



Lauren + Mike



WE ARE LAUREN AND MICHAEL

We want to first thank you for taking the time to look at our profile and getting to know us.

We are not going to pretend to know what you are going through right now. What we can say is that it takes amazing strength and selfless love to decide that the best thing you can do for this piece of you, is to consider adoption. We can promise you that if you choose us, your child will instantly become a piece of us as well. Until the day we draw our final breaths, we will do everything in our power to make sure your child wants for nothing and knows that they are truly and endlessly loved, by ALL of us.

We can't promise you that we will be the "best and greatest parents," because honestly, we are human, and therefore fallible. We will make mistakes. **What we CAN promise you is that we are caring and compassionate, genuine, loyal, and devoted people.** We will provide your child with a fun, diverse, stable, and supportive environment that will allow them to grow into whoever they wish to be. They will also be surrounded by the most amazing extended and chosen family we are lucky enough to have in our lives, who will also all instantly love this child. **There is nothing that means more to us than family.** Through every up and down, good time and bad time, we experience everything together, side by side, and hand in hand.

We want nothing more than to complete our family. Should you choose us, there are no words that could possibly express what that would mean to us. Should you choose another direction, we want to thank you for reading our profile and truly wish you the best of luck in finding the right match.





OUR *Love* STORY



Lauren was born in Illinois, Mike in Indiana, and we met in Michigan. We were introduced by a college friend of Lauren's who was dating one of Mike's coworkers. Our story began at a birthday party in Michigan for Lauren's friend. After meeting in January, we started spending more and more time together until we officially started dating in July 2008. Mike was the levelheaded, outgoing, compassionate, and loyal man Lauren had been needing; and Lauren was the fun, loving, and driven girl, who fit in with his family, that Mike had been needing. We dated for 4 years until we were married in 2012. It has been 15 wonderful years of unconditional love and support.

True love, humor, mutual values, and shared joys make us a wonderful match and team. We choose each other every day, and always will.



Showing our love at the WNDR Museum in Chicago



Mike

BY LAUREN

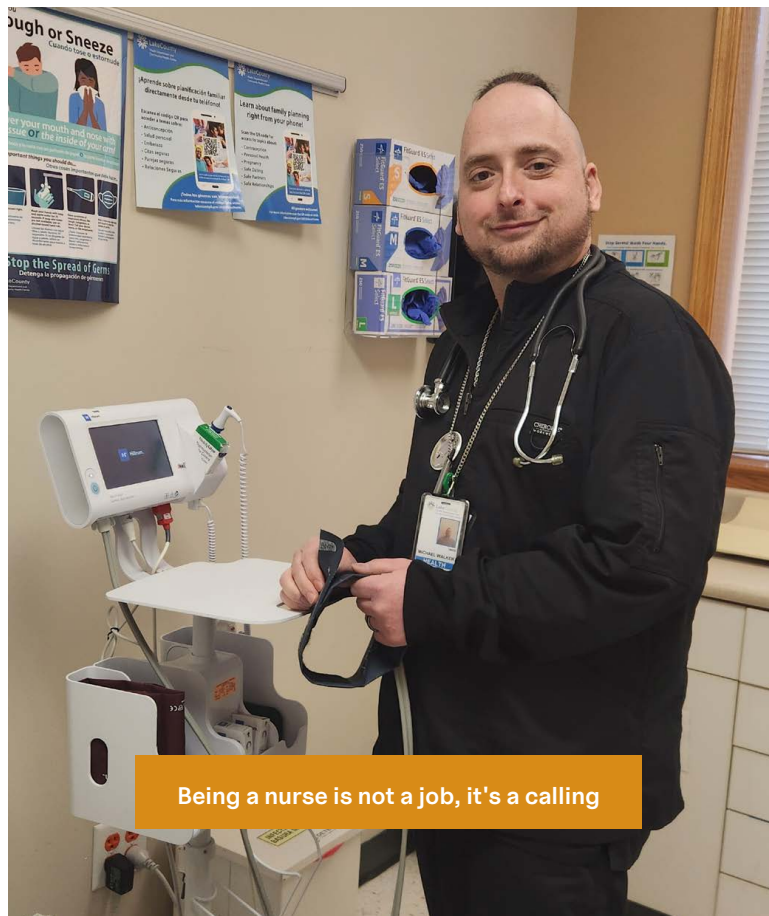


"Walking in a winter wonderland!"

Whenever Mike is in a room everyone is just somehow drawn to him. Mike's charisma and deep-seeded joyousness are infectious. When Mike is happy, it's almost impossible not to be happy too, just from being in his presence. **He is one of the most kindhearted, funny, self-reflective, sensible, intelligent, and devoted people I have ever met.**

These traits translate into his chosen profession as a Registered Nurse, where he works with underserved populations. Mike is a Nurse Manager and provides irreplaceable nursing and leadership to those in his care and under his direction.

Mike loves playing with children and has so much energy running around with his nieces and nephew. They adore playing with him and try to pull him into all of their games. **Watching Mike interact with other children makes me know that he will be a magnificent father.** He will be endlessly supportive and devoted to your child, raising them in a gentle but firm style. I know he will be a true guiding light. He will ensure that your child excels and is able to fully embrace everything they are, knowing that they are loved.



Being a nurse is not a job, it's a calling

Cozy in his shark blanket reading Jaws



The backbone of the band



Nothing means more to Mike than the people he loves. Mike takes care of his family and friends, and protects them at any cost. Mike's favorite hobby/activity is just being with family and relaxing or doing something fun. He also enjoys traveling and going on different types of vacations. I call Mike my drumming, golfing, shark man. As you might have guessed from that, **Mike is an accomplished drummer and an avid golfer, who simply loves sharks.** He is also a sports enthusiast and lifelong Bears, Bulls, and Sox fan. I love seeing the passion and drive in him when he is drumming or golfing; or talking about either of those things, sports, or sharks. His eyes just light up. He'll start talking kind of fast and then make himself slow down to make sure he really gets across what he's trying to say. It's cute.

MIKE'S FUN FACTS + FAVORITES

Musical Instrument You Play: The drums	Hobby: Drumming
Seasonal Activity: Golfing	Accessory: Platinum Great White shark tooth necklace
Sports Team: Chicago Bears	Vacation Spot: Hawaii
All-time favorite band: Metallica	Current favorite band: Beartooth

Golfing is one of Mike's favorite activities





Lauren

BY MIKE



Lauren is the most nurturing, caring, and compassionate person I have ever met. She always makes sure everyone is okay and taken care of before herself. She is a natural protector and would do anything for those nearest and dearest to her. **Lauren is funny, smart, strong-willed, and driven.** **With these traits, and her educational background in counseling/therapy, everyone looks to her for guidance.** Children are drawn to Lauren, and she to them. Our nieces and nephew seek Lauren out to play whenever they are around, and Lauren is always excited to oblige. She is always there to comfort, guide, and impart wisdom to them as well. Lauren has always been drawn to children, starting from a young age when she started her own babysitters' club, and continuing through adulthood. She takes advantage of every opportunity to spend time with children, often more than the adults. Though she currently does not have a child of her own, Lauren is a mother in every sense of the word and deserves nothing more than to have her dreams of having a child of her own fulfilled.

Lauren loves helping people through providing therapy



I am more than confident in stating that there is no one else in this world who would love, protect, and care for their child more than Lauren.

Lauren loves to sing!



Playing Dungeons & Dragons



In her free time, Lauren enjoys acting, singing, and hiking. Her favorite pastime, though, is being with family and friends. Whether at a social event, party, or just sitting around the house and conversing, nothing makes her happier. Lauren acts in local plays and musicals, loves to sing karaoke, and very much enjoys going out and hiking with our dogs, who also happen to love this activity. Lauren does not need extraordinary situations to be happy. It is the simple pleasures in life that really excite her. Lauren is the most amazing person I have ever met, and I am thrilled beyond belief that we found each other and have chosen to take on this amazing journey known as life together.

LAUREN'S FUN FACTS + FAVORITES

Can't Live Without: Family and pets	Musical Artist: Halestorm
Seasonal Activity: Swimming	Accessory: Necklace for my late father
Sports Team: Chicago Bears	Vacation Spot: Hawaii

Hobby:

Lauren loves to act, sing, and dance. She has found ways to be on the stage in one form or another since she was around 5 years old.



Lauren's favorite animal is a dog



Our Home

WE RESIDE ON THE SHORES OF LAKE MICHIGAN

in the Northeast suburbs of Chicago, close to the Wisconsin border. We are within a 2-hour drive of Milwaukee, Chicago, and Northwest Indiana.

Being in the Midwest, we are lucky enough to enjoy all 4 seasons. We enjoy planting and landscaping in the spring and fall. In the summer we love beach days, hiking on many surrounding trails, and golfing at numerous beautiful golf courses. During the winter we enjoy snow activities such as sledding and building snowmen. **Our wonderfully diverse community is one heavily immersed in fine arts, and offers numerous opportunities for theatre, shopping, and dining.** We are close to many activities children love, such as wonderful parks, Six Flags Great America, arcades, township activities, and much more. Our county hosts a traveling fair during the 4th of July in addition to many other festivities and celebrations throughout the year.

Our home is a cozy ranch style house with a large, finished basement and an expansive (fenced-in) backyard. We also have a game room, drum room, and a closet full of games.

Everyone who enters our home comments on how “cute” and “lovely” it is. We have a front porch and back deck where we enjoy sitting or engaging in outdoor activities. Our back deck has an awning and patio furniture with a fire pit table. We also enjoy hosting cozy campfires around a firepit we built with our own hands. We love decorating for every holiday, particularly Christmas and Halloween. Our house stands out, both inside and out.





A snowy walk with the pups on a nearby trail



Even the dogs rep their team spirit for the Chicago Bears!



We have 2 Shiba Inu dogs whom we dote on and treat like part of the family.

Kuma is a 10-year-old "puppy." He is a loving and persistent boy with a soul piercing stare. He loves belly rubs, being chased, car rides, walks and hikes, and getting his way. Loki is the 4-year-old baby "smol dog," even though he's not much smaller than Kuma anymore. He is one of the chilliest, yet also most stubborn, dogs you will ever meet. He loves being outside, food/treats, toys (especially balls), following around his "hoomans," and exploring new places. Both are very well-behaved, are bonded deeply with each other and their people, and get along great with children.

Hiking for charity with the doggos



OUR Family

We love spending time with Lauren's family



Mom's retirement hoedown



Christmas with Lauren's family

We are
extraordinarily
lucky to
have and be
surrounded
by both of our
families, with
whom we are
incredibly close.

Lauren's parents divorced when she was 4, but successfully remained cohesive and ensured that both Lauren and her sister always knew they were endlessly loved and supported. Lauren's mom is a strong, loving, affectionate, and encouraging woman who has always been a rock and safe space for her children. We see her at least once a month and Lauren talks to her nearly every day. **She is an adoring "Nani" and cannot wait to spoil another grandchild.** Lauren and her younger sister have been best friends their whole lives. She is a fun, benevolent, accepting, and fierce woman who would go to the ends of the earth for the ones she loves. She can't wait to be an aunt (again)! We see and/or talk to her at least once a week. We are also close with Lauren's older sister and brother-in-law. They have raised a tremendous son into adulthood and work together to overcome obstacles and show each love every day. We see and/or talk to our sister and brother-in-law about once a month, and they are very excited to have a new baby join the family. Lauren's father has passed away, but we keep his memory alive with stories, and strive to embody his character and values.



Christmas with Mike's family



Hanging out with Mike's sister

Mike's family radiates love, playfulness, connectedness, and loyalty. Mike's parents are some of the most knowledgeable and giving people you could ever meet. They are devoted grandparents who would do anything to protect and help their family. They are thrilled to welcome another grandchild! They demonstrate true love and a strong marriage every day. Mike's dad is a true family man who demonstrates a kind, innovative, and helpful spirit and is a joy to be with. Mike's mom is a generous, diligent, friendly and fun-loving woman who loves her family more than anything. Mike's sister is a bold, independent, empathetic, and understanding woman with 4 young children and a wonderful fiancé. She is an exemplary model of how to be a tremendous parent. Our sister is very delighted to be an aunt, and for her children to have a cousin. We spend at least 1 or 2 weekends a month with Mike's family on weekend trips to Indiana and talk to them at least once a week.

With both sides of our family, we frequently enjoy casual get-togethers or conversations, along with huge holiday celebrations, family parties, family vacations, and family reunions.



Christmas cookie treats with our nieces and nephew

In addition to the immediate family listed above; we are blessed to also be surrounded by marvelous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, and others on all 4 sides.



IT'S A
Wrap

We would like to thank you for considering us as potential parents for your child, and would like to reiterate that, if chosen, we will provide your child with a safe, unconditionally loving, and happy home. We will be attentive, compassionate, and engaged in all aspects of your child's life. We will provide guidance, impart wisdom, and be there for them every step of the way throughout their life. They will also be a piece of us. We would be eternally grateful for the opportunity to prove that these are not just words written down, but an assertion of the life we will provide.



Once again, thank you very much
for your consideration.