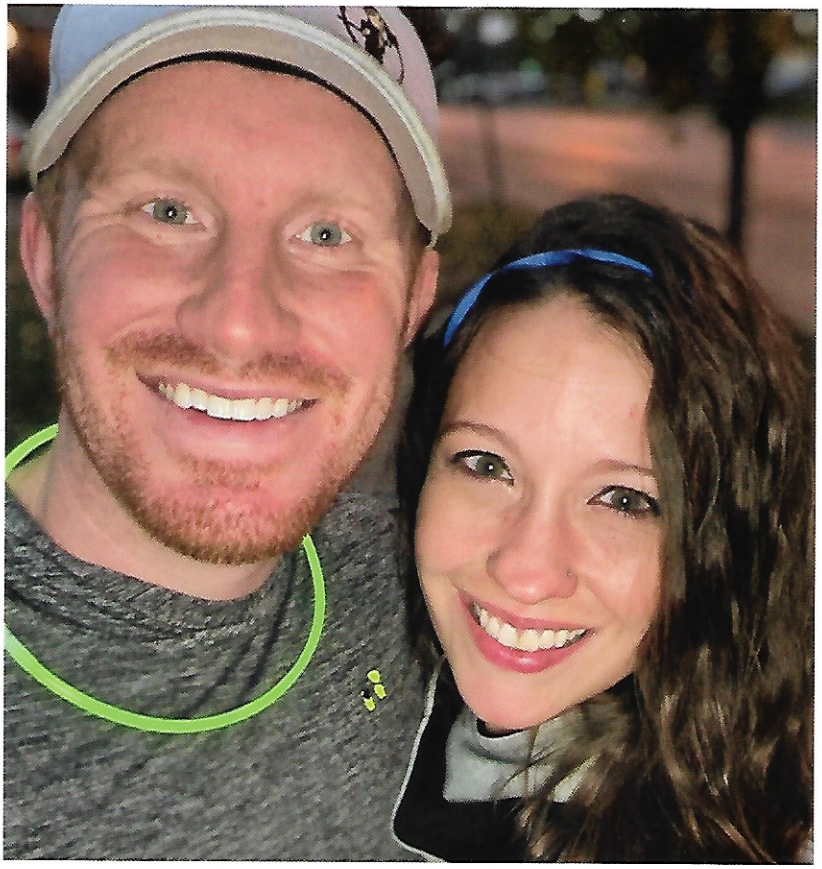
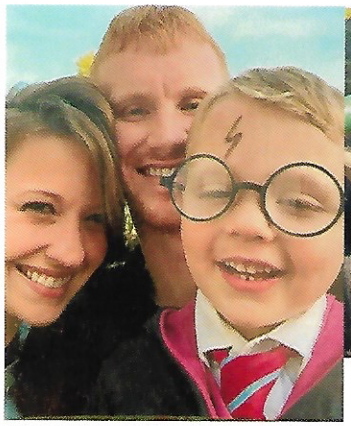
Enjolique and Jacob

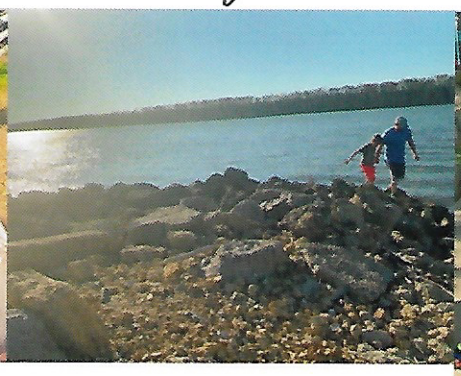


+ Sawyer

Shadow, Atticus, & Bastian

A Family Built By Adoption





Hi There!

So Nice to Meet You

It is with heartfelt gratitude for your time and consideration that we greet you today. We cannot fathom what you must be going through in this season of your life, and hope you give yourself all the compassion and grace in the world as you navigate this profound decision. Please know if your heart feels guided toward our family, your son or daughter would be treasured and protected always, and your name and story would be unwaveringly celebrated and honored in our home. Your child would grow up knowing your decision was rooted in selflessness and love. Our family is uniquely attuned to being supportive of the adoptive process on many levels. Jacob has considered himself Sawyer's Dad since the day they met, but he chose to make it official via stepparent adoption just a couple of years ago. In addition, we have many members of our immediate and extended families who are adopted. Your child would be surrounded by proof that families are made in a multitude of ways, never questioning for a moment that he or she was born to be a part of you, and a part of us, and a part of the greater story that includes us all. You are on our minds and in our hearts at this time, and we send you love and compassion. May your search lead you to the family and outcome that brings your soul peace as you move forward in whatever way is right for you.

Who We Are

WE LOVE LEARNING WHILE MAKING MEANINGFUL MEMORIES TOGETHER. With Enjolique holding down the fort as a stay-at-home Mom and homeschooling instructor and Jacob having plenty of freedom and flexibility in his daily schedule, we have the unique opportunity to structure every day around ensuring we have time to connect with each other and chase our curiosities. Recently, the three of us took a trip to the river museum as part of our homeschooling curriculum. Sawyer was amazed by just about everything--the otters, the various microscope slides he could change out in the lab, the eagles in the aviary--but getting to pet the sting rays blew his mind the most. In fact, he was so caught up in what he was doing that he forgot to stop immersing his arm into the water where his sweatshirt started! He spent the rest of the day with a sopping wet sleeve, grinning and begging to go back. Later, in the aviary, we learned the bald eagle has a wingspan of 6.5 feet and had fun measuring our own wingspans! Your child will experience a life where learning and living are synonymous, and conscious connection and curiosity are the foundation on which all teaching happens.

WE ARE SEEKERS OF ADVENTURE AND MAGIC. We make it a priority to intentionally weave both into our everyday lives. We started reading Sawyer the illustrated version of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone when he turned four and a nerdy bond that first brought the two of us together as a couple transformed into a family affair. Because of this, Sawyer went on to dress up as Harry for two Halloweens in a row, we incorporated HP in our wedding, and we even decorated our home with Dumbledore quotes that, we are not ashamed to admit, we've referred to before in moments of parenting! Just the other day, Sawyer complained that cleaning his room was pointless if he was just going to mess it up again. Jacob, without missing a beat, replied in his wisest voice, "We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy!" which made Enjolique laugh. He then proceeded to explain why maintenance cleaning is especially necessary for someone who likes to craft, so their room doesn't end up a trash heap, then assured Sawyer he knew what was right, even if what was easy seemed more appealing. Sawyer couldn't argue with that drop of Dad + Dumbledore wisdom! Your child will learn the feeling of "everyday magic" early on, and will be encouraged to both seek it out and make it for themselves.

WE ARE APPRECIATORS OF ANIMALS AND NATURE. We live close to a river, as well as several forest and preserve areas, so it seems we come across creatures in need of care or aid quite often. Our most recent success story was rescuing a skinny stray cat with a hurt paw and her litter of three kittens from a nearby abandoned shed. When she was brand new to us, we simply called her Mama, but that very quickly evolved into musical-loving Enjolique singing Mamma Mia! to them all, and after that, everyone referred to the cat as Mia. Enjolique woke up extra early each morning to make sure Mamma Mia started off her day well-fed, and the tiny babies grew and flourished quickly. We knew we couldn't keep them, but Enjolique was unwilling to let them go to just anyone either. She searched, and researched, and searched some more, contacting many fellow animal lovers. In just a couple of weeks, we were able to rehome them with a foster agency who made sure they ended up receiving proper veterinary care and wonderful homes. Luckily, Jacob loves to drive and didn't mind that the only place that met all of Enjolique's standards was approximately three hours away! In our home, your child will have many opportunities to observe and interact with all kinds of animals, while also learning the invaluable lessons on empathy, compassion, and gentleness that usually accompany caring for creatures.

Enjolique

By Jacob

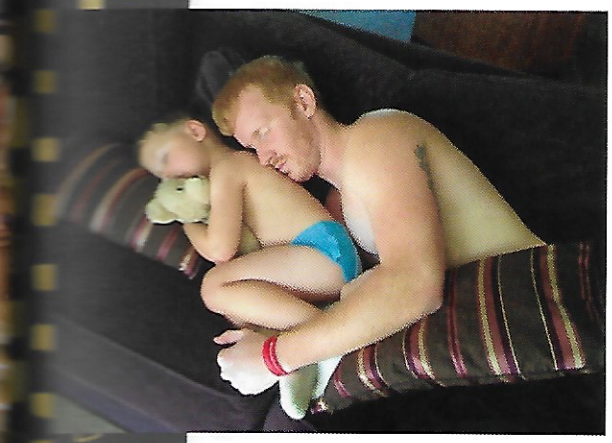
When I met Enjolique, THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS HER EMPATHY. With Sawyer or her young nieces and nephews, she would always wear a huge smile and even her voice was teeming with affection and adoration. Throughout challenging times during Sawyer's younger years, I would see Enjolique navigate temper-tantrums, scraped knees, bedtime resistance that led to late nights followed by early mornings, with compassion and grace. Even at our wedding, I stumbled upon her sitting with one of our nieces, consoling her. Our nieces and nephews were all involved in the wedding, and it had understandably been a long day. However, Enjolique had intuitively picked up on our niece being upset, and instead of letting another, less busy, adult handle it, she took time to sit with her and share tears of love, joy, and exhaustion. I can't think of a day that is more about the bride, and yet here, my bride, had taken time away to make sure that our niece was ok. It epitomized the love and selflessness that I was initially struck by, and it's one of the best gifts she possesses as a mother and wife to this day.

ENJOLIQUE IS AWESOME AT DEVELOPING HER PASSIONS AND INTEREST AND THEN TURNING THEM INTO LESSONS. The outdoors are her happy place, and she has developed a love for gardening over the years. Last year, she surprised us all when she brought home not just flowers but vegetable seeds, too. Sawyer helped her plant and care for the seeds and together they helped them grow. BAM! Several weeks later Sawyer helped excavate freshly grown radishes, carrots, and tomatoes. Enjolique provided a brief culinary class on how to make fresh tomato sauce for pasta and they added some radishes to salads for a homegrown, home-cooked meal. By taking the time to plant seeds, nurture them as they grow, and then create new recipes, it gave us all a much bigger appreciation for food and what we put in our bodies.

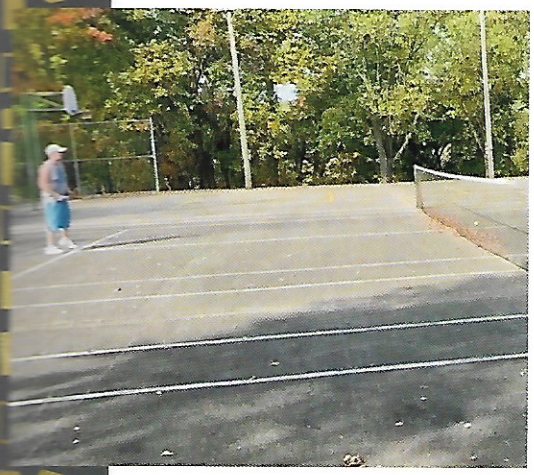
ENJOLIQUE HAS THE PATIENCE OF A SAINT. She has taught me through leading by example that there's not very much a little extra time and understanding can't fix. When one of our nieces ended up with a whole mess of tangled hair after swimming in the lake, Aunt JoJo came to the rescue and spent over half an hour carefully combing and brushing, making sure to be extra delicate so there would be no tears from our niece. Aunt JoJo even told riddles and knock knock jokes to distract her. The way Enj shows up when things like that happen, with gentleness and her whole heart, makes everyone around her feel better. Your child will go far toward meeting his or her full potential with Enjolique patiently leading the way.

Jacob

By Enjolique



JACOB EMBODIES A BALANCED MIX OF STRENGTH, SENSITIVITY, AND SILLINESS. I was first moved by this incredible combination when observing him interact with Sawyer. I remember watching the two of them, one of the first days after we moved all in together, and feeling my heart melt as a sense of peace sunk into my soul: my son had found his Dad. That afternoon, I watched in awe as the two of them went from raucously roughhousing until Sawyer was stuck in a fit of giggles, to taking long potty training breaks, to having a wizarding duel in the kitchen, to cuddling up on the couch for a movie, which inevitably ended in their first of hundreds of snuggled-up snoozes. All of it came so naturally, like they'd both been waiting their entire lives to have a day like that.



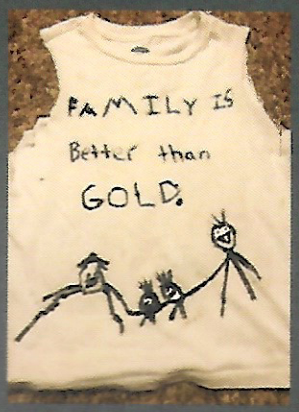
JACOB EXCELS AT STAYING ACTIVE and inspiring those around him to do the same. For him, playing sports and moving his body is almost meditative. It is how he recharges his battery and it is one of the ways he most enjoys connecting with others. Jacob recently picked up a tennis racket again, after not playing since high school. I was amazed by how quicky he started reconditioning his body to meet the new expectations he placed on it. He found his rustiness to be motivating instead of frustrating, and poured himself into practicing. Quicker than anyone could have anticipated, he found his groove, footing, and backhand again. By the time he found a place to take lessons, he had already practiced himself into such good shape that the tennis instructors asked if he would join their ranks and teach with them! Jacob happily accepted and has been teaching ever since.

JACOB IS AN INCREDIBLY THOUGHTFUL PERSON. His specialty is pulling off extra-sweet acts with supreme sneakiness and secrecy. He gets such joy from being able to show the ones he loves how much they mean to him in that way. In fact, I've said in the past that in addition to husband, father, and athlete, Jacob should attach the title of Surprise Artist to his list of labels! One Mother's Day, Jacob and Sawyer brought me breakfast in bed, then set me up with one of my favorite video games and gave explicit instructions to stay lounging until further notice. Somewhere around mid-afternoon, they covered my eyes and led me to the big surprise: they had spent the day turning a small forested patch in our backyard into a tree-covered hammock hideaway for me to spend time reading! Happy tears abounded as I took it all in, wowed by such a big, beautiful, perfect-for-me gesture. Your child will be blessed with all kinds of surprises to ensure he or she knows how special they are to this family throughout the course of their life.

Becoming a Family

We found each other online. Jacob was nearing his last few days of membership on an online dating site (with no plans to renew) and Enjolique was giving online dating a shot for the first time with a free weekend trial. Jacob's profile caught Enjolique's eye right away; a handsome face paired with authentic writing and a proclaimed desire to find someone with a genuine heart had her swooning from the very beginning! Even though it wasn't like her to make a first move, her heart called too loudly to send him a message for her to ignore it. Jacob felt the same magnetism and replied right away. ENJOLIQUE THOUGHT SHE HAD SET HER SEARCH PARAMETERS TO 50 MILES, so you can imagine her surprise when she discovered she had made a mistake and JACOB WAS ACTUALLY LOCATED 400 MILES AWAY! We fell too hard and too fast to be deterred by distance, however. We wrote each other for 3 months before we finally decided to meet halfway, where it became clearer than ever that our connection was special. This is when we first felt the incredible phenomena of what we refer to as a synchronicity--a moment marked by total awe, when it feels like the entire world aligns to create an experience so profoundly *for you* that there is no questioning that your life has been leading you to it for longer than you can conceive. We mention this, here, because we want you to know we believe in destiny...and that somehow, in some way, your story, and the story of your child, have been meant to intersect and combine with ours all along.

Jacob first met Sawyer at the zoo to celebrate Sawyer's 3rd birthday. This was the second time WE EXPERIENCED THAT FEELING OF SYNCHRONICITY. We walked around the pens of wildlife, fed the giraffes, rode the train, and made our first memories as a trio. Afterwards, we went to a park Enjolique frequented as a child, and she watched in amazement as Jacob took Sawyer's hand like he had been doing it his whole life. The two marched off ahead, lost in their own conversation and excitement over the existence of the other, while Enjolique followed and took it all in. We remind Sawyer of this day often, never letting him forget how special it was that, from that moment of meeting on, Jacob chose to be his Dad. When Sawyer asks what Jacob was doing before we all got together, Jacob's reply is always "I was looking for you!" or "I was learning all the lessons I needed to learn so I was ready to be your Dad!" And he means it with all his heart.

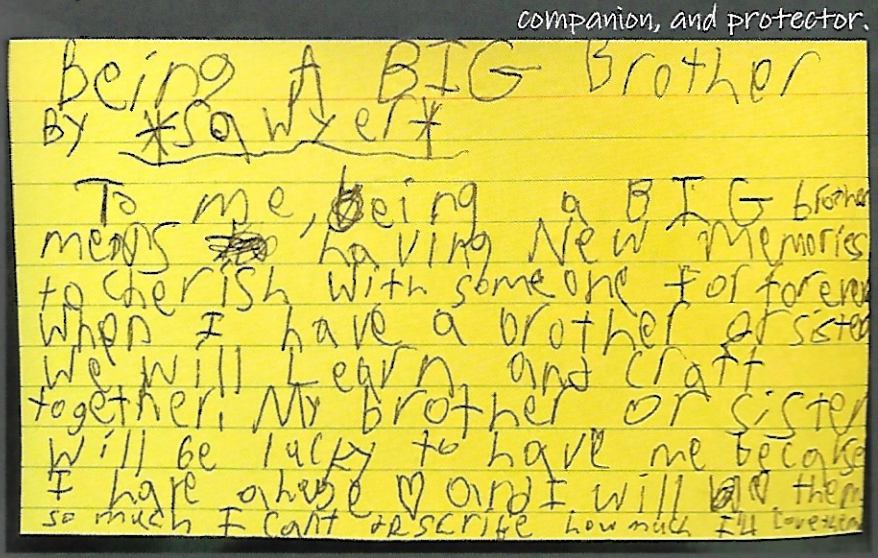


After hearing from doctor after doctor that any future pregnancy would be high risk for both Enjolique and the baby, we knew pursuing adoption was the best way forward for us. Jacob's immediate and unconditional love for Sawyer had done an amazing job of showing Enjolique just how easy it could be to love someone who isn't connected to you by DNA. With a family full of adoptees, we also have living proof, all around us, that LOVE IS THICKER THAN BLOOD. A few weeks after we explained to then 5-year-old Sawyer that we had decided to start planning on three becoming four via adoption, he randomly asked us if he could design his own shirt. Puzzled but intrigued, we gave him a white tee and some sharpie markers and let him go to work. A while later, he emerged from his room proudly sporting a cutoff he created. On the front he had drawn a stick figure representation of our family--but between the Mom and Dad, there were *2* little stick figures holding hands! The words "Family is Better than Gold" captioned the drawing. Sawyer explained to us that he drew his brother or sister because he or she would definitely be with us someday. We were so proud of him in that moment, for having such a big heart and expressing it so creatively. If chosen, we would never let your little one forget the way their unique and long-awaited presence contributes to our family dynamic in a way no one else ever could. And, we would speak at length on how grateful we are to you for having chosen us to be his or her family. We would discuss your choice with admiration and gratitude, and we would take every opportunity to honor the unconventional nature of our family and all the people and stories that converged to bring us together. With your blessing, we would continuously remind your child of how both you and we always believed he or she was meant to make their mark on the world, and a difference in all our lives.

Sawyer

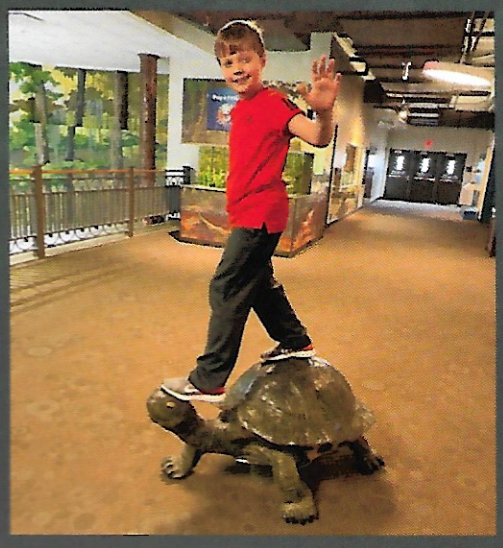
SAWYER LOVES TO CRAFT AND CREATE, and we support him in this endeavor by making art and craft supplies limitless! We keep a plethora of materials stocked, save random odds and ends around the house, seek out books and videos to help him brainstorm and feel inspired, and man the hot glue gun when asked. Recently, we spent weeks collecting boxes and materials because Sawyer had been bitten by the inspiration bug and wanted to create a castle for our cat. When he finally had what he deemed to be enough supplies, Sawyer retreated to his room and went into what we fondly call "MAD SCIENTIST MODE." Hours later, he emerged totally triumphant. He had created not just the simple structure he had initially described, but an elaborate maze of boxes connected in a loop, complete with turrets, movable cat toys, and a drawbridge entrance. We were all wowed by what Sawyer could do with plenty of materials and that limitless imagination of his--especially the cat! Your child will always be enthusiastically supported in pursuing his or her interests and talents. He or she will know, without a doubt, that what is important to him or her is important to us, too!

We each have two sisters, and NEITHER OF US CAN IMAGINE OUR CHILDHOOD WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF SIBLING FUN, LOVE, AND SUPPORT. When Jacob's family moved to a new neighborhood, 10-year-old Jacob made it his personal mission to make sure everyone in the area knew that the new girls on the block were being looked out for by their brother. And, when Enjolique's Dad passed away in her adolescent years, her teenage sisters went to great lengths to spend extra time with her to ensure she never felt alone in her grief. They would take her on random road trips down gravel roads to nowhere, just so they could roll down the windows and sing Dixie Chicks or Mariah Carey (depending on which sister was in the driver's seat!) at the top of their lungs together. In Sawyer, your child would always have a big brother to cheer them up and on, as well as a confidant, companion, and protector.



Being A BIG Brother
By *Sawyer*

To me, being a BIG brother means having New Memories to cherish with someone for forever. When I have a brother or sister we will Learn and Craft together. My brother or sister will be lucky to have me because I have a huge ♡ and I will love them so much I can't describe how much I'll love them

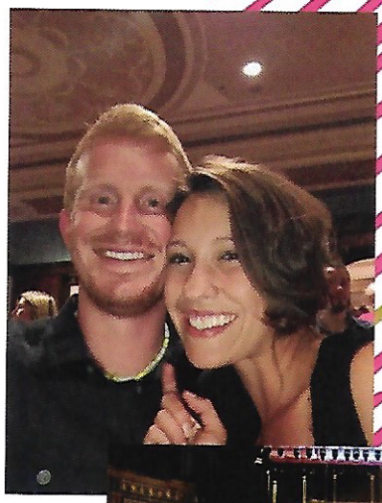


Everyday Magic & Adventure

Our innate appreciation of magic in its many forms may stem from the fact that we both grew up with our noses buried in the Harry Potter book series. It was one of the first topics we bonded over via email when we first started messaging. We even incorporated promising to be "partners in managing mischief" into our wedding vows (which was really just our nerdy/silly way of saying we would work together to parent our incorrigible little boy, as well as any other mischief-makers who may later come along). That day, we became a family dedicated to creating a balance of everyday magic, safety, fun, and freedom in our home.

We treat family outings, visits, and vacations as opportunities to set off in search of the next meaningful memory to be made, and we shorten the drive of every summer road trip by listening to the next Harry Potter audio book in the series. Last trip we took, we piled the three of us and the doggies into the car and GEEKED OUT OVER PRISONER OF AZKABAN FOR SIX HOURS STRAIGHT! We didn't hear a single "are we there yet?!" out of Sawyer. In fact, he requested we keep listening to the story the second we got settled into our room after the drive! Your child will get the chance to discover who they are and what they love as we encourage them to experience and learn new things that tap into and cultivate their sense of self, adventure, and wonder.

When we say we weave magic into our lives, what we really mean is WE NEVER STOP LOOKING FOR BITS OF EXTRAORDINARY TO DECORATE THE TIMELINE OF ORDINARY. And when we don't come across the extraordinary for a bit of time that feels too long, we make a conscious effort to create it for ourselves--especially when it comes to maintaining our marriage. We value our relationship tremendously and make a conscious effort to spend time as a couple whenever we can. We love each other a ridiculous amount, but know that longevity in love is something that is achieved by taking the time to cultivate connection. One of our favorite memories is the date night Jacob surprised Enjolique with tickets to the orchestra. As if that wasn't fabulous enough, when we got there, she realized it was an orchestra playing the live Harry Potter score over the entire first film! When the strings trilled those initial, immediately recognizable notes, Enjoliques eyes filled up with happy tears. All of her senses were overtaken by the magic being created in that theatre, and her heart was overcome with gratitude.



Exploring the Outdoors

After not being able to travel for a while, we wanted to take a little vacation to a nearby popular city and opted to stay in a tiny house in the middle of the woods about 20 minutes away from downtown instead of a hotel, because we love nature and wanted to bring our dogs along with us. Upon arriving, however, we discovered the tiny house was more of a tiny shack. The front porch light had been claimed as a home by a nest of wasps who were the first to greet us, our dogs could barely turn around in the hallway, and the second bedroom that we had been counting on for Sawyer was more of a nook located above the refrigerator, with a foam gym mat for a bed. We looked at each other, not sure whether to laugh or cry, then looked at Sawyer, who was excitedly ascending the ladder to the space above the fridge (which he had already deemed his secret lair). That tipped the scales in favor of laughter, and it set the tone for the whole trip! We had the best time: Sawyer braved his first roller coaster, we were mystified by a wizard-themed escape room, we ate dinner outside and listened to live music next to the water, and we enjoyed the time we didnt spend downtown in the woods, relishing the beauty of nature as we picked berries with our dogs. Your child will be shown firsthand that experiences are what you make of them. and that silver linings can always be found.

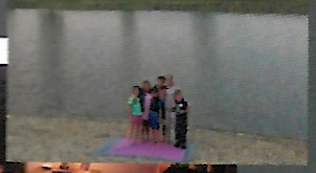
Last year, instead of asking for the usual bowling or trampoline park party, Sawyer requested we go on a caving adventure with his cousins for his birthday. We packed a picnic, clicked on our forehead flashlights, and spent the day exploring countless caverns and climbing rock formations. Eventually, our explorations led us to a place where the only way to cross was by wading down through a ravine or by balancing across a fallen tree. We didn't think any of the kids would want to cross via log, but to our amazement the oldest niece made it look easy...then, the oldest nephew tried... and one by one, each cousin showed the next it was possible, as they all cheered each other on! The adults took turns spotting the kids from below, so it was always safe--but it still took a great deal of concentration and courage from each of them. In the end, all six made it to the other side of the ravine, no one fell or even faltered, and each child walked away with their head held high and a whole new take on what they could do if they put their mind to it. Your child will be given every opportunity to see what they are capable of, surrounded by family who are there to cheer them on and catch them should they fall.

Sawyer and Jacob plan a "Boys Day Out" in the great outdoors as often as possible. These days include a wide range of adventurous activities: swimming, skiing, biking, traveling bouncy house obstacle courses, hiking, and more. One of their most memorable trips so far has been to Jacob's favorite water park, where he challenged Sawyer to brave a steeper slide than he had ever braved before. At first, Sawyer wasn't having it at all. But throughout the day, JACOB BUILT UP SAWYER'S CONFIDENCE GRADURALLY, starting with small slides and working his way up slowly...until finally, that first monster didn't seem so big and bad anymore! Sawyer ended the day by deciding to go down it after all, again and again.

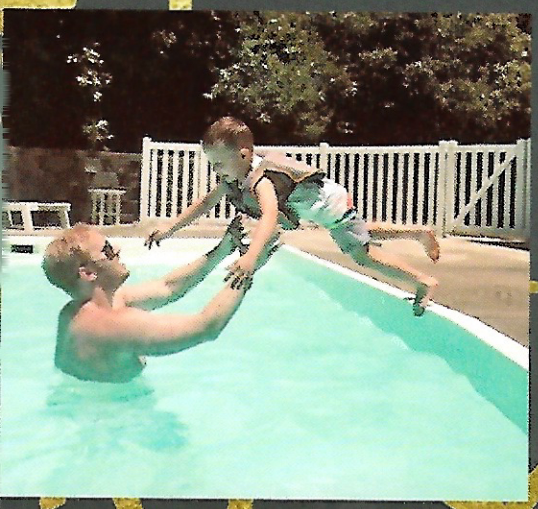
Family

If you choose us, in addition to a big brother, your child would be looked after and loved by NINE COUSINS (ranging in age from babies to teens), ten aunts and uncles, three grandparents, two great grandparents, and one great-great grandma!

OUR FAMILY HAS TRULY BEEN BUILT BY ADOPTION. In addition to Jacob officially becoming Sawyer's dad, Enjolique's sisters were adopted by her dad, her brother-in-law is adopted, Jacob's brother-in-law is adopted, and Jacob's parents' godsons are adopted. There are more adoptees in our extended family as well. Every adopted person we know maintains a different level of openness and contact with their birth family, which has shown us firsthand that adoption doesn't look any one particular way. There are as many variations of circumstance as there are placements. What we've learned about adoption through our relationships with these family members is that releasing all expectation and being open, honest, and flexible while remembering to stay united in honoring the best interests of the adoptee seems to be key.



We consider ourselves lucky that OUR FAMILY LOVES THE GREAT OUTDOORS AS MUCH AS WE DO! Every year when the weather gets warm, we spend as much time as possible at Enjolique's sister's house on the lake--laughing in the pool, making s'mores over a bonfire, searching for shells on the beach, and jumping off the dock to see who can make the biggest splash, all while a whole slew of kids and pets frolic around. Once, Sawyer and our nieces and nephews spent an entire day going back and forth from leaping into the lake to launching into the pool, only breaking for the absolutely essential: pottying, eating, and the mandatory reapplication of sunscreen. When it was finally past dark and time to come inside for some downtime, all the kids snuggled up with pillows and blankets to watch a movie. Within the first thirty minutes, every one of them was out like a light--sunsoaked, satisfied, and sleepy beyond resistance! Your child will have tons of time and space to roam



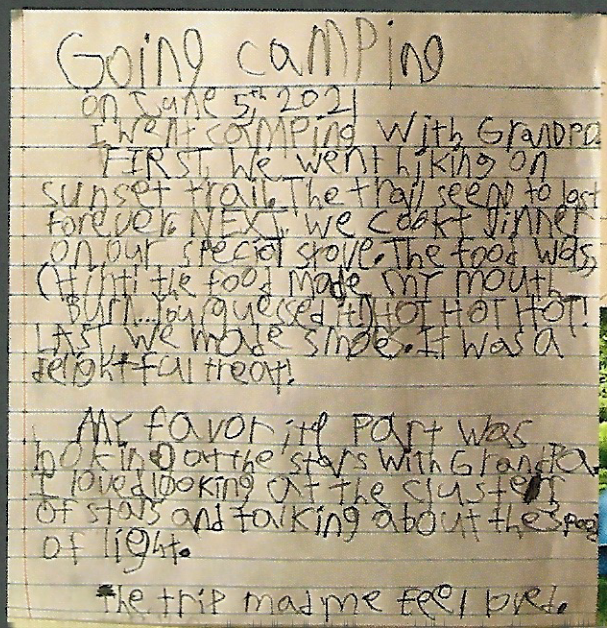
OUR FAMILY IS A TIGHT-KNIT BUNCH who jump on opportunities to get together for family getaways whenever we can. One summer the meeting place was a beautiful lake in Kentucky. We had a wonderful time just being with one another, but rain spit down on us the entire trip. At one point, Sawyer and Jacob decided they had had enough of sitting inside and couldn't take it anymore, whether it was raining or not! Enjolique watched in amusement with Jacob's parents and sisters--everyone was shaking their heads and laughing, totally unsurprised at Jacob's boyish behavior and Sawyer's eagerness to emulate. Jacob cannonballed into the water and then helped Sawyer jump in too. It only took them a minute to realize they weren't the only inhabitants of the pool, however...they were totally surrounded by frogs who apparently had the same idea! The younger nieces and nephews, who had been considering following suit and jumping in, giggled and squealed and ran back to the house as fast as they could, wanting nothing to do with those little green hoppers! Sawyer and Jacob, on the other hand, found the amphibians to be an exciting addition and continued their rainy swim.

Traditions

After our wedding, we opted not to take the typical honeymoon and decided to go on a FAMILYMOON together instead! We chose a beach house in North Carolina because it had been Jacob's family's favorite vacation destination when he was growing up. It was our way of FUSING A NEW REASON TO CELEBRATE WITH AN OLD TRADITION! We spent a whole week playing in the sand and sun, letting Sawyer steer the golf cart around the neighborhood, trying to best each other at putt-putt, and basking in the general awesomeness of becoming a family. We celebrate our anniversary as our Familyversary every year now, and have even made it back to the beach house a couple of times. For our most recent Familyversary, we got creative and sought out an adventure closer to home, landing on plans to go horseback riding through the hills. It was Sawyer's first trail ride, and he was a mix of excited and a little nervous to be seated atop such a big animal! By the time hopped back down from the saddle, though, Sawyer was so wowed by the whole experience that he even asked if he could hug his horse goodbye as he thanked him for the ride. He immediately asked if we could spend our next Familyversary the same way! If chosen, we would be so excited to create more new traditions around celebrating the day your child joins our family.

The best part of our Christmas gathering is the gift exchange...not only because we are excited about getting presents, but also because it is just so much fun! Every year, the adults draw names and surprise that person with secretly selected, very thoughtful, and somehow also very funny, gifts. One year, Jacob wrote a hysterical poem to tie together the seemingly random array he was giving Enjolique's sister. Somehow, he found the perfect rhyming words to make a college sports team hoodie, a funny mug illustrating the importance of good grammar, a Bernie Sanders sticker, and a variety of cheeses make sense together! We all laughed until we had tears streaming down our faces. The next year, WE ALL SHOWED UP WITH SILLY POEMS TO ACCOMPANY AND EXPLAIN OUR GIFTS. Just like that, A NEW TRADITION WAS BORN, and has been cherished ever since! We would love to come to know some of your time-honored traditions so we can consciously weave them into the special moments we create with your child.

Sawyer and his Grandpa (Jacob's Dad) have made a tradition of taking an annual overnight "GUYS TRIP" together. They have slept under the stars, gone spelunking in caves, been out on the town to visit museums, and more. So far, camping has been Sawyer's favorite. In fact, when they came home from the trip, he immediately wrote a story and drew a picture so he wouldn't forget a single thing! Grandma and Grandpa loved the story and laughed at how perfectly Sawyer's picture captured the two of them to trying to blow out rogue fireball marshmallows in hopes of saving their s'mores.



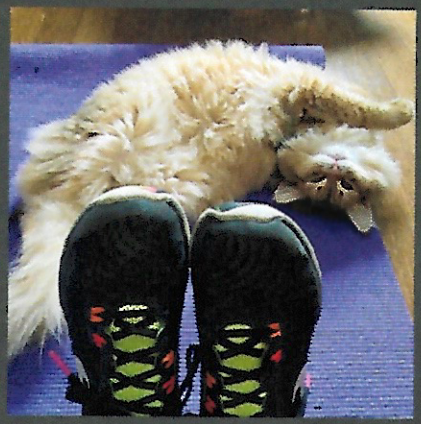
Going camping
on June 5th 2021
I went camping with Grandpa
FIRST we went hiking on
sunset trail. The trail seem to last
forever. NEXT we cook dinner
on our special stove. The food was
(Hint! the food make our mouth
burn... you guessed it) HOT HOT HOT!
LAST we made s'more. It was a
delight full treat!

My favorite part was
looking at the stars with Grandpa.
I love looking at the cluster
of stars and talking about the
of light.

The trip made me feel tired.

Bastian + Shadow + Atticus

Enjolique has felt a connection with all sorts of creatures since before she can remember. She paired up with her first dog when she was just shy of twenty, and has not known a life unaccompanied by paws since. She even spent some time working as a veterinary technician in college. Jacob has always loved animals, too, and loved his pet hamsters growing up. When he and Enjolique moved in together, Jacob fell in love with the way bigger pets add so much fun and meaning to life, too! Our furry family has continued to change (and expand!) ever since. We currently have Shadow the Border Collie mix, Bastian the Australian Shepherd mix, and Atticus the Siberian Forest Cat. Each one has a personality that richly adds to the dynamic of our home. Shadow came from a litter of farm puppies, Bastian came from a friend of the family whose dog had an "oops!" litter, and Atticus came from a cattery owner who reached out to Enjolique because she had heard of her heart for helping animals and needed to make a special placement. The woman had a bobble-headed kitten with potential future health issues and asked if Enjolique might be interested in giving him a home, even without the guarantee that he would grow into a healthy adult cat. Enjolique said yes (of course!) and Atticus has been a joyful addition to our home ever since.



Knowing Atticus may have some medical issues down the road, we encourage him to stay his healthiest, happiest self in lots of ways. Recently, he has taken up Pilates with Enjolique! She says downward-facing dog is a lot more amusing when you have an upward-facing cat stretching out in front of you!

All three of our pets are wonderful with kids. Atticus is a constant source of silly entertainment and always up for a cuddle. Shadow is an intuitive and protective boy who spends most nights at the foot of Sawyer's bed. And Bastian is a goofy, lovable ball of happy whose life goal seems to be to make people smile. Just the other day, Sawyer plopped down on the ground with the intention of reading a book and reaffirmed it is impossible to sit on the floor in Bastian's presence without him taking it as invitation to deliver kisses, and subsequent giggles, in excess.

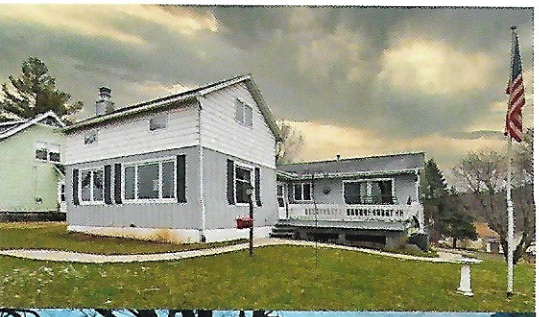
Caring for Creatures

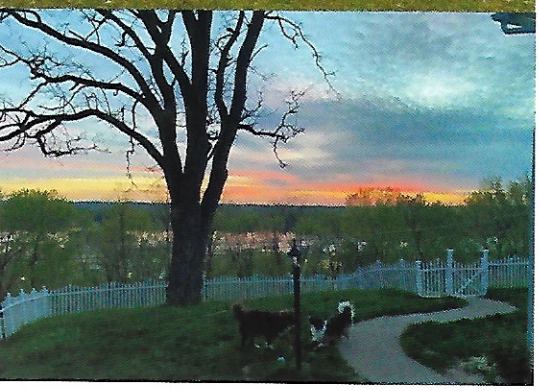
WE BELIEVE THE MEASURE OF A MAN'S CHARACTER CAN BE DEFINED BY THE WAY HE TREATS THE SMALLEST OF CREATURES. This tends to mean besides our pets, we frequently find ourselves coming to the care and/or aid of lots of different feathery and four-legged friends. Last summer, we took a family bike ride down a nearby riverside path. When we got back to the parking lot at the end of the trail, there were three turtles waiting to greet us right by our van! It was a very sunny day, and it was apparent they were trying to make their way across the parking lot and down to the water. It was sizzling hot on that pavement, though, and they seemed to be running out of the energy they needed to get there. So, each of us gently picked up one and our little family provided an express route for theirs, straight down to the river. We were so grateful to be able to help!

We have love and reverence for all creatures, even the ones that aren't so cute and cuddly. When our neighbor caught a possum in a trap he had set, he couldn't figure out what to do with it and was considering less than ideal options. As soon as Jacob saw the creature in the cage, he knew Enjolique wouldn't be able to sleep that night if they didn't step in and help. Without hesitation, WE LOADED THE CAGE INTO THE BACK OF THE VAN AND TOOK THAT VERY STINKY LITTLE GUY TO THE STATE PARK, where Jacob set him free. Once the possum was out of the car Sawyer remarked, "I'm glad we helped him...but I'm sure glad the car smells better now that he's gone, too!" Your child would be encouraged to foster kindness and empathy for all living things.

We love to rescue animals, but WE RECOGNIZE WHEN NATURE JUST NEEDS A LITTLE TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT, too. One day Sawyer discovered a baby deer in our neighbor's yard. It was tiny, clearly new to the world. We let Sawyer approach her for a moment, just to experience something so small, so sweet, and so naturally magical firsthand. Then, we beckoned for him to give the deer space. At first he didn't understand why we couldn't stay with, or even keep, the baby deer. As we explained that the mama deer wasn't likely to return while we were nearby and the baby needed his mama more than anything, you could see the wheels starting to turn in his mind. We suggested that we all provide deer daycare at a distance instead. We didn't have to provide it long, though, as the mama deer came back in no time! Our family loves to help animals when they are in need, but we also understand there are times when nature needs to be left alone.

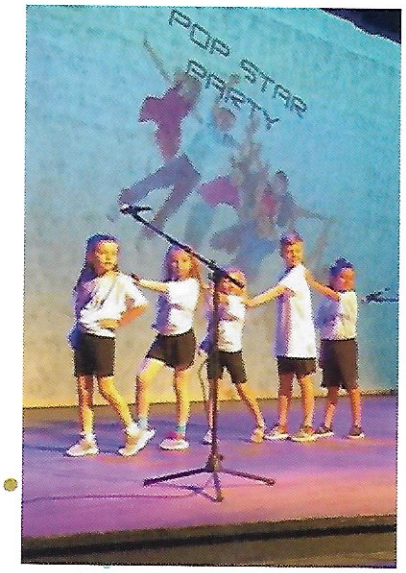
Our Home & Community





When we first moved into our home in Illinois, Enjolique was certain we had made a terrible mistake. Having bought the place without stepping foot inside (we bought at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, when realtors weren't showing homes in person), we expected there would be some surprises, but weren't quite prepared for just how many. The layout of the home was strange, the walls needed painting, the flooring needed fixing, the giant hot tub from the 80s needed to be removed; all of it struck us initally as being just a little bit more than we'd bargained for. Then, WE STEPPED OUT ONTO THE DECK...AND EVERY ECCENTRICITY OF THE HOUSE BECAME 100% WORTH IT. We held hands, took a deep breath, and basked in the beauty of what was our new view. To our relief, from that moment on, the house ended up giving us one unexpected gift after the next. The strange layout turned out to be perfect for our needs. Painting gave us a chance to make the place more "us", and we've tackled more projects together (and learned more home improvement skills) than we ever thought we would!

Our community is SMALL IN SIZE BUT BIG IN CHARACTER. With only around 3,000 people, you might expect entertainment options to be limited, but there are plenty of things to do around town. One of our favorite local activities is the annual Fourth of July festival. The streets are lined with local vendors, live music fills the air, and games are set up for the kids. In our opinion, though, nothing tops the fireworks. Riverside fireworks in a small town means every seat is a great seat! This year we got ice cream cones, put a blanket down next to the riverbank, and played charades til it got dark. Sawyer stopped right in the middle of a round, when the first explosion hit the sky, and never returned to the game! We couldn't help but laugh as he urgently described virtually every firework as "the best one".



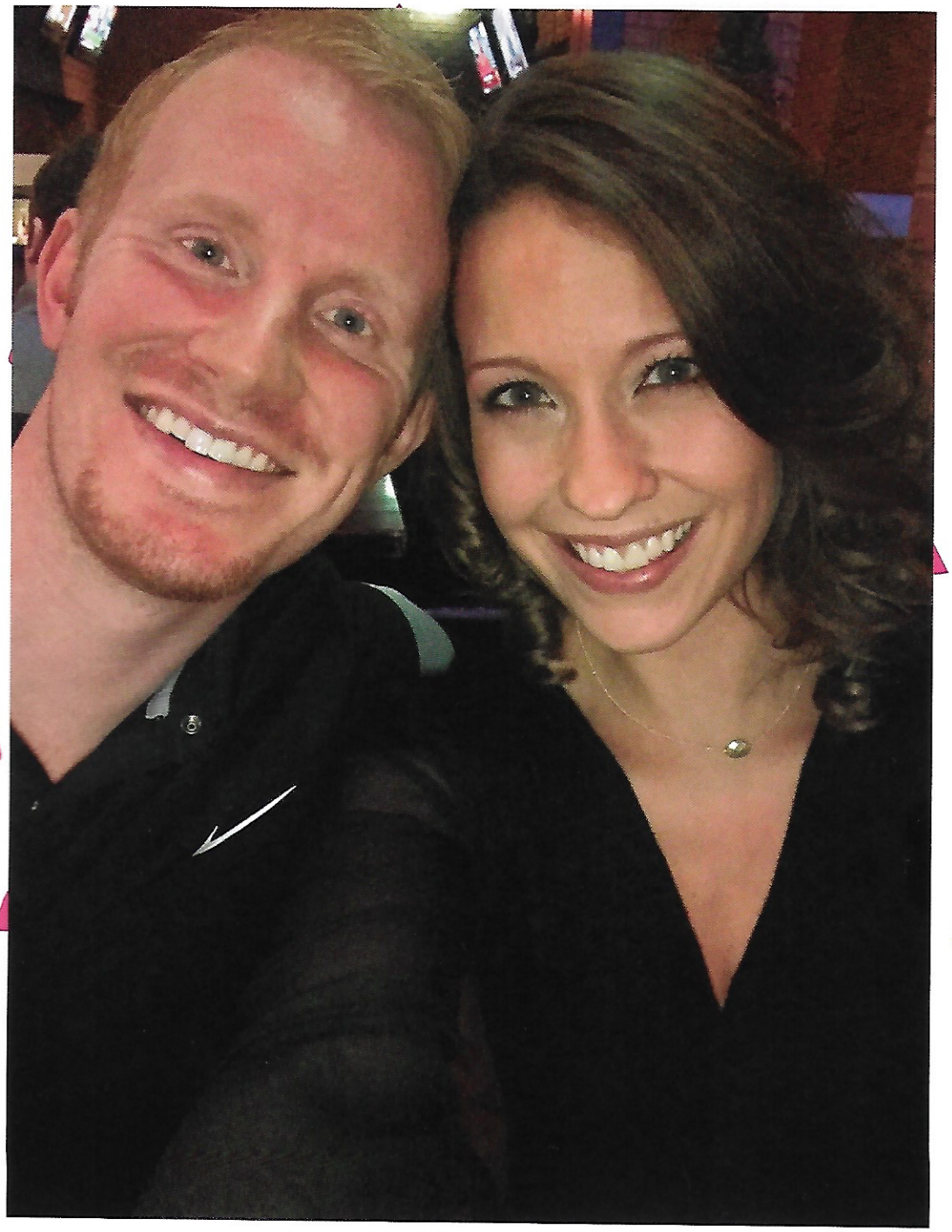
One of our favorite community features is our THEATRE, locally FAMOUS FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL OUTDOOR STAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WOODS. In addition to putting on remarkable productions, the theatre company also offers lots of educational programs and workshops for kids. Sawyer attended their Pop Star day camp this summer, where he spent five days having a wonderful time meeting other kids from our neighborhood and practicing with them to prepare for their big on-stage debut. He could not stop grinning as he heard the communitys applause when took his first bow. He came away from the performance with new skills, new confidence, and new friends! Your child would grow up in a small but spirited community, full of supportive people who will probably be cheering him or her on by name!

Weekdays

Jacob currently works as a restaurant manager in the historical district of a nearby tourist town. We just found out he has been invited to attend the firefighting academy, though...so by the time you're reading this, he may be a firefighter! He is excited and honored to be stepping into what he considers a dream career--where STAYING ACTIVE and HELPING PEOPLE are a part of the everyday routine. For now, he enjoys that his work is low-stress and that he spends his days interacting with a plethora of people. Jacob has made seasonal schedule changes to accommodate coaching for sports. He has also taken time off to participate in home school lessons, visit family, and travel, and has adjusted his hours when Sawyer has an appointment or is sick. He looks forward to a firefighter's schedule (many work only 9-10 days per month!) because he believes it will allow him to maintain just the work/life balance he has always strived for. The way Jacob prioritizes family time means he will be present for both memory-making and meeting your child's needs.

Enjolique is a STAY-AT-HOME MOM, homeschool teacher, and freelance writer. She absolutely loves this combination and feels blessed to be able to spend so much time doing the things she is most passionate about from the comfort of home. Enjolique never planned on homeschooling, but when it became clear that Sawyer would excel most in a self-paced and individually guided environment, she immersed herself in learning how to become the best teacher for him. As she began to teach Sawyer in our home, Enjolique realized homeschooling provided just the time, conscious connection, and opportunity for big conversations she felt were critical to have with our son. Sawyer also realized school really could be challenging, creative, and fun all at the same time! Your child would have the unwavering presence and attention of someone who will put her all into making sure he or she is loved and supported in whatever way will allow them to flourish and find their talents and passions.

No matter what the day holds, WE ALWAYS SIT DOWN TO HAVE ONE "BIG MEAL" TOGETHER. It's not always supper--sometimes its breakfast, and since Jacob makes some pretty amazing French toast, we like it that way! It doesn't matter to us when it happens, just that it does. If it's breakfast, we take time to talk about what we have planned for the day and what we are looking forward to most. If it's supper, we play Peaks and Pits and each share about the best and worst parts of our day. Jacob recently used this as an opportunity to announce that his peak was that he didn't have a single pit to speak of, and we have since used that as a silly way to tell one another it has been an exceptionally good day. Your child will always know that family time and conscious conversation will be a part of the everyday routine.



With All Our Hearts

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about who we are. We have the utmost respect for you, and for the profound nature of the decision you are making. We understand that the only way you can confidently move forward with what we feel is a courageous and selfless act is to choose an adoptive family with whom your heart genuinely connects--a family you know will provide your child with just the type of life and love that you envision for him or her. That is why, even if you don't choose to place your child with us, we wish you only the best as you continue your search. As mentioned, we believe in synchronicities...in events too coincidental to really be simply coincidence. And, we believe in *meant-to-be*--that feeling you get when a moment compels you to stop and take notice of something spectacular unfolding right in front of you. We know someone out there will feel that way about the potential of having our family adopt their baby, and we know we will feel that way about the strong and brave soul who will bless us by bringing the next member of our family into the world. If that soul may be you, WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING, and to proceeding with creating a future for your child that includes A LEVEL OF OPENNESS that brings you comfort and peace.

Please know you are truly a hero in our eyes, and you will always be honored and celebrated in our home. Should you entrust your child with us, he or she will be constantly cocooned in love and guided through life with the utmost empathy. Thank you for considering our family.

We Are Sending Love,

Elizabeth, Jacob + Sawyer

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