



Ben & Sarah



Beautiful Mother.

Hello, and welcome to our book! We hope it will give you a helpful glimpse into our personalities and our life. Before we dive into that, we'd like to express our respect and admiration for you.

You recognize that raising a child is difficult and life-changing, and you are grappling with what will be best for your baby and yourself. We salute and respect the maturity you are demonstrating by recognizing and facing that difficulty in this heart-wrenching moment of your life.

Your adoption choice reveals your love for your baby. Because of your loving choice, your baby will breathe air, feel the warmth of sunshine and get to see so much beauty! They will experience sunsets, summer time, mountains, rivers, and the love of their family.

We have the privilege of seeing our sons smile, laugh and enjoy those things. They get to do that because their birth moms made the difficult and loving choice to bring them into the world knowing another family would raise them. Your child will get those same experiences of laughter, smiling, and enjoying life, and we praise God for that.

Your love for your child is a seed. Today, you plant that seed with a loving choice. The seed sprouts through the soil when they are born. Their adoptive parents will nurture with their own love, growing what you have started. Then the beloved child gets to grow, change, love, discover interests, pursue talents, and enjoy their beautiful life.

We admire the strength of birth moms like you, Myles' mom, and Marshall's mom, who make such loving decisions in difficult circumstances. We welcome whatever level of openness you desire, whether that's closed, pictures and letters, or an open adoption. Thank you for your love!

Ben & Sarah

How We Met

We met about ten years ago when Sarah moved to Cincinnati and went with her cousin to her church, where Ben had been a member for a while. We had great chemistry and started dating around that time. After about six months, Sarah revealed that she could not bear children. While Sarah had learned that years earlier, it was fresh for Ben, and was a painful focal point that we had to work through.

On top of figuring out how much we liked each other, we had to figure out if we were on the same page about options for growing our family. So while that was difficult and led to us dating for a long time, it enabled us to embrace adoption when we committed to marriage.

We live in the city of Cincinnati and value all the cultural and educational experiences that it offers: Parks, museums, food, and people.





Add Two Sons

After a couple years of marriage, we were approved to adopt a child in 2020, but then waited for a while for a child to be placed with us. One day in 2021, Sheryl called to tell us there was a baby boy at the hospital ready to join our family, and to get there in an hour and a half to meet him! Myles joined our family that day!

A couple years later, Sheryl introduced us to a young woman who had seen our book and wanted to place her baby with us when he was born. We got to know her, and a couple months later Marshall was born.

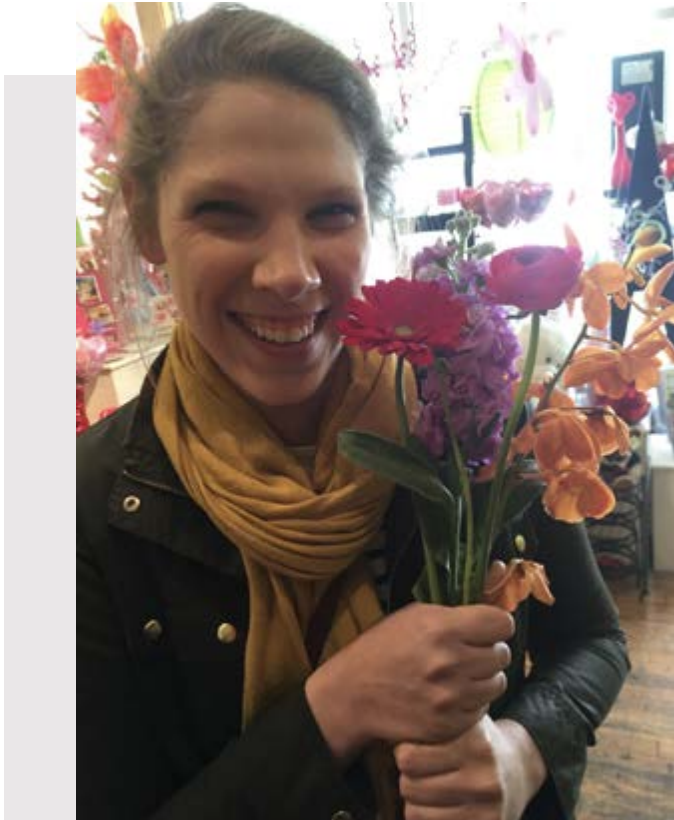
Flash forward and they are capable, growing little boys. Myles is a cartwheeling gymnast and Marshall is a walking, talking, climbing, dancing toddler! They are a cute pair that love each other... and get on each others' nerves :).

Photos: Myles at 2 weeks old (top), Marshall at 2 weeks old (bottom).



MEET

Sarah



I grew up as an Army kid, moving to and from different places including Germany, North Carolina, Arizona, Panama, and Washington, DC. I loved moving around but am so glad to be building a more permanent home here in Cincinnati.



When I was seven, my family adopted my brother while we were stationed in Panama. My parents made it a point that my brother's Hispanic heritage was a part of our family culture. We learned Spanish, Panamanian art and history because it was part of our family's history. Family is not one thing, but a beautiful blend that includes all in the family.



I love cooking and bringing people together. As a result, I got a degree in Food Science and work at a food company making new food products! Breaking bread at our table with family, friends, and neighbors is one of my favorite passions!

As you can see from the photo on the left, I can get really passionate about things!



CAREER

Food Scientist - Developing food on the shelves!

HOBBIES

Cooking, Hiking, Music, Dancing

FAVORITES

Color: Yellow

Food: Cincinnati Chili

Season: Fall

Movie: Casablanca

Book: Jane Eyre

Place: Italy

MEET

Ben



MY CAREER

Engineer

MY HOBBIES

Watching College Wrestling

Home improvement

Hiking

Personal Finance

FAVORITES

Color: Brown

Food: Paella

Movie: The Lord of the Rings

Book: East of Eden

Holiday: Christmas

I grew up in a small town in eastern Ohio with loving parents and two older sisters. My mom is an all time great nurturer, and my dad taught me to think for myself and stand for what is right. Together, they raised me to be confident and believe that I was capable of doing anything, and I'm grateful for that mindset.

After high school, I went to Ohio State and got a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduating, I found a job in Cincinnati and moved here. Even before meeting Sarah, I made a lot of good friends here and fell in love with the city.



My dad and I bonded a lot by working on things around the house together: repairing broken things, renovating rooms, and designing improvements. I love doing those things to this day, and that influenced the engineering career I chose. I have sharing that hobby and skill with my kids.



Nowadays, being Daddy is the highlight of my days. I love hanging with them, snuggling them, teaching them, watching them grow. I used to tell Myles he was my main man. With Marshall around, they are my main men. Or as Myles would tell you, "We're main men, and Mommy is our lady."





Our Home and Community

We see our biggest blessings as our family and many friendships. Our church is a big part of our community in Cincinnati. We have grown steadily alongside our brothers and sisters, and most of them have children now. We feel blessed that Myles is growing up in such a large group of friends--some who are also adopted.

These friendships have been through job losses, family troubles, and tough pregnancies. We are very blessed by them!



The city of Cincinnati has so much to offer and we love to explore it. From going on walks in our own neighborhood or others, hiking in parks, going to museums, trying new restaurants, to seeing plays. We think giving our kids these experiences shows them a lot of the world in their own backyard.





How Adoption Changed Our Hearts

There are two components to explaining how adoption has changed our hearts. The first is not unique to adoption, it's just the question of how being parents has changed our heart. And, as I imagine countless parents before us have experienced, our hearts have grown--kind of like the Grinch when he met Cindy-loo Who. It's a bunch of little things that create a new dimension of love in our heart: Holding, feeding, and caring for a new born who is fragile and utterly dependent on you to meet all of their needs. Then, slowly seeing their capabilities increase just a little each day, in a way we are in tune with because we watch them so closely. You can't help but be proud of those little growths and love the child. Then, after months of caring for them, you start to see how they love you, and that amplifies your own love for them even more.



The second component is how the adoptive part of adoption has changed our hearts: How bringing babies conceived by different couples into our family has changed us.

One way is that we have developed a profound gratitude and respect for birth moms. No matter what decision they make on what type of relationship they have with us and their child, we support their decision on what is best for them.

Another change is due to our boys' racial heritage, which is visibly different than ours. This has enriched our life. We have learned more about Afro-American history and culture, and built those things into our lives with our neighborhood, music, etc.

But even more than that, black people have become more precious to us: We notice and appreciate their hair styles more. Black babies are extra beautiful to our eyes because our babies are also black. Our family is multiracial, and we love that.



MEET

Sarah's Family

Sarah's family has a lot of variety! Her mom's family is originally from Eastern Kentucky and her dad's family hails from Italy and Sweden. We have family here in Cincinnati but also across the country! Despite the distances, we all love each other and are there for each other.



I have a cousin in Cincinnati that has 3 boys. Two are a couple years older than Myles, and one is younger than Marshall. They are good friends and playmates.



My brother has two daughters, both around the same age as Myles and Marshall. They have lived in Cincinnati before, and may be moving back soon.



MEET

Ben's Family



Holidays with Cousins!



Family vacation to Wisconsin



Three Generations Matching!



Cousin Abigail was born 2 weeks after Marshall

Ben has eight nieces and nephews from ages 1-13. When he sees them, there is always wrestling with Uncle Ben--or, as they call him, Benny Wolf! Myles and Marshall love to join in with their cousins. They live just a few hours away and we see them often.



Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us. We welcome you to contact us if you are interested in us parenting your child. We can be reached through Adoption Professionals.

Ben & Sarah