and am still close with both of my parents today. Even though I am an only child, I was raised on a large family farm and grew up next door to my grandparents and numerous cousins.

Despite my parents both working, they both always made time for our family and would often take vacations together, which is where I got my love for travel. I always knew my parents would make time for me, and I never doubted that I was a priority for them. This is an important lesson I have tried to emulate now as a parent when faced with all the competing priorities of being an adult.

My parents and most of my extended family still live in Indianapolis, and we get to see them almost every week.

KELSEY'S FAMILY

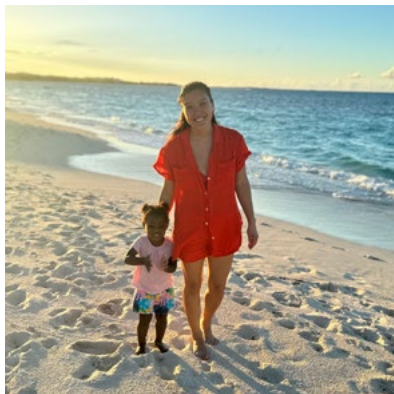
I was raised in a small town in Minnesota where my parents still live. I am the second oldest of four siblings. I have an older sister and two younger brothers. As we mentioned before, one of my brothers and I were adopted. I am close with all of my siblings, especially my sister, and I love that my relationship with each of them has shifted into friendship in adulthood. My parents instilled in us how important family is and to celebrate and cherish our differences.

My sister has three children, and my brother has two. We love and adore them all so much! Ava loves her cousins, and we regularly FaceTime with them. All of my siblings and their families still live in Minnesota. We are fortunate that we are able to travel to visit them every other month and that Ava is able to see them as much as she does.

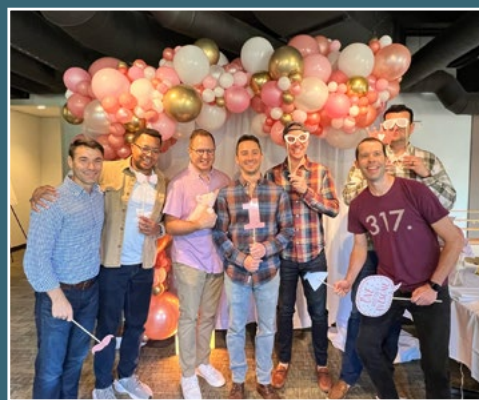
I also have a very large extended family; my dad is one of six. We still hold an annual reunion, and we make sure to attend every year, which is really important to me and for me to share with Ava.



our adventures



We both grew up traveling as children and have loved sharing our travels with Ava. We travel a lot within the country, but we especially love to travel together internationally. Our travels started when we were in college together, and they continue to this day. Ava has already been to 9 different states and 8 different countries! She has definitely caught the travel bug, and we will continue to travel as a family, even as our family grows. The experiences and perspectives you gain when you travel are invaluable, and we believe they help make people more accepting, understanding, and inclusive of other people and different cultures. These are important values we want our family to continue to have.



our friends

Our chosen family are a big part of our village. We feel so fortunate to have many close relationships with so many friends from many different phases of our lives. Our closest friends all have children and are in the same chapter of life as us. It makes gatherings so much fun, and our kids have so much fun together. Our friends have been there for us through the ups and downs and have been so supportive as we have grown our family through adoption. Ava's classmates and friends at school have widened our friend circle even more! It has brought more diversity into our village and community, which is important to us.





promises
FROM US TO YOU AND YOUR CHILD

We promise that your child will be loved unconditionally.

We promise to raise your child to know their own value and worth in this world and how lucky this world is to have them in it.

We promise your child will always know who you and their birth family are. We would love a trusting and open relationship with your family and would consider ourselves extremely blessed to have you as extended family. We are open to visiting in person up to 6 times a year along with weekly communication through text messages and pictures.

We promise that any children raised in our family will never question or wonder about their biology, something Kelsey wished was true for her. Your child will know all aspects of their life and families to ensure they are happy, whole, and unconditionally loved individuals.

Thank you again for reading through our profile and getting to know a little about us. We hope you felt our hearts and intentions in these pages. We will be forever appreciative of this opportunity and hope that above all, you feel peace with whatever decision you make for you and your child.

PAUL, KELSEY + AVA



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