

McKenzie
& Taylor

WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF
YOUR JOURNEY.



hello!

we're Taylor & McKenzie

SO NICE TO "MEET" YOU!

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Hello, and welcome to our story! We want to thank you for giving us this opportunity to introduce ourselves. Though we know you may be learning about so many great families as you sift through profiles, we hope you enjoy this small glimpse into our lives.

We first wanted to let you know how amazed we are by the strength and bravery you've already displayed by considering adoption. In one of our favorite older prayers, there is a portion that asks God to "make us to choose the harder right over the easier wrong." The decision you are contemplating making is one of the most challenging things a person could do out of love. We can't imagine how you feel in the midst of such a difficult decision, and we don't wish to shower you with advice. We simply want you to know that **we would love the opportunity to shower you and your child with all the love and support we can.**

With love and gratitude,

Taylor and McKenzie



our hearts for adoption

WHY WE'RE HERE



We have a biological, two-year-old son named Thomas. When we began trying for a second child, we had two miscarriages. Since adoption has always been on our hearts, we are simply choosing to proceed a little earlier than we had initially planned!

We've heard adoption described as a journey. There will undoubtedly be a unique set of ups and downs for all involved, and we are prepared to walk through that journey with you. We are certainly not perfect; however, we believe all of us can overcome whatever difficulties may arise through **honest communication** and **grace-filled hearts**. We are so blessed that you would consider us to love on and raise your precious child.

WE HAVE NO DOUBT GOD WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THIS CHALLENGING DECISION, AND NO MATTER THE OUTCOME, WE ARE ALREADY PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY THROUGHOUT THIS LIFELONG JOURNEY.

our love story

HOW IT ALL STARTED

(From McKenzie) Taylor and I met at the rehearsal dinner of our mutual friends. Little did we know, the bride and groom's goal was to set us up; so the next day at their wedding, we noticed that our assigned seats were next to each other. Taylor loves to dance. It's not my forte, but he asked me to dance, and I couldn't say no. The next thing I knew, he was spinning me around the entire dance floor! **As it turns out, all I needed was a guy who could dance and be the life of the room all while graciously supporting our family.**

Taylor is in the military, so we dated long-distance in the beginning. Our dates involved short whirlwind weekends going to museums, hiking, or eating our favorite Chinese food at the local shop near my apartment. This long-distance helped us get to know each other and learn how to communicate really well. It was through weekend visits and hundreds of texts and phone calls (and occasional actual handwritten letters) that the two of us fell in love over the next two years.

Taylor proposed at sunset over a cliff at the Grand Canyon. We had a prolonged engagement for a year and a half due to a deployment to Afghanistan. Our wedding was at a local resort in Virginia, which meant that our friends and family got to spend two full days together. McKenzie's uncle handmade a beautiful wooden arch for the ceremony, and Taylor's childhood pastor officiated the wedding. To honor the military tradition, we walked through a "saber arch" following our vows. After the ceremony, we danced the night away with our closest family and friends.

We have been happily married for four years and best friends for seven. We would say that the reason we feel so strongly about our marriage is that we try our best to root our relationship in our Christian faith. For us, this means that we respect one another and share the load of building a family evenly. We have a strict no-yelling policy in our household, which always helps keep conversations more productive and try to extend grace to one another constantly.





STILL GOING STRONG
AFTER SEVEN YEARS



about Taylor



I work as an **officer in the US Military**. As part of that job, I am currently in school preparing to teach other potential officers. This means that my main job right now is passing graduate school, which gives me a much more flexible schedule. The military also has good benefits for my family, and I get thirty days of paid vacation a year on top of every federal holiday. For the next three to four years, I will have more time to be involved at home and have lots of time off. After that, I will be actively looking for a support job that minimizes my chances of deployment. Ultimately, **I will choose a job that allows me to best support my family financially and allows me to be there for all their accomplishments.**

Most of my free time is spent with my wife and son. We do a lot of walking and hiking, but I also like to take Thomas to the zoo, especially on days that I have off. I also love to take Thomas and McKenzie to sporting events, which is fun. Thomas likes watching baseball and football, and McKenzie enjoys seeing the architecture of the stadiums we go to. Our most recent trip was to the Rangers baseball stadium in Arlington to see the Braves play.

My main hobbies are **reading and working out**. I run almost every morning with our dog, Louis, and weight lift two to three times per week. I also enjoy reading when I have time. This hobby has become more important as I get older, and it is a skill I really wish to instill in my children. I also like to **play violin** for my church **and guitar** for Thomas when he makes the request.

MY GREATEST WISH IS THAT MY CHILDREN PURSUE TRUTH. I WANT MY KIDS TO PURSUE TRUTH IN WHATEVER THEY DO, BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS IN THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE THEY MAY HAVE.

WHAT MCKENZIE LOVES MOST

When I first met Taylor, I knew he displayed qualities that, until then, I didn't even know I needed from a spouse: **discipline, joy, and amazing communication**. Taylor's outgoing, fun personality balances me out perfectly. Taylor is loyal, protective, and hardworking. Taylor sets goals for himself and **he makes sure to follow through with any promises that he makes**. If Taylor gets home early or has a day off, he makes sure to plan a super fun activity with Thomas. If he gets home late, he immediately turns off work mode and turns on dad mode to play with Thomas until bedtime. Another attribute of his joyous nature is his love of teaching and learning. He is currently in graduate school accomplishing a dream of his to work in education and give back to the future generation.

I knew I wanted to marry Taylor when I saw him interacting with kids while we were dating. He always wants to make every child he meets laugh and feel included. When Thomas came along, he changed more diapers than I did in the beginning weeks as I recovered from my c-section. He felt the need to stay up with me in the night as I fed Thomas just to show his support. Even now, he will come home from a long day at work and no matter how tired he feels, he still plays with Thomas, either playing guitar and singing with him or reading him the same book fifteen times. Taylor makes sure to turn every experience into a learning opportunity for Thomas and does such an amazing job leading a Godly household. **I couldn't have asked for a better husband and dad for our kids!**





about McKenzie

I work as a licensed architect doing residential design as well as commercial and municipal work. At the moment, I have the opportunity to work on some of our local city projects including designs updating schools for safety. I love what I do, and I am so blessed to work with my current company! Currently, I work full time, but thankfully, I will be allotted time off for adoption just as I would for maternity leave. My hopes are to stay with my company but to begin working part-time from home so we will have the flexibility to not send our kids to daycare as that is most important to us during this season of life.

I went into the field of architecture because I love art, as well as the history of architecture. My hobbies include sketching/painting, traveling to see new pieces of architecture around the world, and understanding the culture of different civilizations. With the birth of our son, I have had less time to work on my art, but I will pick it up again when time allows. For now, I wouldn't trade painting and drawing activities with Thomas for anything. We love sidewalk chalk on the back patio and finger painting at the kitchen table.

There is nothing I love more than nurturing my child, and I believe it is my calling to grow our family. I am so excited to continue to experience that as we bring a new child into the family.



WHAT TAYLOR LOVES MOST



When I first met McKenzie, she immediately exuded faithfulness and kindness. She is **trustworthy, loyal, and honest**. I never ever question her commitment to us or question her word. When it comes to our family, she does not have a selfish bone in her body. I also am greatly attracted to McKenzie's intelligence. -she is already considered the top designer at her firm! She is also great at reading people and can always tell when someone is hurting.



McKenzie is a great mother. She is always looking for new activities to do with Thomas like play-doh, painting, or outside games. McKenzie will also let Thomas walk with us rather than sit in the stroller even if our walks take twice as long so he can really enjoy it. She also prays and reads with Thomas daily through his bedtime routine.



McKenzie could not be more ready for another child. Since she was little, McKenzie always felt called to adopt a child. She is ready to build a strong friendship between Thomas and any future children God may bless us with. **I am so blessed to have a wife who cares so much about building a family, and I cannot wait to watch her guide our children as they grow up together.**

MY GREATEST WISH FOR MY CHILDREN IS FOR THEM TO KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT THEY ARE WORTHY AND LOVED BY GOD AND THEIR FAMILIES.

A FEW MORE

fun facts



ABOUT TAYLOR

- During my basic training, I was consistently punished for smiling too much
- In high school I was voted “Best to take home to mom”
- I was a “professional” actor for 9 months when I was 11 years old. I had an agent, and I began and ended my career with one single commercial.



ABOUT MCKENZIE

- My first architectural design ever was a “log cabin” behind my parent’s house when I was 12.
- If we are going to brag about Taylor’s high school awards, I should mention that I was voted “best all-around” in 5th grade!
- When I have time, I love making or refurbishing furniture.

WE ENJOY MAKING A WISH LIST EACH YEAR. EVERY JANUARY, THE TWO OF US WRITE DOWN ALL OF THE THINGS WE WANT AND ACTIVITIES WE WISH TO DO, NO MATTER HOW UNREALISTIC. IT IS ACTUALLY A LOT OF FUN, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT OUR DREAM TRIP TO SCOTLAND! THE EXERCISE, WHEN REVIEWING THE PREVIOUS YEAR’S LIST, ALSO REVEALS HOW MANY THINGS GOD BLESSES US WITH THAT WE NEVER EVEN IMAGINED WOULD BE IN THE CARDS FOR US.





our son, Thomas

AT TWO YEARS OLD...

We are parents to our two-year-old son, Thomas. He loves “cool hats” (any baseball hat that is gifted to him) and won’t go anywhere without wearing at least one of them. He also always wears his sunglasses on top of his hat just like his daddy. We just celebrated his second birthday with a “Chugga chugga two two” train theme, as he loves everything train-related!

Reading is also a favorite activity of his. He enjoys ordering his mommy and daddy to read him a book after he chooses one from his bookshelf. He loves saying “Mommy, read bear book!” and requests that we sing E.I.O. (Old MacDonald), Tinkle Tinkle (Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star), and eec’s (ABCs) every night before bed.



Thomas has the silliest and sweetest little personality. Sometimes he is quite reserved and just wants to snuggle close to us, and other times he is the whole life of the room.

Thomas was born to be a protective big brother, as he already shows nurturing and compassionate qualities.

WE JUST KNOW THOMAS WILL BE SO EXCITED AND PROUD TO WELCOME A NEW BABY BROTHER OR SISTER HOME!

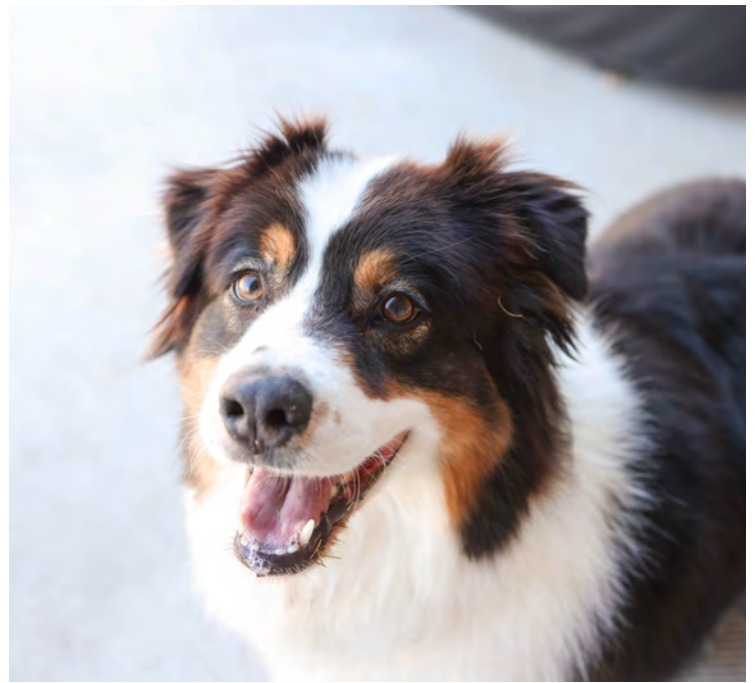


our time together

As a family, Louis the dog included, **we love taking morning walks** to our neighborhood park. Thomas will have breakfast in the stroller, and we enjoy some good quality conversations, including making fun plans for our future. Thomas also loves walks, especially when he gets to walk Louis.

At home, **we read a lot of books and enjoy playing in our backyard.** Thomas loves his water table where he splashes water on himself and all over the ground. He also has a baseball tee from which he loves to “hit ball,” especially since he makes Daddy go retrieve every ball.

We love to hike and travel. We have gone on trips to New Zealand, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Boston, and Washington DC. Locally, **we like to visit various state parks and venture through small towns.**



We love exploring museums and local restaurants when we visit a place as we feel it helps us better appreciate the local atmosphere. We are currently in our second year trying to **grow vegetables in our backyard**. That has been a fun new adventure for us, and Thomas really enjoys getting to watch. In the hopes that we eventually have some land, we are practicing our planting skills to grow larger quantities of fruits and veggies! Right now though, we seem to be most effective at growing weeds and collecting ants.

We have a black-tri-colored Australian Shepherd named Louis, after Louis Sullivan, the architect. He is the best dog we have ever had, and we both had dogs growing up. He's so snuggly and fluffy. Thomas loves to chase him and be chased by him. He is protective of Thomas and is always "herding" him to make sure he doesn't wander too far out of his sight. We know Louis will be great around a new little one as well!



our extended family

OUR FAMILIES ARE ALL THRILLED TO MEET A NEW BABY AND VERY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR PLANS TO ADOPT!



We are blessed to have strong, supportive families that represent two different types of family dynamics. Taylor's family orients around the traditional nuclear family and we see them several times a year. His family is very active and enjoys hiking and board games. They also do a "Turkey Trot" 5K before Thanksgiving, which they apparently find "fun." In contrast, McKenzie's family all live within a one-hour radius of one another. As a result, we operate very much like a small village. Everyone pitches in to help work our family-owned small business, and most of our meals are communal in some way. We also happen to live in a small town, which means even our neighbors are considered part of the family.





Taylor's Family: Taylor grew up with five people in his immediate family. His parents, Tom and Susan, are wonderful people. His mother works at a baby boutique and his dad works as a banker. Taylor's brother James just married Mary, and his younger sister Cate just graduated college. The three of them are very close because his mom heavily emphasized traditional family values.



McKenzie's Family: McKenzie grew up in what is truly small-town America, just like in the Hallmark movies. Everyone knows everyone, and her whole family including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins still live in the same one-stoplight town. Her brother recently married his wife, Missy and we love her so much. My step-brother, Willie, who is also in the military, is married to Kristen and they have one son, Will (14). Her mom struggles with Parkinson's disease but doesn't let it get her down. Thankfully, her aunt has moved in with her mom, and they make quite the funny pair. They sort of remind us of the Golden Girls. They bought an RV and are traveling across the country seeing as many national parks as they can.

a little about military life

FROM MCKENZIE



I didn't quite know what I was getting myself into becoming a military spouse until we entered that chapter of life. Taylor, being a brand new officer, was busy training and deploying. During that time, I quickly learned about the **wonderful, tight-knit military community**. We have made lifelong friends who now live all over the world. The relationships made through tough times are some of the strongest relationships we will ever have.

At our next duty station, we will live on post in one of the safest settings our children can grow up in. We are thrilled to have the opportunity for our children to experience their younger years there with numerous friends their own age and know that Taylor will not be deploying for the foreseeable future. Because the army moves us around periodically, **we are blessed to have access to a family farm near my entire family that we will use as our home base until we can settle down in the area.**

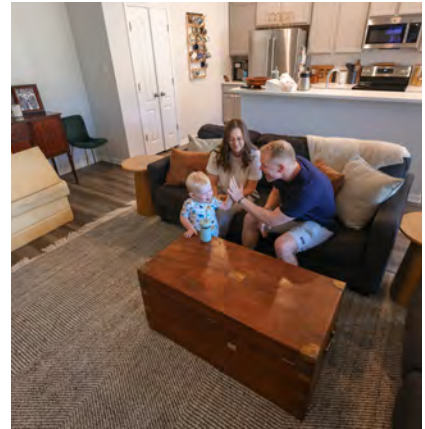
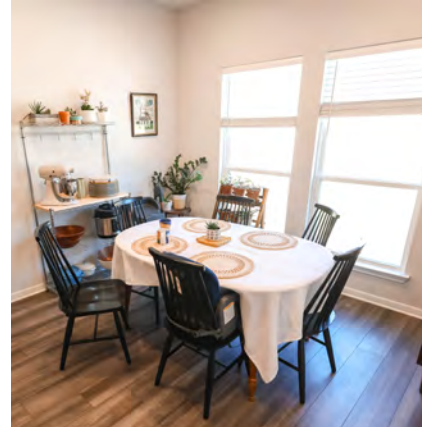


Taylor was raised in a large city suburb and attended a great private school. McKenzie experienced the exact opposite, growing up in a quaint, one-stoplight town attending public school. We are hoping to raise more well-rounded children by giving them a little bit of the best of our worlds. **It's our desire to raise our children to experience the opportunities that a city has to offer while having a down-to-earth childhood that can be afforded in a more rural setting.** Though we live the military life right now and have resided in several states, we are making plans for our children to have a more stable life. In the next five years when Taylor will no longer be working his education job for the army, we will be reconsidering our plans to either move near our family or accept a military job that allows Taylor more stability and no deployments. We will choose whichever is best for our family. We plan to homeschool or send them to public school for elementary depending on the school choices where we live. For high school, we hope to send our children to a Christian private school. **Ultimately, we want to help give them the opportunity to follow their dreams, whatever that looks like.**



our home

AND COMMUNITY



Our home is a four-bedroom, three-bathroom house with an open living area perfect for seeing the kids while we are cooking and cleaning. It has also recently become the perfect track for Thomas to run laps around the house while yelling “Play chase!” **The backyard is our perfect little oasis.** Thomas throws a ball for our dog and loves playing t-ball (to the best of his 2-year-old ability). We are so blessed to have a family farm that we can visit when we see our parents because we love having the opportunity to teach our children how to garden, camp, and explore without a backyard fence holding them in. **Our little house is all we need for now, but in the future, we hope to live on our own piece of land...** if McKenzie can ever narrow down her many designs of our future home!

We love our community! Our town is big enough to have everything you need but small enough for a five-minute traffic jam to be considered long. We live within a one-minute walk of a park that has a disc golf course, running trails, and a water park. We are within driving distance of several colleges, so we are able to go to a lot of sporting events and museums. Our friend group consists of military families, a few architects, and a few neighbors. Our military friends have known us for over seven years now, and they help us with everything. From watching Thomas or our dog to helping Taylor fix our lawnmower, it is so nice to have a consistent group of friends who we can count on. McKenzie’s firm sponsors a local rec-league softball team which we play on. The games are a lot of fun, and Thomas enjoys hanging out at the ballpark and occasionally getting a slushy. **It’s the perfect place to raise a family!**

our promises

TO YOU



WE PROMISE TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

We have so much room in our home and our hearts for your child, one where they will be loved and cared for and never have to question our love for them or yours.

WE PROMISE A WONDERFUL EDUCATION

We want your child to learn both in and out of the classroom, and offer them as many opportunities to play sports, make music, and create art as we possibly can.

WE PROMISE TO TEACH YOUR CHILD WHAT MATTERS

We promise to do our best to instill godly values in our children so that they are virtuous people ready to help others and make their mark on the world.

WE PROMISE TO BE AS OPEN AND CONNECTED AS WE POSSIBLY CAN WITH YOU

Given the nature of our military lifestyle and the traveling that entails, that may mean that we cannot do face-to-face interactions very often. However, we want you to be involved through emails, texts, and calls, and we are open to discussions about a flexible plan that works best for all of us.





thank you

THANKS FOR GETTING TO KNOW US!

In closing, we want to start out by saying thank you. Thank you for considering us to love and watch over your child. **Thank you for having the courage to love your child so much that you are working through this process.** We cannot imagine all the emotions and turmoil you might be going through.

We also believe that God has a plan for all of us. For us, we feel that this is being called to open our home and heart to another child. Only God knows if that child is yours or not, but if it is, know that we will love and care for him/her with every ounce of our being. **Regardless of if you choose us, we pray for nothing but peace, wisdom, and blessings for you.** If you do choose us, we hope to raise your child alongside siblings so he/she can grow up feeling loved and having every opportunity to see the world and learn about all of the wonderful different cultures and perspectives of the people around them.

Hopefully, this is the start of a great relationship between all of us. We do not know what the future holds, but we know that the Lord has “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.” (Jeremiah 29:11).

All our love and blessing,

Taylor, McKenzie, and Thomas





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“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,”
DECLARES THE LORD, “PLANS TO PROSPER
YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO
GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”

Jeremiah 29:11