DEREK and EILEEN

OUR NOTE TO YOU
Thank you for taking the time to get to know us.

We wanted to first commend your courage, strength and love that you have for this young life through your adoption plan.

We don't know your situation or circumstance. However, we are truly grateful for your bravery. We would like you to know how beautiful you are and always remember that you are amazingly strong and honorable.

We hope this glimpse into our lives will put your mind at ease and you will find us to be the family that fulfills your hopes and prayers.

We can say with our whole hearts, if you choose us to be your family; we will cherish, love and protect this child and honor you always for this precious gift.

WITH LOVE & APPRECIATION

Derek & Eileen
OUR STORY

We met by chance in 2008 through a mutual friend. Although, neither of us were looking for anything serious at the time we couldn’t deny the natural connection we had in speaking with one another. We felt like "Home" to one another once we realize we both grew up in the midwest. Fast forward 13 years and we still enjoy laughing and being together.

We are grateful that we communicate openly, honestly and truly can call each other best friends. We love to have fun, travel new places and are excited to add more children to our home.
OUR GREATEST JOY IN OUR LIVES ARE BEING BLESSED WITH BECOMING PARENTS. WE LOVE BEING ABLE TO SHARE OUR LIVES WITH EACH OTHER, TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, TO DISCOVER AND FIND ADVENTURES. WE ALSO LOVE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND CREATE MEMORIES.

WE TRIED MANY YEARS TO CONCEIVE AND ADD MORE CHILDREN TO OUR FAMILY; BUT IT RESULTED IN FAILURE. WHEN DISCUSSING OUR OPTIONS; ADOPTION SEEM TO BE OUR CALLING.

WE HAVE SO MUCH LOVE IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE AND WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE A SAFE, LOVING HOME TO ONE IN NEED.

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO BRING ANOTHER CHILD INTO OUR LIVES. WE WANT TO HELP ACCOMPLISH THEIR DREAMS, TO SUPPORT THEM WITH ANY OF THEIR NEEDS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WE WANT TO JUST TO LOVE THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE. WE KNOW PARENTING IS CHALLENGING, BUT THERE IS NOTHING MORE REWARDING THAN WATCHING A CHILD GROW UP TO BECOME WHO THEY ARE AND KNOWING YOU WERE A PART OF IT.

"I LOVE YOU BECAUSE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CONSPIRED TO HELP ME FIND YOU"
THE ALCHEMIST
Eileen was born in Angeles City, Philippines on Clark AFB on a hot summer day. Her father was an active Air Force man and her mother a dental assistant. As a family, they often moved around based on her father’s orders; from the Philippines to the United States. Eileen’s childhood was always surrounded by family and culture. Her mother made sure that she was acutely aware of her heritage and to be respectful of others. With Filipino culture, it was always important to respect your elders, protect your family, and of course EAT. There was never a shortage of fun when it came to gathering around a full table of food.

Following in her mother’s footsteps, Eileen loves to cook and to be given the opportunity to host family and friends. She is willing to take risks by trying new things whether it is trying a new recipe or traveling/visiting a new city. Being an Air Force kid; Eileen gets excited and often craves adventure by seeing new places and experiencing new culture and making new friends. With a versatile taste in culture; her creative side is fulfilled with her love for Design.

Eileen graduated with a BA in Communications from University of Cincinnati; developing a career in hospitality and administration. She is currently a stay at home mom dedicating her undivided attention to her family, especially with Emerson being an active sports player. Eileen looks forward to having more active, loving, laughing children within her home.
Eileen

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT

WRITTEN BY DEREK

My wife, to me, is a perfect example of a lifelong partner. She’s the rock of our family, someone who you can approach and get honest feedback. She’s one of the most caring people I’ve ever meet. Always wanting to help others and give them gifts to brighten them up or plan an incredible party.

Eileen is amazingly thoughtful, always focusing on making others happy. She’s understands the importance of living in the moment and respecting others. She’s also, incredibly smart and holds herself accountable for her mistakes. She doesn’t hold grudges and knows the value of communicating her feelings. She someone who you can laugh with, cry with, play with and the perfect mom, because she has figured out the perfect balance. She knows when to have fun, and when to be serious. She is constantly teaching our son how to respect others and how to be self sufficient. She’s knows the importance of letting Emerson be a kid.

Eileen is an a teacher, a friend, a wonderful human being. She truly makes everyone around her, want to be a better version of themselves. I am truly grateful and honored to be able to share a life with her.

LIKES OR INTERESTS

- COOKING
- ART
- TRAVEL
- DESIGN
- QUALITY TIME WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
- HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
- BEACHES
- COFFEE
Derek was born in the midwest. He has two siblings, a twin brother and an older sister. His mother and father were high-school sweethearts and has been married for 50 years. His father worked in the automotive business and his mother started her own business making craft ornaments. They taught Derek the values of hard work, and what it means to achieve success. The importance of how to respect others and the value of education.

Since early days in high-school, Derek was always involved in sports. Playing Football, basketball & tennis. While participating in sports, he worked multiple jobs which included being a referee for the park district along with working at a tire shop.

After graduating high-school, Derek went on to get a bachelor’s degree and worked his way through college.

He met the love of his life- Eileen shortly after, and have been married for 10 years. They have a 7 year-old son. Being a father is his greatest joy and gift. Derek enjoys spending time with his family, playing games and going on trips. He believes it’s important to teach his son the values of hard work and how to treat others.
Derek is patient, loving and the most compassionate person I know. He has the "super-power" of truly transforming himself in another person's shoes to better understand who they are and what is being communicated. This fact makes him easy to love by everyone he encounters.

Another attribute I love about him is that he has the BEST imagination which creates a lot of fun for us when we go on adventures and or just sitting at home. He makes us laugh and makes it a point to always enjoy every bit of life in any situation. Derek is my rock, my best friend and couldn't ask for a better partner in this life.

LIKES OR INTERESTS

- MUSIC
- GAMES
- HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
- BEACHES
- SPORTS
- TRAVEL
- ANIMALS
- QUALITY TIME WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY
Emerson's love for superheroes began with watching Marvel movies and collecting all their action figures. Being a big brother would make a dream come true - to be given an opportunity to love, play and protect his new sibling. In some ways be a "super" friend to another child; even better.

Emerson loves to play football, all sports really. He loves to go to the beach and dig in the sand for hours. He has a kind, quiet demeanor that enjoys being with his cousins and or play with other kids. Arlo his "doggie" brother keeps him on his toes by chasing him in the yard and helping improve his footwork for football.

Emerson's favorite food is mommy's cookies, pizza, spaghetti and steak. He has a bunk bed to build forts and to create adventures with his vivid imagination. He is in 1st grade and is truly feeling confident to read on his own.

Emerson looks forward to being a big brother one day and to have someone to share all his adventures.
Arlo is our active young pup that loves to stay around his people. He is a cuddler, a big goofball that loves to play flag football with his human brother. Easy to train (with any type of treat) and loves kids way too much. Arlo loves to swim in our pool any chance he gets and snuggles underneath blankets.

Bella our veteran elder pup, is small but mighty protector. The big sister that loves to boss big Arlo around. She loves to sit, sleep and knock down garbage to get extra treats in her belly because she is convinced she has a big dog belly.

Both pups enjoy being around the family and give great joy to our household.
We are an active home, with an energetic boy running around with his pups and a father with a childlike imagination in which everything is an adventure. A mother that loves to cook and gather family together to create memories. We love to have fun.

Then there are times that being serene is needed. As a family we relax by curling up on the couch to watch a new Disney movie or eat ice cream sundaes by the pool to enjoy a night swim.

Our home hopes to be a place that is safe to be yourself. We love unconditionally by accepting each other for all our strengths and imperfections. We respect each other by allowing the space to express our feelings and sort it out together as a family.
OUR COMMUNITY

Within our neighborhood we have a great mixture of old and young lively spirits. The community itself is supportive and safe. Many kids walk to nearby schools and neighbors watch out for each other especially when something seems to be suspicious.

There are neighbors of diverse culture and military background; so when the neighbor returns from Afghanistan - everyone pitches in to make sure that he feels welcomed home. The mid age dads have friendly christmas decoration light competitions as the older neighbors sit and laugh at the banter.

It is a quiet, friendly and supportive community and a great place to raise children.
Eileen's family is a diverse family with a strong military background. Her father and many of her uncles were in the Air Force. Eileen’s parents met at a young age in the Philippines where they both worked in the hospital. They got married and started a family and recently just celebrated their 40th anniversary. Eileen’s mom being 1 out of 9 kids meant that she was always surrounded by family whether in the Philippines or in the US; she always had cousins and family nearby.

Family, respect and hard work are highly valued and often preached to all the kids growing up. It was also very important to be kind to one another and to be grateful. There also was always time for a gathering around great food, time to laugh and have fun with one another.

Eileen is close with her brother and adores his 3 children. She loves to surprise them with gifts and facetime calls. The family remain very close by daily calls and often visit each other throughout the year.

Eileen’s family is supportive and very excited to add a new member to the family. They are incredibly loving, accepting and can't wait to welcome another little one with open arms.
Derek’s mom and dad grew up in the midwest and were high school sweethearts. They had three children, a girl and two twin boys. They have an unbelievable bond and are great examples of having a successful loving partnership. They have dedicated their love for their family and has always put their family needs before theirs. It is important to them to teach their children the value of hard work, the concepts of right and wrong, how to always take ownership of your mistakes, how to deal with their feelings, how to respect others and the earth but most importantly, the importance of having a positive outlook on life. They would preach, Life is all about perception, a positive outlook is the key to happiness.

They are very loving, and have always been approachable and understanding. They also made the time for fun, by taking family trips every year. Their love and their teaching has paved the path for how their children parent today.

Derek is very close with his brother and sister. They enjoy, going vacations together, or planning a gradual meet-up, doing fun activities with the families. Derek’s brother has four children and his sister has two. They both are happily married for many years and are great examples of successful relationships. They are Derek’s best friends and will always be there for support and guidance.
IN OUR Family

We are a big diverse family that respect and love one another deeply. We of course love to have fun, travel and create memories.

We are a family that will devote our lives to exploring and encouraging every opportunity for the child and the best interest of their future.

IF YOU CHOOSE US, WE COMMIT TO:

- Protecting one another
- Being open and honest
- Being kind to one another
- Love unconditionally
- Go on adventures creating memories.
- Laugh and be grateful for the little things
- Always show up when it matters
- Build a strong foundation of trust
- Respect and integrate the child's culture and background
- Encourage and support the child's personal interests/passions
- Listen and be proactive in fulfilling their needs
- Give the best education available to the child's needs
- Always remember, respect & honor the child's birth parents
Thank you for taking time to read through the pages and get to know us and our families.

We know you are making the best hard decision and choice for your child. If you choose us, we promise to provide a safe and nurturing home so that they will have every opportunity to learn, grow and flourish.

Regardless of your choice, we wish you well in all your endeavors. Always remember you are brave, beautiful and strong.

"May the moon softly restore you by night;  
May the rain wash away your worries;  
May the breeze blow new strength into your being;  
May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life."

Apache Blessing

with love and gratitude,

DEREK and EILEEN

"GRATITUDE MAKES SENSE OF OUR PAST, BRINGS PEACE FOR TODAY, AND CREATES A VISION FOR TOMORROW"