

Daniel and Kiersten






Hi there!

It feels strange to thank you for looking at our profile while you're facing such a monumental decision, and yet gratitude is still one of the many emotions we feel in this process. While we can't possibly know or understand what you're feeling and processing right now, we hope as you look through these pages you find peace and clarity- even if that clarity is not choosing us to parent your child.

These pages are a glimpse into our lives as a family. We adopted our son, Luca, in November 2019 and he's going to be such a fun big brother. He's loud and wild, but so thoughtful and compassionate as well. We love big and cherish meaningful time together. We try our best to balance crazy fun and abundant rest; we hope our joy comes across in this profile. Luca's birth mom has become an integral part of our family and we hope to develop a unique and meaningful relationship with you as our family as well. Our hearts are open not only to your baby, but to you as well. We deeply value you as a person and look forward to getting to know you better.



Much love,

Daniel and Kiersten

(and Luca too!)

our story



WE'RE HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS, BUT IT WASN'T LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

Well, at least not for Kiersten! We met during show choir practice when I, Kiersten, was a sophomore and Daniel was a junior. While Daniel says he was completely enamored with me from the start, I wasn't interested at first! I thought he was cute, but so did every other girl in the choir. After a year of getting to know each other, Daniel asked me if we could "give this a try". I said yes and the rest is history.



I was drawn to Daniel's gentle and unique spirit, while he appreciated my silliness and kindness. We dated the rest of high school, got engaged during my junior year of college under the college campus bell tower, and were married just a couple of months before my graduation in the church I grew up in.

Although we seem quite different in many ways, we share the same values, sense of humor, and passion for justice. We're committed to growing together and prioritize quality time with each other. We've been together for 12 years now and married for almost 8. It's been an incredible journey refining and strengthening our love for each other. We continue to choose each other every day and fall deeper in love each year.



what led us to adoption?

Early in our relationship, we began discussing adoption, largely due to Kiersten's family history—her dad, aunt, and many cousins were adopted. This oriented Kiersten's heart towards adoption, and Daniel was fully on-board. Our discussions became more serious after Kiersten was diagnosed with Stage II endometriosis at the age of 19.

Early in our marriage, we tried fertility treatments as recommended by our doctor, but the emotional and physical toll was too overwhelming, so we shifted our focus to Kiersten's health and processing the grief of infertility. A year later, we started the adoption process and welcomed our son, Luca, into our home in late 2019.

We chose an open adoption, inspired by Kiersten's dad reconnecting with his birth family and the relationships we've built with them. It's important for us that Luca, and any future children, have the opportunity to build relationships with their birth families. Additionally, having a community of adoptees within our family and community has greatly supported Luca in processing his adoption; so, we wanted you to know your child would have access to both adult and child adoptees to process their story with.

Our hearts are open, ready, and excited to expand our family again through adoption.



Hi, I'm Kiersten!

I'm a life-long learner always seeking to educate myself deeper and wider. This has served me well in my career ambitions, and parenthood too! I love being a mom and joke that my hobbies are whatever Luca is doing because I love spending time with him. I work in human resources and I love that I get to truly support people in their career development. I'm passionate and outspoken about loving and protecting people. I have a deep love of the arts which has expanded from a love of theatre and music to also include art such as paintings, sculptures, artifacts, and poetry. I love getting wrapped up in a good story; whether that's on stage, on screen, on canvas, or in print.

I love to have fun, but prefer doing activities in small groups or 1:1. I love embracing the seasons throughout the year. I decorate the house, have specific playlists, and specific activities for each season of the year. It's a practice that helps remind there's beauty and joy in every season of life, even the seasons that are challenging or less ideal.

"You can't find someone with a bigger heart of compassion and understanding than Kiersten. She draws out the best in you and inspires you to be better not just for yourself, but for those around you. She has a way of making people feel safe, heard, and valued. She sets an incredible example for Luca and parents him with grace and love. She's an incredible mom and wife." -Daniel



Hi, I'm Daniel!

I'm a problem-solver and a doer. I work hard to instill these qualities into Luca as well, helping him learn how to find solutions. I'm an electrician by trade but love doing anything where I can use my hands to build or create. I'm always lending a helping hand to our friends and neighbors from changing oil in their cars to helping with handyman projects. I love letting Luca help me work on the truck or other projects so he can start building those skills as well.

I enjoy traditional woodworking and even built our dining room table. I'm a bit of a nerd and love playing various types of games (card games, board games, computer games, role-playing games). I also live-stream painting miniature figurines and recently opened my own Etsy shop for 3D printing miniatures. I have a deep appreciation for music and have loved exposing Luca to various generations and genres of music.

“Daniel is one of the most interesting and hilarious people I know. He constantly has a random fun fact up his sleeve to share. He is kind and supportive, but also fiercely protective. He guides, teaches, and plays so well; he truly is an incredible dad. He loves me and Luca so well. I knew from the moment I fell in love with him that I'd never have a boring life—and I was right. Life is a constant adventure of laughter with Daniel.”

Meet our son, Luca!

The name Luca means “bringer of light” and Luca certainly brings an abundance of light! He is witty and intelligent beyond his years; he’ll have you doubled over laughing one minute and the next minute he’s asking deep questions about life. He loves telling stories in whispers in your ear. I wish I could bottle up his giggle and just listen to it on repeat. He is sensitive and attuned to the needs of others- always seeking to help his friends. He’s also a bit of a class clown and loves to be loud and wild.



He’s adventurous but cautious- he typically wants to make sure he really understands how to do something before taking the leap. He loves sports and loves watching football with his grandpa. He’s also got an artsy side to him as he loves music and dancing. Not to brag- but he knows every word to Burnin’ Up by The Jonas Brothers. Luca takes a bit to warm up to people, but once he feels safe with you- he’ll be your best friend forever. It’s fun getting to know and experience all of the unique sides of Luca that make him the wonderful kid he is. Luca is bi-racial, Hispanic and Black, and we work hard every day to educate ourselves and him on his culture and helping him build confidence in who he is.

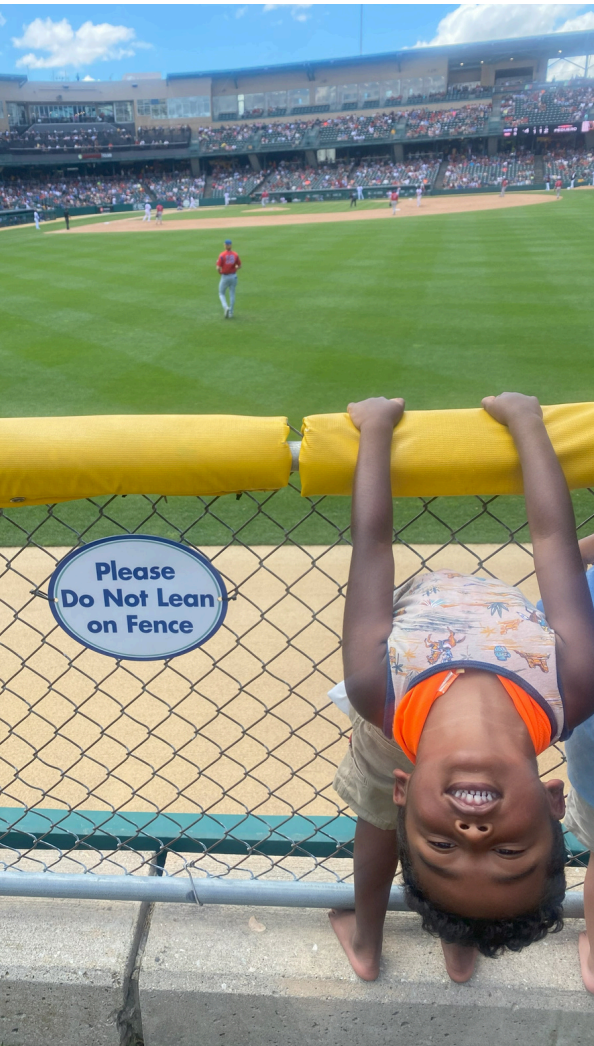
He has some friends that are younger than he is and a cousin who just turned 1. You can tell he feels a sense of duty around them and he loves them deeply. Watching Luca interact with younger kids and babies and how nurturing he is has shown us what a protective, loving, and kind big brother he will be. Though there will most definitely be the typical sibling feuds! We are so excited for him to get to guide and grow alongside a sibling in the future.



This quote is on a piece of artwork that hangs in the hallway of our house and I truly believe it's true. When we brought Luca home, we lived in a large house nestled in a cul-de-sac. It was lovely, yet it never felt like home. We didn't live in a very diverse area and we longed for true community. So in 2021, we moved to a cozy bungalow in Indianapolis in a diverse area with one of the top-rated school systems in the state.

Our home is a 3 bed, 2 bath bungalow with a partially finished basement. Daniel has spent the last couple years slowly renovating our basement all by himself—including adding a full bathroom in the basement. It's been a labor of love, but it's truly made it a home. As we finish our basement renovations, we have our eyes on some fun exterior projects in the coming years! We love hosting gatherings and play dates so it's been fun making our home a safe, inclusive, and comforting space for people.







Meet our pup, Donna!

We have a 7 year old lab rottweiler mix named Donna. We rescued her when she was 3 years old in 2020. She's a big love bug and will most certainly lick you to death. She's great with all the neighborhood kids and has always been great with Luca. We brought her home when he was just starting to crawl and we were so impressed with how gentle and tolerant she was!

She's a social eater so she'll only eat her meals if she can eat them with us. She loves going on hikes and walks with us, but her favorite thing is playing catch or just chewing on her toys. She's not as active as she sounds, you'll mostly find her sleeping on the couch!





we love where we live!

We have deep friendships and diverse community in our little town and Luca has a great group of friends that he's growing up with. Our neighbors are great and we always enjoy summer cookouts together! We're right off a long walking trail that is where we take nightly bike rides/walks as a family. There are two main parks close to us that we go to frequently and we're walking distance from local restaurants, coffee shops, and boutiques. We're also close to the zoo and a children's museum, both of which we go to frequently!

There are lots of free community events that we love taking Luca to and he's starting to get more involved with athletics in the area. He had been doing dance for a couple years, and now he's playing soccer and learning gymnastics. We have so many great activities available in our community – for kids and adults.

Our community has enabled Luca to really start building a sense of pride for his race and heritage while also learning how to honor and embrace other races and heritages as he engages with the vast diversity of people around him. It'll be life-long learning for us, but it's been beautiful to watch Luca really blossom here and we feel fortunate to live in such a culturally diverse area.



our extended family

Kiersten is the middle of 3 girls and her parents have been married for 35 years. Kiersten's older sister and her parents live 5 minutes from us so we spend a lot of time with them. We see her little sister, who lives a couple hours away, roughly every other month. We have one nephew but hope to have more nieces/nephews within the next couple years! Luca loves being a cousin and we love being Auntie K and Uncle Dan! Kiersten has a large extended family that is incredibly close and we have large family gatherings multiple times a year. It's a family of foodies so you can always count on a full buffet and lots of laughter!





Daniel has a smaller family, having one older sister and his parents have also been married for 35 years! We don't spend as much time with Daniel's family but we make the most of the time we do get together. Daniel's mom is incredible with kids and always has the most creative crafts for Luca to do! We've grown closer to Daniel's extended family over the last couple years and are excited to get together with them more!



our friends are like family!

We spend a lot of time with our friends and celebrate the big and small things together! We often have “First Fridays” together where we get together the first Friday of each month and just enjoy each other’s company. There are lots of kids in our crew so seems like we’re constantly celebrating birthdays! We do a lot of impromptu dinners and support each other with meals during hard weeks. It’s a true community we’re experiencing life with and we couldn’t be more grateful to show Luca and any future children how to develop and maintain deep friendships.



fun facts about us!



- We think tattoos are a beautiful art form and we both have multiple, meaningful tattoos.
- We love the Harry Potter movies and Kiersten has been to the Harry Potter Studios in London
- We have a large community of adoptive parents and families that we talk with regularly, this gives Luca deep community with other kids who are adopted
- We make fried chicken for Christmas Eve Dinner every year
- Friday nights are pizza night and Daniel makes our pizza sauce from scratch
- Kiersten grew up doing popcorn and apples for dinner on Sunday nights, and we've continued that tradition to start our week with some fun
- We collect magnets and post-cards from the cities we travel to.
- We're starting to learn Spanish as a family. While Luca's birth family doesn't speak Spanish, he knows he is Hispanic and often hears our friends speaking the language, so we decided to learn! Our friends are helping us and they are also willing to help with any translation needs as needed while we continue to learn.
- We attend a non-denominational church that is committed to the pursuit of racial justice and reconciliation and actively works to be a safe place for all people to deepen their relationship with God



our adventures!

Travel is integral to our family. We love exploring both domestically and internationally, but are also big fans of being tourists in your own city and exploring areas close to you that you've never experienced. Whether traveling to Europe or driving down to Brown County, Indiana, there's a lot to gain from travel. Daniel loves learning about the history of cities and its people- the stories of how places came to be are important to him. Kiersten loves immersing herself in different cultural experiences- exploring new foods, art, and events. Luca just loves being along for the ride! We hope through our travels and experiences we help him understand and appreciate that the world is a big place and our differences should be celebrated and embraced.

Some of our favorite travels are cruises and camping! Daniel and I have been on multiple cruises, and Luca went on his first cruise for his 5th birthday. We're tent campers and we feel Luca's gaining valuable life skills through tent camping. Plus, it's great quality bonding time – except when he doesn't want to sleep!

While we enjoy a good adventure, sometimes the best adventures are found in the small, ordinary happenings of life.

In this family we...

- Love fiercely and give grace readily
- Assume the best of each other
- Give second chances, but hold firm boundaries
- Laugh as often as possible
- Find the joy in little things
- Take time to rest
- Hold space for and honor our emotions
- Apologize often and commit to personal healing so we can grow together as a family





we promise to...

Provide a safe, loving home where your child can learn, grow, and develop

Prioritize your child's needs and give them a safe space to explore their interests, passions, and emotions

Surround your child with diversity- diversity in backgrounds, race, perspectives, and experiences

Partner with you in relationship building to help your child grow up with a strong sense of identity, and a deep appreciation for you and their heritage

Openly communicate with you through the ebbs and flows of life and prioritize maintaining a healthy relationship between you and your child

Love you and your child unconditionally

We desire to build a deep relationship with you and your family. We'd love to send you frequent text and picture updates, and envision 4-5 visits a year. We recognize you may have different preferences, and we'd love to work through that together to find what works best for all of us if you choose us to parent your child.

We hope for the chance to get to know you and to share more about us. We are praying for you as you decide what is best for you and your child. I hope you know you are loved deeply no matter what you decide.

Much love,

Daniel and Kiersten



Adoption



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