

Derek & Kristin



About US:

What makes us compatible: We are both easy going, patient, listen to each other, some similar interests (Legos, rollercoasters, dancing and travel), but also have some different interests. We both have willingness to try things thing outside our comfort zones for the other person (Kristin: trying more adventurous rides, Derek: trying different foods and learning about the Catholic faith)

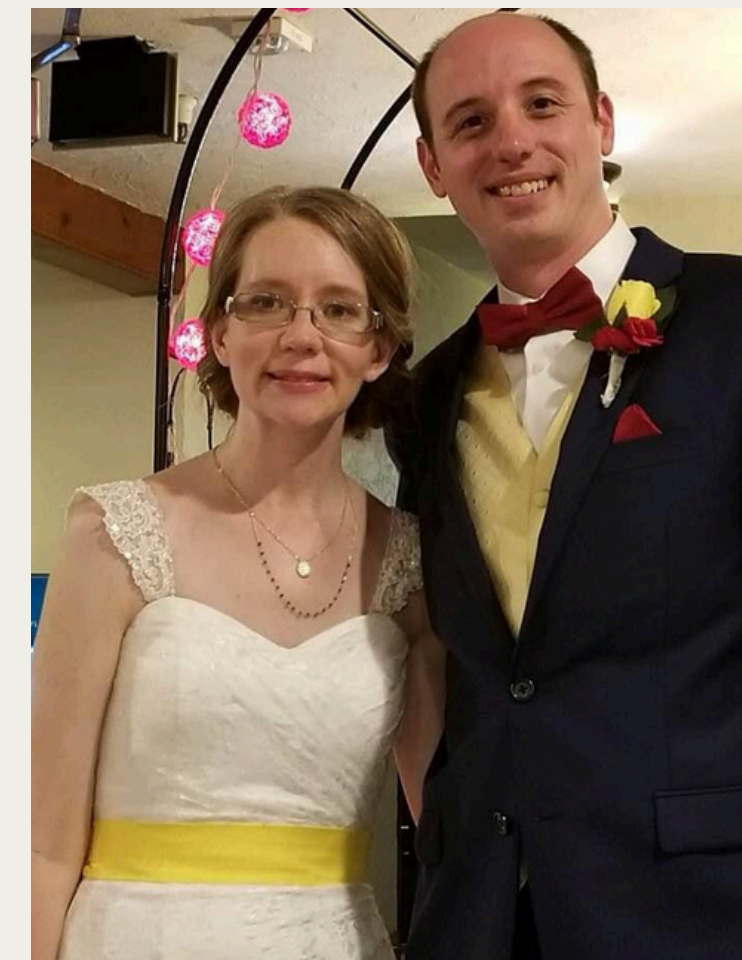
What we enjoy together: As a couple, we enjoy building different Lego sets together, going to movies at the movie theater and different musicals/plays/concerts and theme/water parks. With family and friends, we enjoy playing board/card games (this is a staple in family get togethers on both sides!), different sporting events [Iowa State Football games (Go Cyclones!)] and soccer games and going to theme/water parks (Adventureland is close to us and we go several times throughout the summer and fall every year). We also enjoy vacations/traveling both on our own and with Derek's family. Some favorite places that we have visited is Orlando, Florida; Branson, Missouri; and the Bahamas.

How others describe us: “Kristin and Derek are a loving and balanced couple. They share the same loving and gentle disposition and are as respectful and patient with each other as they are with everyone else; if not even more so. They are excellent caretakers of one another and strive to always ensure the other is happy and healthy. They are exceedingly selfless and dedicated to one another. As Kristin’s sister, I am lucky to receive that same kind of thoughtfulness from Kristin and Derek, and so is everyone else in their orbit.” --Rachel (Kristin’s younger sister)

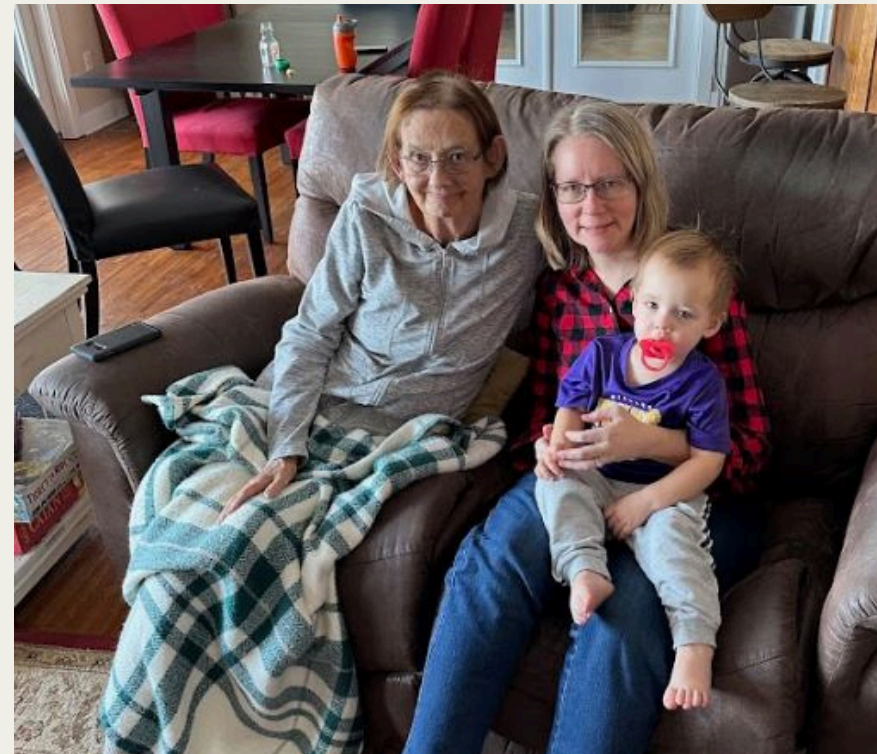
“From our view, they have a loving relationship and open communication. It is evident they both respect one another” –Curtis & Lauren (friends of Kristin & Derek)

“They take time to think things through and problem solve together.”—Joe & Kirsten (friends of Kristin & Derek)

Why Adoption? Adoption is something that is in both sides of our family. Kristin’s younger sister, Rachel, is adopted from South Korea and Derek’s grandmother is also adopted. Adoption is something that we have discussed since dating and engagement.



MEET OUR FAMILY



We live close to a couple of cousins, friends and work friends. Our families live farther away. Derek's parents and grandmothers live about 1.5 hours away in Mason City, IA. Derek's brother and his wife live about 4 hours away in Columbia, MO. Kristin's parents and siblings live about 4 hours away in Minnesota. Despite the distance, we frequently communicate/stay in touch with our families through phone calls, video chats and text messaging. We also visit our families as much as we can.

We celebrate some holidays with our immediate and extended families. Thanksgiving is usually spent with Derek's side of the family at his grandma's house with most of his aunts, uncles and cousins. We play different games and watch football. We also celebrate Christmas and do a gift exchange game, because Thanksgiving is the holiday that everyone comes back for. For Christmas, we usually see both families, but more time is spent with Kristin's family at her parents' house with her parents, siblings and nephew. We play games, watch movies and exchange gifts. A favorite tradition/memory is that we watch "A Muppets' Christmas Carol" and Kristin's siblings will assign different characters to everyone. During Easter, we also spend time with both families, but more time is spent with Kristin's family. We like to play games and help cook the Easter dinner together. A recent favorite tradition is that Kristin's dad will hide Easter Eggs for everyone around the house. Some of the other holidays: Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day, our plans vary depending on what is going on.

Our family traditions:

For the 4th of July, we are both in the Urbandale Parade with the Urbandale Adult Community Band. Kristin plays in the band and Derek walks a safety person to make sure kids are safe. We also go on a vacation in the summer every year with Derek's family. In the past we have gone to Branson, MO or Orlando, FL. We usually go to a theme park, shows/performances and sight-seeing.

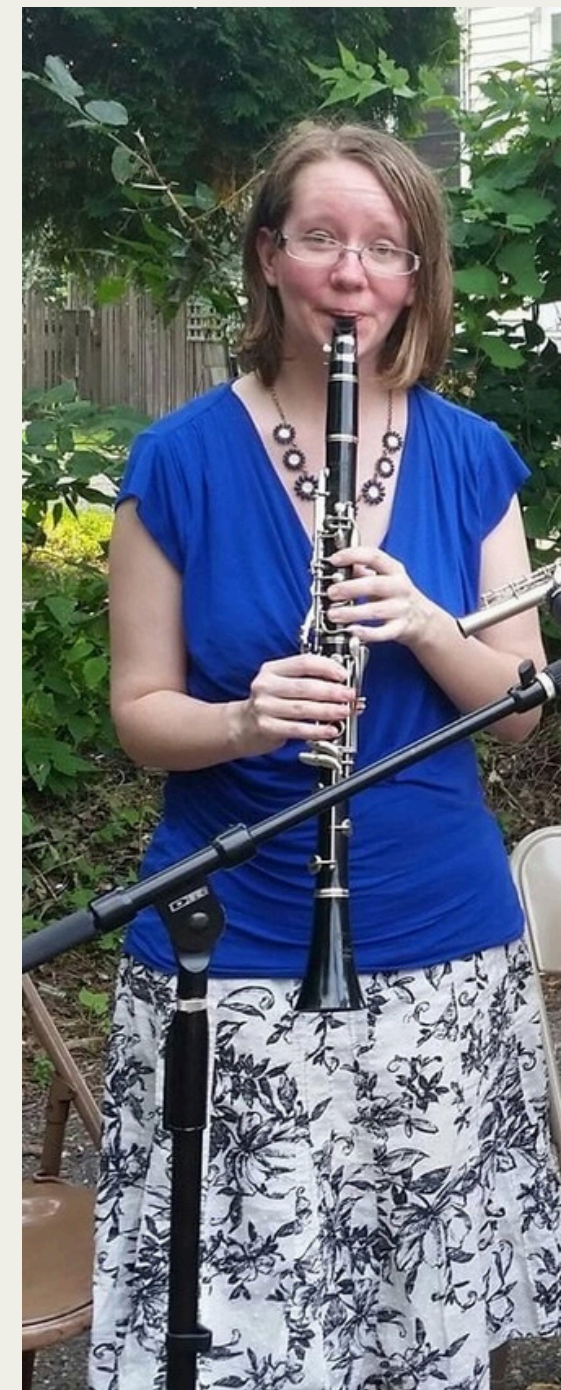
We have experience with children both on our own and together. Kristin is special education teacher and has experience teaching students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Derek has been a cub master and has done volunteer work with boy scouts. Together, we are godparents to two children. Together, we are godparents to three children. Two of our godchildren are Mayzee (almost 4 years) and Miles (almost 2 months) are the daughter and son of Derek's cousin. Our third godchild is Ben (3.5 years old), who is our nephew on Kristin's side. We spend time with both of our godchildren through video chats and at family events/get togethers. We also spend time with our friends' daughter, Hayden (2 years old), who lives nearby.

WHAT DEREK SAYS ABOUT KRISTIN:

Kristin is easy going, patient and honest. She is compassionate for those around her and helpful (as seen in her volunteer work). Kristin is religious and practices the Catholic faith. She is also open to new ideas and experiences. My favorite thing about Kristin is that she is very laid back and understanding. When we first met at Todd & Julie's wedding, I could tell she was shy and introverted (which has similar personalities to me). After going on our first date, I had a better idea that she is a caring person and easy to talk to. That has continued throughout our relationship and what I admire about her.

Kristin enjoys gardening year-round. She has an outdoor vegetable, herb and flower garden in the summer and an indoor herb garden in the winter. Kristin enjoys playing the clarinet in a community band and going to concerts. She also likes to read books. She likes to build Legos and watch movies, which is a shared hobby.

Kristin has been teaching special education for 18 years in elementary and middle schools. She enjoys working with children and has helped them to accomplish goals in development plans over that period of time. Her patience has helped her to succeed in her career. Kristin was also on the school board for Urban Academy Charter School, while teaching there. She also has developed a reputation at a few previous schools. They said that they will miss her and would like to work with her again, which shows the success that she had there

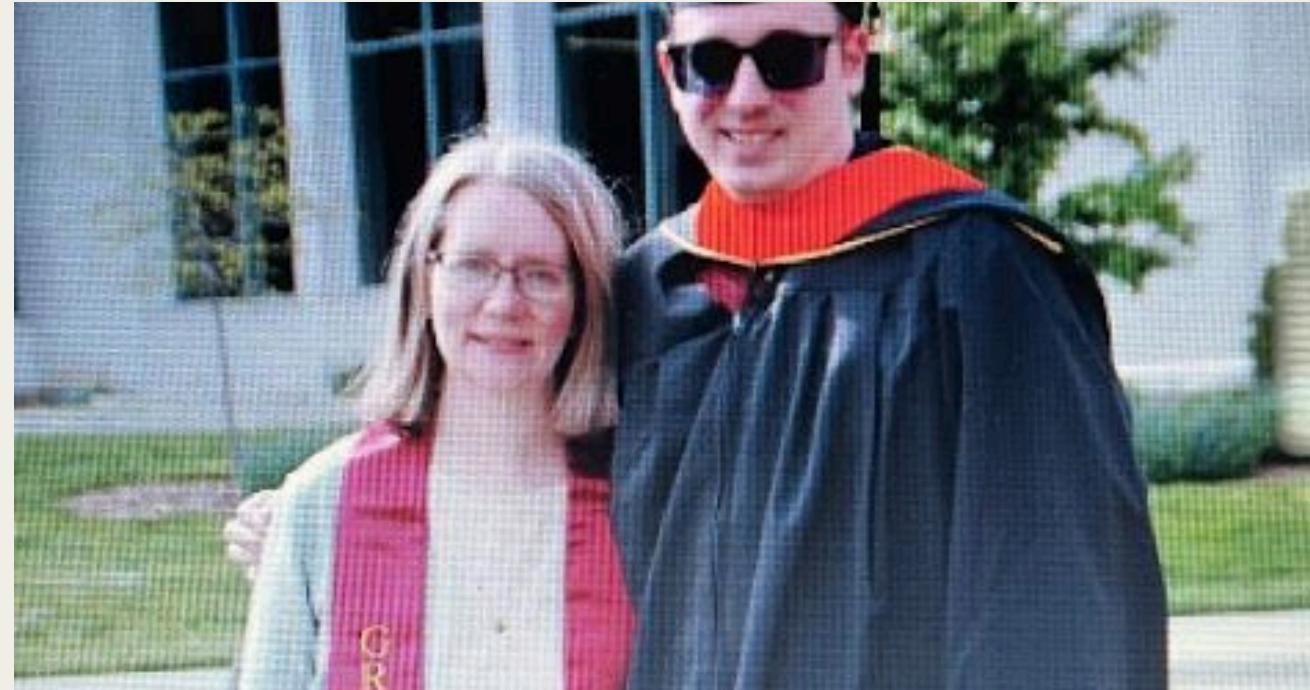


Kristin is easy going, patient and honest. She is compassionate for those around her and helpful (as seen in her volunteer work). Kristin is religious and practices the Catholic faith. She is also open to new ideas and experiences. Kristin works with children every day for work. She has natural maternal instincts on what to do when around kids. She is caring and loving towards them. She is also patient and understanding when being around kids.

WHAT KRISTIN SAYS ABOUT DEREK:

One of Derek's favorite hobbies is building different Lego sets. He has built at least 50 sets and designed his own Lego rollercoaster. Another one his favorite hobbies is riding roller coasters and other rides at amusement/theme parks. Derek also enjoys playing soccer on a rec league soccer team and watching professional soccer games.

Derek is amazing engineer. His career goals include being in leadership positions. He has achieved this through recently graduating with his Master's Degree of Engineering Management from Iowa State University in May and switching positions to Quality Engineering Manager earlier this year.



What will make Derek a great parent is that he caring and loving. He is also calm and patient with others. He also likes to play with kids. He will get on the floor and do whatever activity they are doing.



Derek is someone that is patient and cool headed. When problems arise, he will listen and think things through before responding and will help problem solve. Derek is also kind, caring and loving. He puts other people first and helps them in any way that he is able to. He is also a creative problem solver and likes to figure out how to make things better or more efficient. This includes building his own shelves to store his power tools and a solar powered watering system for our garden. Lastly, Derek is a very adventurous roller coaster rider. He loves riding on all different kinds of roller coasters and all the thrill and excitement that comes with it!My favorite thing about Derek is that he is creative and adventurous in different ways. He loves to go on rollercoasters and other thrill rides at theme parks. He also likes to build different things (Legos, shelves for storage in the house and garage and outdoor Christmas light displays).

WHERE WE CALL HOME:

We live in the small town in Iowa with an estimated population of 4,300 people.

We have several restaurants, grocery store, Dollar General, several locally owned businesses, a library, fitness center, at least two parks for kids to play in, biking/walking trail, dance studio, several daycare centers, medical clinics (doctor, dentist, physical therapy), sports fields (baseball, track, football, basketball and tennis). Activities: dance lessons, scouting, sports, different programs at the library during the year and different town festivals throughout the year. We also live close to the larger cities of Ames, Ankeny and Des Moines that offer more activities such as concerts, swimming pools, movies theaters, malls, sports complexes.

Our home is mainly a single floor house. It has 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, laundry room and detached garage. Our home also has a huge fenced in backyard (great for kids and pets to play/run around in!), with a deck and brick patio. Our backyard also contains a vegetable and herb garden.

We feel safe in our home because of the smaller community that we live in. There is a park close by. Our neighborhood is smaller, so we know our neighbors and, in the community, everyone helps each other out.





WE REALIZED QUICKLY THAT OUR LOVE WAS TOO BIG FOR JUST TWO PEOPLE AND WE NEEDED TO SHARE IT! WE ARE UNBELIEVABLY EXCITED THAT OUR DREAM OF BEING PARENTS IS COMING TRUE. THIS WORLD NEEDS MORE GOODNESS IN IT AND CREATING A LOVING FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION WILL BE OUR CONTRIBUTION. OUR CHILD WILL KNOW HOW YOUR PROFOUND LOVE AND BRAVERY MADE US A FAMILY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND TAKING TIME TO LOOK THROUGH OUR PROFILE!