

Felicia + Cody

& Zoey



hello

We would like to begin by expressing our admiration for the strength and bravery we feel you must have to consider adoption for your precious child. We believe it is a selfless decision, and we would truly be honored to be considered as adoptive parents to your beautiful baby.

We can't begin to imagine how difficult this time might be, but we thank you for taking the time to read about who we are. We are so thankful and grateful to be considered.

More than anything we would like for you to know that if you choose us, your child will be loved unconditionally, and we will devote our lives to providing your child with love, security, and joy. We wish so deeply that you will have peace, strength, and comfort through this journey.



this is us



We love watching sports. We went to a Tennessee Titans game in December a couple of years back. When we got to the stadium, it started raining. We thought it would stop shortly, but it started sleeting and then turned into snow. We had taken some family members, and this was their first game so we couldn't leave early. The Titans pulled out the win in the end and we were grateful for the memories made with family.

We love taking weekly adventure trips in our side by side. We recently signed up for a virtual 5K buggy ride with Ducks Unlimited to support waterfowl and the wetlands. Choosing the virtual option meant we could ride from our family farm over to a friend's farm, who has some duck ponds. We drove over twenty miles to complete our 5k and got to play in the water and spend time with each other while helping support wildlife. Your child will experience many outdoor adventures in the family side by side.



We share the love for country music. We have seen Blake Shelton in concert four times but his last concert was epic; Blake had numerous artists that night and he played until midnight. One of the artists he brought was Tracy Byrd and he sang his song "Keeper of Stars." The lyrics "I tipped my hat to the keeper of the stars; he knew what he was doing to join these two hearts." Gave us an emotional moment knowing the words were part of our life story.

felicia

by cody

Felicia has always had **a love of event planning**. Last year Felicia threw a baby shower for my brother and sister-in-law. They were having their first child, and she created a woodland themed baby shower that everyone loved. She had wood pieces with baby woodland animals, leaves and acorns, and even a campfire set. She also made sure that everyone left with a woodland themed cookie.



Felicia **loves antiques**. Our house is filled with old antiques that have been handed down from generations and some that she has found herself. Years back we went to an auction that was a coworker's mother sale. She had found an antique cabinet that was from the 1920s. She *had* to have this piece. We ended up getting it for a great deal. We kept it for years until friend wanted it and she decided to share the love of the piece with them.

Since the first time I met Felicia, **I knew that she had a love for children**. Felicia's cousin's girls have been a huge part of why I say this. If we were not at their house every other weekend, they were with us. Felicia wanted to take them to Disney World, somewhere she had not even been, just because that was a dream of theirs. When they were six and three, we loaded them up and went to Disney. We stayed in a hotel, went to every park and Felicia even made the girls an appointment at the *Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique* where they got their hair done and makeup done to look like their favorite princesses. Your child will be able to live their life's dreams in our family.



cody

by felicia

Cody has **a love for all heavy equipment**. As a young boy, his grandpa and dad taught him everything there was to know about heavy equipment. About a month ago our neighbors who were unable to clean their property do sue some health issues asked Cody to clean some land for them. He climbed on his dad's Skid Steer and helped them out. He spent about four days clearing their land of trees that had fallen, brush that had taken over. Cody got to do something he loved, while helping people, two of his favorite things. Your child will be encouraged to help others.



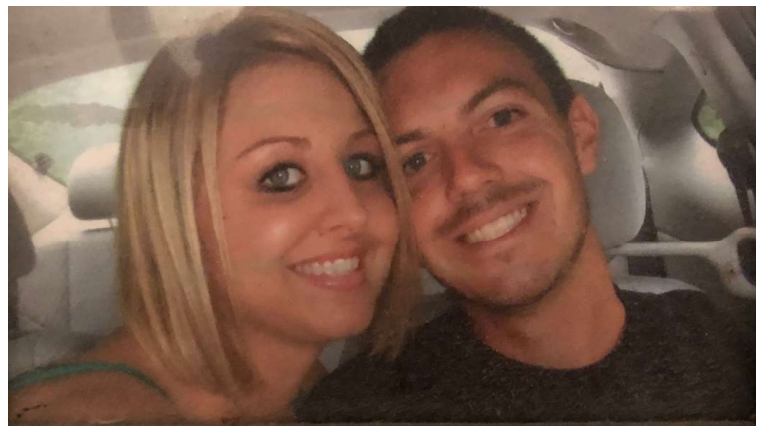
Cody is **a jack of all trades**. He can fix just about anything, but little did he know how handy he really was until we started the remodel of our home. We had several setbacks and let downs with people working on our house so Cody took matters into his own hands. Among all of the major fixes to our home, one thing he did that was special to me was build the pantry for my kitchen. The door we had for it was my great aunts door to her house and he built the pantry around the door.



Cody is **so patient and loving**. We went last November to Virginia to meet our nephew for the first time since he was born. Cody's brother had been on deployment and just gotten back as well. The second night we were there we told Cody's brother and his wife they needed a night out since they haven't had one in a very long time. They agreed so we got to watch our nephew just us two. We were trying to get him down to sleep and he was not having it. Cody patiently and gently walked with him, rubbed his back, talked to him, and after about 20 minutes, he was sound asleep. When they got back, they were shocked he got him down so quickly.

our Story

Our story began after high school. Although **we were both born and raised only twenty minutes away from each other** in the neighboring counties, we didn't meet until after we graduated when we exchanged numbers through a mutual friend. We have several memorable moments through the years. On our second date we carved pumpkins at Felicia's parents' house. We just got started and Cody dropped the pocket knife he was using to carve with, and it stuck in Felicia's toe. Cody knew if Felicia would shed blood at his cost, she was the one for him. We have now been married for twelve years.



For our honeymoon, we chose to stay close to home, renting a cabin in Gatlinburg. At two a.m. on our second day, we woke up to officers beating our cabin door down, telling us that we had 5 minutes to get out of the cabin. We grabbed all our belongings and took off driving down the 5-mile hill. The cabin below us exploded and the fire was moving up the mountain to the cabin we were in. Once we got down to the main road, we ended up sleeping in the Hardees parking lot until a cabin rental opened the next day. **We took an oath for better or worse, and we had to prove it right away!**



After trying to become parents for a few years, we tried fertility treatments, but nothing has been successful. Adoption has been in our hearts for a while as **adoption has always been a part of our family** and amongst our friends. We have had many conversations about adoption with our friends who adopted their daughter. Their child's birth mother knew right away that she wanted her child to grow up with the country roots our friends offered. They share many photos and emails of their child. Their child also knows her birth mother and knows that she is a true blessing to her entire family. We are hopeful that you will allow us to be part of your journey.



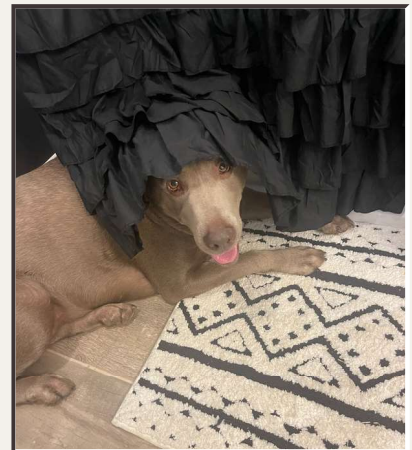
sweet

Zoey

We both grew up with many different animals as pets. Once we got married, we knew we wanted to get a dog and eventually started looking for lab puppies. Once a littler was ready, we went to pick out the puppy we wanted. Zoey walked right up to Cody, and we knew she was the one. We brought her home and she has been a very important part of our lives ever since.

When Zoey was smaller, she was in the phase where she would eat the wood trim in our house if she wasn't crated. We put her in the crate in the garage one cool day and put a camera up to watch what she would do during that time. We had noticed a few times before some odd things such as her toys being in places where we didn't leave them. **We started calling her Houdini** after we viewed the video; She had been getting out during the day from the crate and was playing until it was almost time for Cody to be at home.

Zoey loves children. Our nephew Beau was at our house visiting in May of this year. He was crawling all over and Zoey would greet him every morning with a gentle lick-kiss right upside the face. Beau would just laugh and put his hands on her head like he was pulling her in for more. Your child will have a true best friend in Zoey.



family

If you choose us your child will be surrounded by 6 grandparents, 2 great grandmothers, 20 aunts and uncles and 45 COUSINS.



Our **family gatherings center around big meals.** Every year our family gathers to honor family by decorating the cemetery plots where Felicia's grandmother and uncle are buried. This year we went to a little diner in her aunt's hometown after time decorating. As we gathered around the table at the diner, everyone talked nonstop about on what's going on in life, until the food came out. Then, there was pure silence!

Our family loves gardening. As young kids we both grew up helping our families in the gardens they produced. This May we built a family garden with Felicia's Parents. We planted tomatoes, beans, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, okra, watermelon, cantaloupe, and corn. This year we tried our hand at Pumpkins because we thought it would be great to grow enough for all the kids that live on our street. Unfortunately, this year we only had four huge pumpkins so we didn't have enough, but next year, we're going to plant jack-o'-lantern pumpkins so that we will have enough for everyone to choose from.



Both of **our families are very competitive** when we all get together. For the the past two years we have started playing the saran wrap game. This game is where there is a big ball of gifts wrapped throughout Saran Wrap, making a big ball. We wear oven mitts and try to unwrap the saran wrap to win a gift while others try to roll doubles to get the next turn. In the middle of the ball, we usually put money or a gift card and people go crazy. Felicia has won the money for the past two years and this year it is her turn fill the saran ball with gifts. Your child will grow up in a fun family.

traditions



We love **weekly movie nights**, cuddling on the couch, and eating popcorn. Zoey doesn't typically make it through a whole movie before she falls asleep and starts snoring. Shortly after the live action *Lion King* movie came out, we watched it at home. Zoey was wide awake for the entire movie with her eyes fixed on the animals. Now we love watching the movie *and* Zoey! We look forward to learning about your favorite traditions so we can include them in your child's life.

Every year we take a family trip to a place we have never been. Cody's mom and stepdad have a timeshare in Daytona Beach, Florida. Three years ago, we finally were able to make plans to go visit for a few days. Cody is not one that can just sit still, so he definitely did not want to sit or lay at the beach all day. We decided to make the best of the day and try to catch some crabs. We went into the kitchen and got a spatula so we could flip them up out of the sand to try and catch them. We went up and down the beach and when the water came up it uncovered the crabs for a split second until the water went back out. It was very nerve racking at first because we didn't want to get pinched, but **we did this for hours and caught about twenty-one crabs that day.** Cody's mom ended up preparing them for dinner that night.



Every year we get an angel off the Angel Tree and shop for them as a family. Last year we received two older children as our angels. They were a brother and sister who wanted very little; **they asked for pencils, books to read, a wallet, and body wash.** These children looked everything up that they wanted and put a price on the sheet we would receive. This touched our hearts like all the angels we have received over the years have. We have truly been blessed in life so as always, we tried to find one of everything on their list and got them clothing and shoes to cover them for years to come.

our home

Our Tennessee home has been in Felicia's family for over 50 years. Although it was first designed by her grandparents, after they passed away, we knew that we wanted to keep their legacy alive, so we made it our forever home. One of our favorite places to be is the living room, where all the fun happens. The perfect moment happened this past May when our nephew was here visiting. He had been crawling and scooting all over. We got him a walker and **he took off walking for the first time by himself**. It was priceless!



Our country road hosts a small community, including our 23-acre farm that is right beside Felicia's parents. Several times we have forgotten something at the store, and it is just a walk across the yard to get to each others' homes to borrow groceries. We have **several children** in our neighborhood that **ride their bicycles and atv's up and down the road**. We love our little country road and everyone on it. Your child will never lack for other kids to play with.

Our home is surrounded by wildlife. There are always deer and turkey in the field behind our house, or geese flying over and landing on the pond. Last month we had a mama deer pass through to go back to her baby. This mama was close to the house she had stopped to graze for a few. Normally if they are too close Zoey will bark and scare them off. One day we told Zoey not to bark and she listened, but she wanted to go see the deer. Zoey went off to the field with the mama. She got about 50 feet from the deer and then **they stood looking at each other like they were talking to each other**. We both said "if we only could speak animal."



small town

community

We live in **a small tight knit community** where most everyone knows everyone, and we support each other. When Felicia was a senior in high school, her cousin had a tragic ATV wreck. The community rallied around the family; they came to the hospital to be with the family, brought baskets of snacks, and gift cards so that they could eat without leaving her cousin's side, and offered support. Unfortunately, her cousin did not make it, but the community was there for the family to support them in this loss.

As a community **we care about our children**. We have an organization that helps kids that can't afford school supplies, clothing, shoes, haircuts, or physicals. Volunteers take children around to various stations to get what they need for their school year. Last year Felicia got to help a little girl and her mom. The little girl had broken her foot and was in a cast. She had seen some JoJo Siwa shoes that the volunteers had taken back to the shoe area. She wanted them so badly. Once they got back to that station Felicia told the volunteer the size the little girl wore and out came those JoJo shoes. The little girl almost cried she was so happy!



Our community has several local parades for Veteran's Day, Good Ole Days, Homecoming and Christmas. Last year at one of the local parades the county executive had a float and was throwing candy out to the kiddos and families. The route around the square goes around the local nursing home. The county executive's dad who had been sick and not doing well at the time either was out at the road waving and the county executive jumped off the float and hugged and kissed his dad. **It was beyond emotional for everyone that witnessed it.** We cried and Cody is not one that normally cries.



weekdays



Cody works maintenance. He goes to work very early in the morning and then **is off by two thirty in the afternoon**. He has a lot of the afternoon to spend doing things around the house and playing with Zoey. If chosen, he will be able to spend that special time with your child.

Felicia works as a Relationship Banker fifteen minutes from home. Her hours are predictable, but **she hopes to be a stay at home mom** for your child. Even if we both work, your child will be cared for by your child's grandmothers.



We spend our weeknights having **dinner as a family**. Last week when we sat down at dinner Cody told Felicia about the conversation he had with his grandmother that day. She had a stroke last year in December and she called him and had told him that she had gotten up and made progress on walking. Felicia was so excited about it! If chosen, your child will experience quality family time not only throughout the day but at dinnertime as well.

thank you

We would like to thank you for taking the time to learn about who we are. Our hopes and dreams for the future are to share life's little treasures with your child. We hope that you will share some of your hopes and dreams for your child so that we can also incorporate those into their life as well. If chosen, we promise to love, cherish, and respect your child. We will provide encouragement and will help them discover who they are. We will help them grow into their own person and always support them no matter what. We would love to be able to share all the special moments through the years with photos if that is comfortable to you. We also **hope to maintain a level of openness** with you. Although your child will have your eyes, your smile, and your traits, we promise they will always have our whole hearts. Please know that we will share the strength and love you have for your child with them as they grow in life. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for considering us.



notes

notes

made with love by
felicia⁺ cody