
Hope & Lauren

Hello!

We are Lauren and Hope and we're grateful that you're taking the time to learn more about us, just as we look forward to learning more about you.

Each family's unique story involves treasures, trials, opportunities, obstacles, challenges, and choices. The **best stories are ones full of exciting people who love and care for each other, and the best journeys are those traveled together.** Even though we cannot imagine the circumstances that brought you to this moment, we know first-hand how special adoption can be. **Hope was adopted when she was a baby and knows what it is like to be part of a family made from adoption.** Together with you, we look forward to making a new family.

Early in our relationship, we decided that we wanted adoption to be part of the story of how we made our family. We've arrived at a point where we are ready to take this leap of faith and are excited for this life-changing chapter of our lives. We hope that in these pages, you connect with **the love, joy, safety, and care we will provide any child we may be blessed with.**

Again, we're so thankful that you are spending some time getting to know us. **Our prayers are with you as you consider this important decision.**







Our Story

We visit the Christmas tree farm every year to find the perfect tree!





We met in Washington DC on Hope's first day of her new caseworker job.

Lauren moved to Chicago for graduate school and our relationship became long distance.

After two years, Lauren graduated, and we were finally able to **be together in Maryland**!

In **May 2016 we sealed the deal** and committed to loving each other forever!

Since Then...

We've celebrated many joys and endured a few challenges - each adventure strengthening our marriage.

In **January 2019, we bought our first home together!**

We have built a joyful life filled with **loving friends and family**, a **peaceful and comfortable home**, and **meaningful and interesting work**.

We are blessed to be in a time when we are ready to have our dream of creating a family through adoption!



Hi! I'm Hope...

I was **adopted as an infant** from South Korea to a loving home in the Pacific Northwest, near Seattle. Growing up, my family was very **involved in church and kept an active social life.** I spent winters skiing and summers camping with my cousins and family friends.

I have always been a **creative and curious** person, and I love all sorts of **music, movies, games, and art.**

From an early age, I knew I wanted to be a minister, because **I care about people and love God.** Today, I'm very grateful to be an **ordained minister** and that I get to help people and churches **build safe and peaceful communities.**





MY FAVORITES

- **being a good friend and wife**
- **walking the dog**
- **playing video games**
- **crochet and crafts**
- **learning new things**

What I love about Hope...

I'm so excited for Hope to be a mom! There are so many things about Hope that will make here a great mother and I know she will shine in this special role!

She is kind!

Hope always goes above and beyond to include and help others. She likes to plan activities everyone will enjoy.

She believes the best about people!

Hope loves to encourage others and brings out the best in them.

She is passionate!

Hope cares deeply about her work as a Christian minister and non-profit executive working to end gun violence. I am so proud of her accomplishments.

She is fun!

She is always planning fun adventures for us! She enjoys building Lego, playing video games, watching movies, and spending time with friends.



Hope joyfully presiding at our friends' wedding



Written by Lauren

Hi! I'm Lauren...

I was born and raised in Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton, the home of the TV show "The Office," Growing up, I enjoyed **spending time with my cousins and close friends**, many who are still **my best friends.** We would have fun listening to **pop music, which I still love** - I still know all the lyrics to most Spice Girls and Backstreet Boys songs!



I attended religious schools through college and studied sociology and social work. Today, **I am a social worker** providing mental health services for people involved in the criminal justice system.

I have **always loved learning** and am an **avid reader.** I also **love cooking** and look forward to sharing my love of **food, pop culture, and learning** with a child.



Lauren picking vegetables at a nearby farm

MY FAVORITES

- **Spending time with friends and family**
- **Loving our pets**
- **Watching movies**
- **Listening to podcasts**
- **Reading books**

What I love about Lauren...

Lauren is going to be a wonderful mother! I can't wait to see all of the things I love about her poured into being a parent.



She is compassionate!
Lauren cares deeply about loving and serving others. She inspires everyone she meets, including me. She believes the best about people!

She is hardworking!
Lauren's upbringing in Eastern Pennsylvania instilled in her a can-do attitude, incredible work ethic, and concern for her family and friends.

She is a life-long learner!
Lauren loves to read, watch documentaries, and visit new places. It's always fun listening to her talk about her interests.

One of my first nicknames for Lauren was "Scrappy"! She's feisty and fierce, gentle and generous, all in one package.



Lauren visiting Paddington Bear at Paddington Station in England

Written by Hope

Where We Live

Our Home

We live in a four-bedroom single family house. Out front, we have a cute flower garden and a big lawn. In the back we have a large patio for cookouts and plenty of yard to play in!





Our State

We live in a suburb in **Maryland's capital region**. Living here gives us the great benefit of a quiet neighborhood environment with easy access to multiple cities. Maryland is a small and wonderful state. Every year we take a **trip to the beach and frequently enjoy day trips to the hills and waterfalls in the western part of the state.** We love the sights and sounds of the Chesapeake Bay!

Our Neighborhood & Community

Our small subdivision is **safe, diverse, and full of many wonderful neighbors**. We've built warm relationships with people old and young, whom we love to greet and chat with on our **daily walks with our dog.** A short walk from our house, we have a nearby park and community center with a newly renovated **jungle gym and basketball and soccer courts.** Our local community holds regular family-friendly events such as **movie nights, Santa's Workshop, and Trunk or Treat for Halloween.**





Trunk or Treat at our neighborhood Community Center



Santa's Workshop at our Community Center

Our Family

We treasure our close relationships with our families and are so blessed to have many nearby and even more who live all across the country (even the world!).

Aunts and Uncles

Lauren has one younger brother and Hope has two older sisters. Hope's sisters each have adult children, giving five nieces and nephews, which will be more like young aunts and uncles for our children. Hope even has one great-grand niece!

Grandparents

Our parents are excited to welcome a new grandchild.
Hope's mom is already planning on making a new quilt for her new grandbaby.

This will be Lauren's dad's first grandchild, and Hope's parents look forward to their 6th!



Hope & her sisters



Lauren & her brother

Our Parents





Lauren & her four aunts

Our Friends

In our community of close friends, there are single and married people of various ages. Many have **young children, including adopted children**. It's impossible to imagine our lives without our friends and family's amazing love and support!





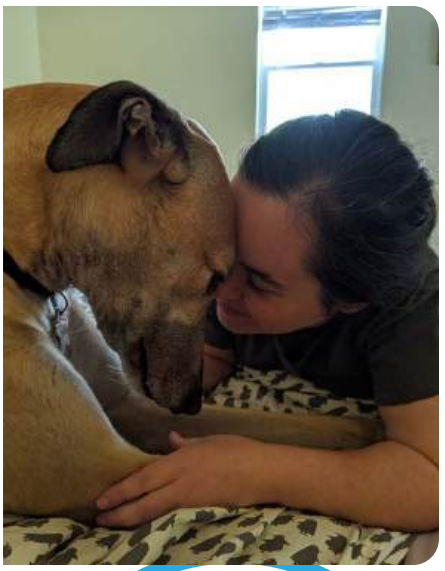




Our Pets



As we wait to grow our family with the addition of a new baby, we feel grateful to have the company of our two beloved pets! Our **cat Fizzle** and our dog **Pickles, the Greyhound**.



Fizzle has lived with us for over eight years. **She is a sassy and playful girl** who loves chasing a ball more than the dog!

A **former racing dog, Pickles is goofy, fun-loving, and sleeps almost all day** long - except when he's enjoying his walks and car rides.



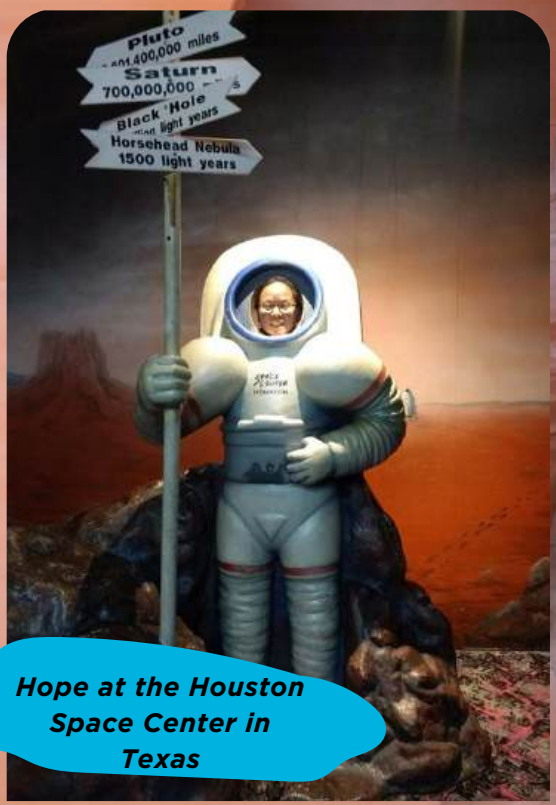


Our Travels + Adventures

Together, we have traveled across the United States, from coast to coast, **visiting over 20 states!** We enjoy visiting our **families in Pennsylvania and Texas yearly** and everywhere we go, we love to learn about the **diverse cultures, especially through the food!**



Lauren at Niagara Falls



Hope at the Houston Space Center in Texas



Our Favorite Places:

- Paris, France
- London, UK
- Sedona, AZ
- Cape Cod, MA
- New Orleans, LA

Bucket List travels:

- Japan
- Portland, Maine
- Los Angeles, CA

We are so excited to foster a spirit of curiosity, exploration, and adventure in a child.











Traditions & Celebrations

Holidays and birthdays are primetime in our household!

Any cause for celebration is a reason for a good time!
Every year, we observe the **rich traditions of the Christian church, especially during Christmas and Easter.** Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter are all spent in the company of family and friends. Our annual fall visit to the local farm includes apple and vegetable picking and the important task of choosing the perfect pumpkin.

Annual Apple Picking!









Traditions & Celebrations

Even the pets get in on the fun with special holiday treats and silly costumes to greet our neighborhood trick-or- treaters at Halloween!
It will be our great joy to introduce children to meaningful traditions while creating new ways to celebrate with them!











THANK YOU!

Together we will raise a child with the knowledge and **love of God,** who **created them special and is with them all the time.** They will know that they are **loved, no matter what,** and they will always be **surrounded by family and community who look out and only want the best for them**.

Your **child's story will be special,** and it will always **start with you - a mother who loved them so much that she went looking for more people who would love and care for them, too.**

Thank you for taking the time to get to know about us through our book.

If it feels like the right thing for you, **we look forward to getting to know you** and hope we have the chance to meet you soon!

With Love,

Hope & Lauren