

# PENNY + WILLIAM

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# *From the bottom of our hearts...*

YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST RESPECT IN MAKING THIS COURAGEOUS AND LOVING DECISION. THE JOURNEY OF GROWING OUR FAMILY BEGAN IN 2015 WHEN WILLIAM, MY PARTNER (14 YEARS), AND I WERE BLESSED WITH THE MIRACLE OF A LITTLE GIRL (HARRIET), FROM CHINA. HER ADOPTION STORY IS FULL OF GRIEF BUT ALSO FULL OF LOVE, CONNECTION AND JOY. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE HERE OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR ONE MORE. YOU HAVE OUR PROMISE TO CARRY AND SHARE THE STORY OF ADOPTION WITH REVERENCE, LOVE AND GRATITUDE. WE KNOW THIS TINY GLIMPSE INTO OUR LIVES IS JUST THAT, AND WE THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING OUR FAMILY STORY.

*with love,*  
PENNY, WILLIAM, + HARRIET









# Hi! NICE TO MEET YOU!



We are Penny, William, + Harriet! We live in Texas and are so honored to share our lives with you!

We love going to musicals, cooking, baking and crafting together, playing with our puppy, Stella, entertaining friends and watching Harriet play tennis and swim! We spend time finding new, delicious restaurants but usually end up at our favorite sushi or Mexican spots! We are a fun-loving family and can't wait to share our love with a precious, new child!

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# Why Adoption

Our daughter, Harriet, was adopted from China at 2.5 years old. She was a prayer answered for us. After we brought Harriet home, we just knew this was God's plan. There isn't a single thing we would change!

We would love to grow our family through adoption again and our daughter would also love a sibling! There is plenty more room at our table, in our home, and in our hearts to share joy, laughter, and love. We want a noisy house with children laughing, singing, reading, playing games and musical instruments.

*"For I know the plans I have  
for you, declared the Lord..."*

*-Jeremiah 29:11*







## HOW WE *Met*

William and I met on a blind date in 2008. I remember our first date when his Grandmother called him midway through. He so kindly asked if I would mind if he took the call and I listened as he was so lovely with her! The rest of the date was spent talking non stop, discovering our mutual love of all things vintage, historical home restoration, traveling the world, entertaining friends, working hard, and a good sense of humor. Though we have been together for 14 years, we haven't made it to the altar, yet! We intended to but time was of the essence getting to China to adopt Harriet (she was born with a congenital heart defect) and we wanted to travel quickly to get her the care she needed in the USA. We've got all the love a couple could ever need and it all gets passed along to Harriet (and hopefully another child) so wedding band, or not, we are a family- full and complete.

"It's always been yours... I cannot find another my heart beats for."

*S.L. Gray*









# ALL ABOUT WILLIAM

I was born in Maryland, where my dad worked as a veterinarian. When I was 5, my dad changed paths and moved us to Mississippi, where I lived through college. My family was super close growing up! We sat down for my mother's home cooked dinner together every single night which I've always remembered so fondly. We also spent each summer taking long road trips to visit family. Growing up in a rural area, I spend every free moment roaming the countryside and that love of being outdoors has never left me!

I've always been one of those folks who likes to take things apart to see how they work (although Penny can attest that I don't always put them back together...) I studied mechanical engineering in college and then after a few years toiling around in the corporate world, I took a chance and partnered with a friend to start a manufacturing company. After many years of hard work, we are blessed that the company has grown to be stable and successful giving me great flexibility to be able to spend time with Penny and Harriet! This has allowed me to help Harriet learn the value of education, hard work, and honesty!

I've been fortunate to travel quite a bit and people tell me I spin some pretty entertaining stories about those adventures! Besides spending time with Penny and Harriet, which is my favorite past time, you'll usually find me working on the house or a vintage car.







## *All About Penny*

I grew up in Australia in a beautiful beach town called the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is everything its name depicts...miles of beautiful beaches, kangaroos, koalas, cooking on the barbecue, lots of very large mosquitoes and flies. I grew up with two older sisters and we all went to a catholic school. Our recreation was centered around family activities and holidays. Holidays were spent on the beach, riding bikes, fishing and a bit too much driving in the car, through the middle of nowhere, to get to various holiday destinations. Family dinners were and, still are, important to us. My Mum baked a lot and always had something in the oven and a vase of fresh flowers to prepare for friends coming over. I do miss a warm weather Christmas and long summer vacations spent on the beach and enjoying the outdoors.

The sentiment of hard work was really important growing up and that has never left me. So, I have a serious side when it comes to work but my current team are kind and good humored, which is important to me. I absolutely love flowers (my favorite flowers are pink peonies and Easter daisies) and I have forever longed to open my own florist. I also love antique and vintage items (the less perfect the better) and to sew and craft. Exercising is wonderful and a must-do to clear my mind and keep healthy.

I have been fortunate enough to travel to many countries, mainly for work and some for recreation. We enjoy visiting Australia, and topping up on the laid-back Aussie outdoor lifestyle and, of course, visiting family and friends. As a family, we started our very first herb and vegetable garden this year and look forward to perfecting this after the summer season for new growth, fewer caterpillars and more dinner table stories.







# Meet Harriet!

Harriet is our funny, kind, happy 9 year old whom we had the honor to adopt from China (at 2.5 years old). She has congenital heart disease and has had 3 major surgeries, but her health is now very stable! She attends an all girls private Catholic school and loves it.

She loves spending time with her friends, singing, playing the violin, swimming, tennis and she still loves to play with dolls and dress up. We belong to a country club that has wonderful facilities for children to learn to swim and play tennis. She loves pretend play and watching the Sound of Music, Mary Poppins and Paddington. She loves to help set the table for guests, arrange flowers, play tennis and is learning to craft and sew.

It would be such a dream for her (and us) to see her become a big sister! She's so kind and caring- we know the bond will be incredible!









# Our Hobbies...

We love going to plays with Harriet, playing musical instruments, entertaining with friends (barbecues and holiday dinners), watching Harriet play tennis, and traveling. We also love to cook and bake as a family and eating at our favorite sushi and Mexican restaurants. We recently purchased the perfect family home. We would love to hear the sound of multiple children running up and down the stairs and playing in the garden and pool.

## PLACES WE'VE TRAVELED

1. Boston
2. Jackson Hole
3. Yellowstone
4. Sydney, Australia
5. China
6. California
7. France



# Our Favorite Things...



## PENNY

*Dessert:*

Creme Brulee

*Movie:*

Sound of Music

*Hobby:*

Sewing

*Vacation:*

France



## WILLIAM

*Dessert:*

Creme Brulee

*Sports:*

Formula One

*Hobby:*

Restoring vintage cars,  
tennis with Harriet

*Vacation:*

Australia



# THROUGH WILLIAM'S EYES....

Penny is such a kind, thoughtful and caring soul that always puts her family and friends first to make sure we all get what we need when we need it (education, health care, holiday events, school events). She is an advocate for Harriet and will be for another child! She always encourages everyone to do their best (no matter what the outcome) and is resourceful at finding help where needed to make sure everybody can do their best! She is warm, loving and spends a lot of time leading by example and reinforcing good manners and respect for others.



# THROUGH PENNY'S EYES...

William is an old soul. He is kind, intelligent, considerate and always puts our needs before his own. He is also hilarious and there is a lot of laughter in our house. William always makes sure to be home for a family dinner (even cooks the dinner too if we have been busy doing children activities after school). William can fix anything and I love that he instills his love of reading, history, hard work and fixing things ourselves in us!



William is patient, caring, kind and good humored with children and of course our daughter Harriet. I would say he is the favorite! He practices violin with Harriet every day, takes her to tennis tournaments and practices tennis with her at every chance to help her succeed. I know he would love to also be an amazing Dad to another child.





# *Our Home*

We absolutely adore our home. The home has 4 large, beautiful bedrooms, a study, and a craft room. It is a traditional colonial home that we have tried to preserve. We have a very large, grassed front and backyard with a pool and spa. We spend a lot of time out back working in our garden and entertaining friends. It is truly the place we love to be and have taken a lot of care to make it the best, most wonderful home for Harriet and we hope, for a new precious baby in the future!



*"Home is a story of who we are and a collection of all we love."*





# Our Community



Our community is very diverse and we have excellent schools surrounding us to accommodate all different learning styles. We live walking distance to a club with a pool and tennis courts and lots of kids activities for holidays (bingo, movies, and swim meets too). We have a farmers market within walking distance as well as other nature parks, the zoo, bowling and golf facilities.



# Meet The Family

Penny's family consists of her mum, two sisters + 9 nieces and 1 nephew who all currently live in Australia. Unfortunately, due to Covid, Penny's family hasn't seen Harriet in a while but we have plans to visit soon!

William parents are very close to Harriet and spend a lot of time with her when they visit from Mississippi. They attend school events, special occasions like birthdays, Grandparent's Day, sporting events, etc. Harriet's godparents are also an integral part of our lives! We see them on a regular basis and we are also very close to their family. We often have dinners out together or entertain at our house where children can play in the backyard and swim in the pool!



# THE FUTURE



## *Home*

We finally found our perfect family home with so much more room to grow our family! We have a traditional colonial home on a street with families and lots of children. We are walking distance to parks, recreation facilities and schools. It is a safe community with lots of families walking their dogs, jogging and children riding their bikes!

## *Faith*

We attend church weekly at a local Catholic church. If we are out of town, we make time to go to mass at our holiday location. In May, we had the good fortune to attend mass with the Archbishop of Paris at one of my favorite churches, St Sulpice. Also during the trip to France, (Liseaux) we participated in a beautiful march to Mary procession at St Therese Liseaux basilica. St Therese has performed so many amazing miracles. Our goal is to instill a love of religion and spirituality in our home and in our children so they may grow in faith.

## *Education*

We plan to provide whatever resources our children need and we absolutely understand and experience this now with Harriet in regards to differences in needs/talents. We plan on sending all of our children to a catholic/faith based school with small class sizes and christian values. That said, if we need to make changes along the way or to supplement educational needs to ensure our children can be their very best, we will absolutely do this. There are so many opportunities available for children where we live and we have a strong support system of educators and parents to help us navigate and offer us helpful suggestions. We are open to all avenues we may need to travel to do what's best for our children's education!



# TALKING ABOUT *Adoption*



Adoption is a key part of our family story and we are so grateful that we are able to grow our family through this beautiful opportunity.

William and I have not had the typical conventional start to growing a family. We spent so many years hard at work in our careers. Now we have the best of both worlds because we can hopefully still grow our family after doing what we love and have the resources and time to devote to something that is even more important to us than our careers. We know we were meant to grow our family through adoption and, while there is room at (our very large) table, we will not give up. Our children will always know their story and we will teach them to be proud of where they came from and to always know they are loved and part of our family from the very beginning!





DEAR *Little One,*

We promise to love and adore you and to always be your strongest advocate. You will always know about your birth family and the ultimate sacrifice they made for you. We have been praying for you, the child that God has planned for us for the longest time. We will pray for you and your birthparents and this will last long after we finally meet.

LOVE,

*Penny + William*





