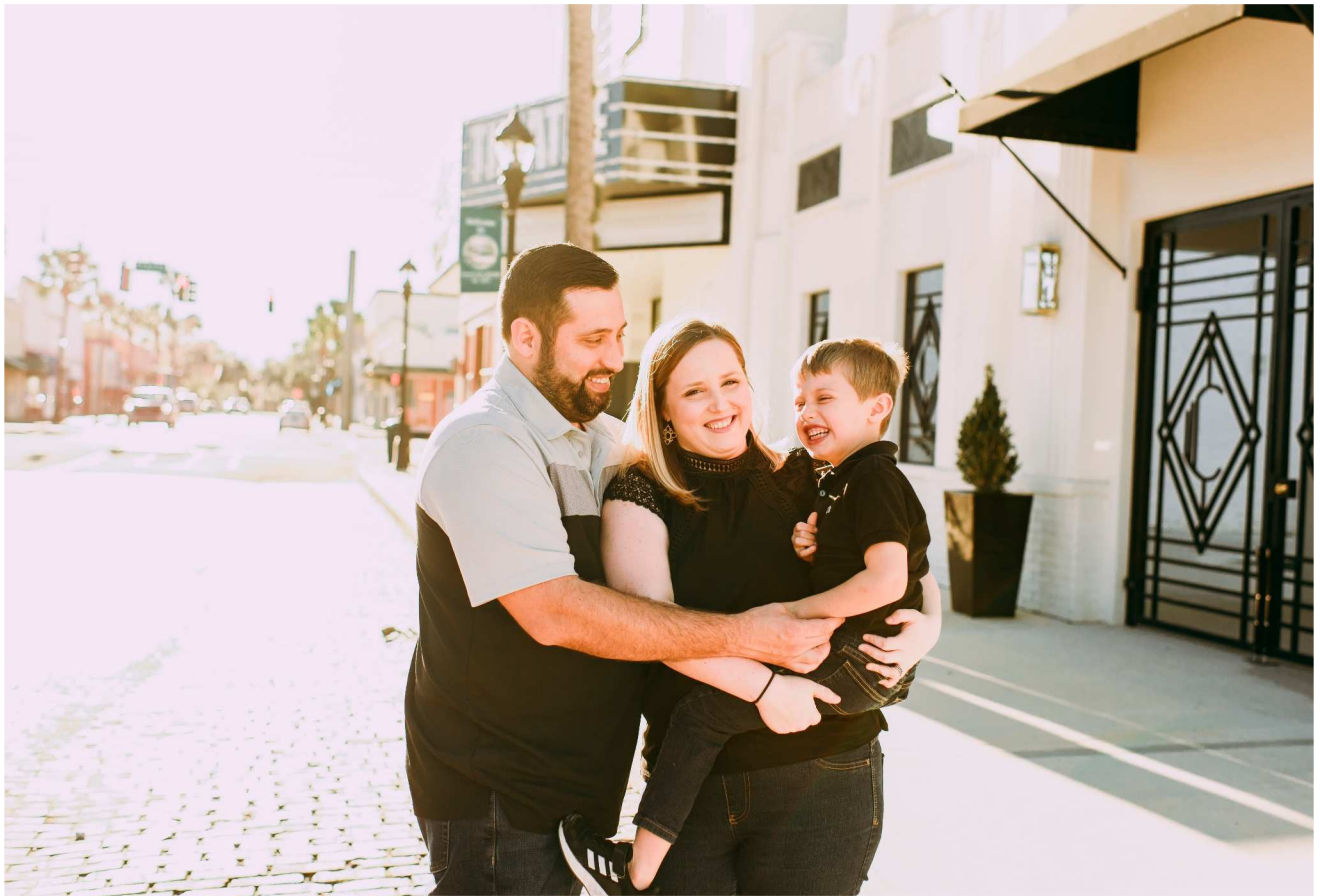


THOMAS + CAROLINE



A PEEK INTO OUR LIFE



OUR NOTE TO YOU

our note

TO YOU

We know this must be the hardest decision of your life and we would like to thank you for considering us as adoptive parents. We feel great compassion for you and your journey and we know that you are making this decision out of pure love, and we admire your strength and courage. Please know that you will always have a special place in our lives and hearts. We want your child to know that every choice that led them to be raised by us was made with love, and they should feel pride in you and where they came from.

We hope that viewing this book will show you who we are, what we believe in, and the life we have created with our son. Ever since we met we have known we wanted children to complete our family. We quickly discovered it would not be as easy as we had once imagined. We have experienced years of struggles with infertility, and throughout all of this, adoption was on our minds. We now know that this is the path that we were meant to take to give our son a sibling and grow our family.

We have so much love to offer another child and cannot wait to see our son become a big brother. We are looking forward to celebrating every milestone, holiday and special event with him or her; playing toss, make believe and doing arts and crafts with them. Cheering them on the whole way, and letting them know they have support to accomplish whatever they decide to do. Hugs and encouragement will never be in short supply! We will nurture a love for learning, and guide them to become a caring, kind, respectful and honest adult. When we watch our son play, we can imagine another little one running around with him, playing, laughing and learning right alongside him. We are excited to add to our family!

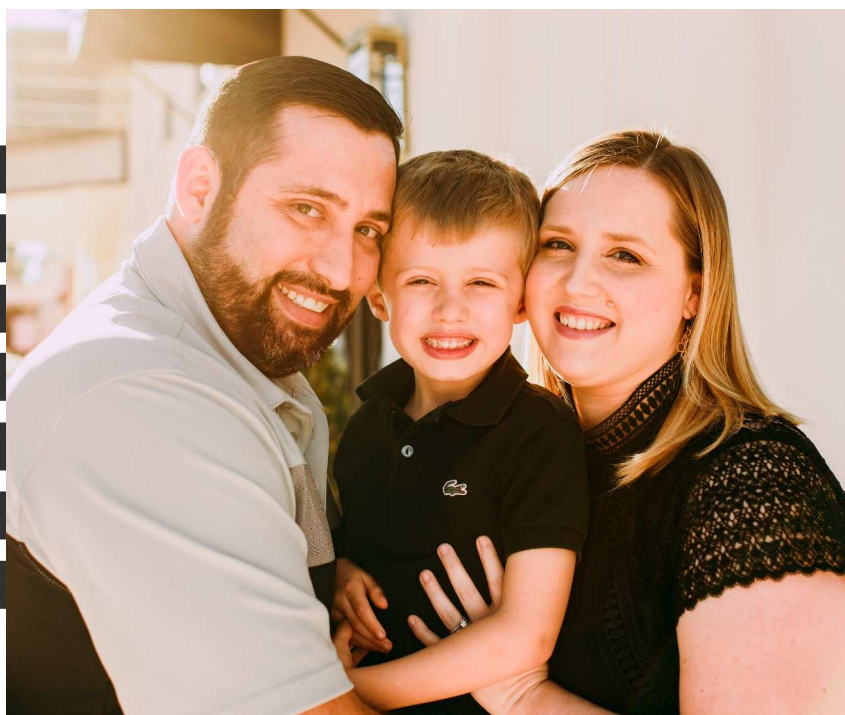
From the bottom of our hearts we thank you and wish you all of the strength and courage to make the choice for your child that feels best for all of you.

thomas + caroline





**WE FEEL GREAT
COMPASSION
FOR YOU AND WE
KNOW THAT YOU
ARE MAKING THIS
DECISION OUT OF
PURE LOVE.**



OUR STORY



WE MET IN 2001

We were great friends in middle and high school and would always go to one another for advice.

THOMAS GRADUATED IN 2003

He joined USMC. We stayed in touch through emails and phone calls even through deployments.

CAROLINE GRADUATED IN 2005

Our timing was always off, but we both knew if it ever worked out it would be our forever.

THOMAS MOVED HOME IN 2008

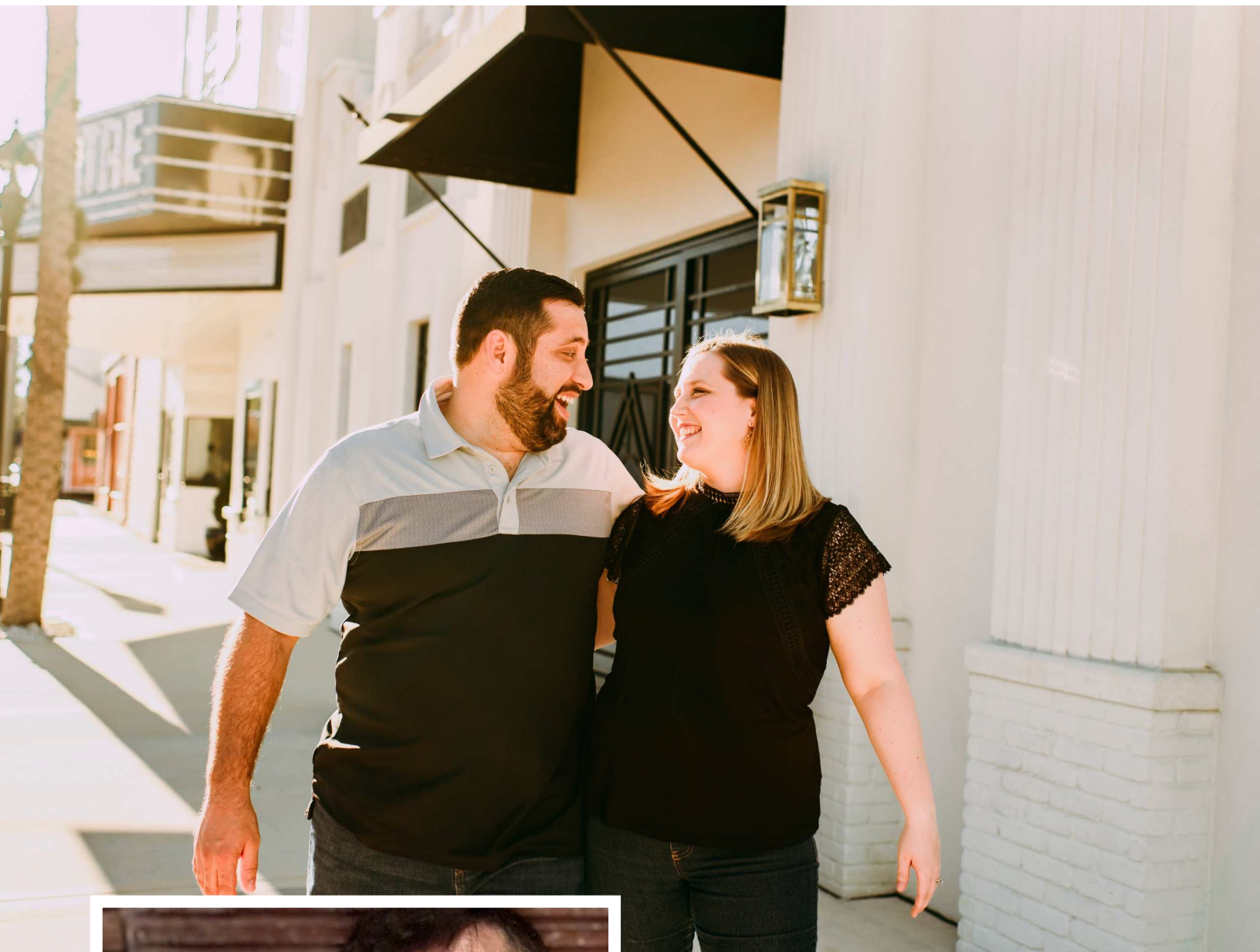
He visited Caroline at College and we finally had our chance! We started dating in February of 2008.

WE GOT ENGAGED IN 2009

Thomas proposed after a beautiful dinner date on the river one evening in June.

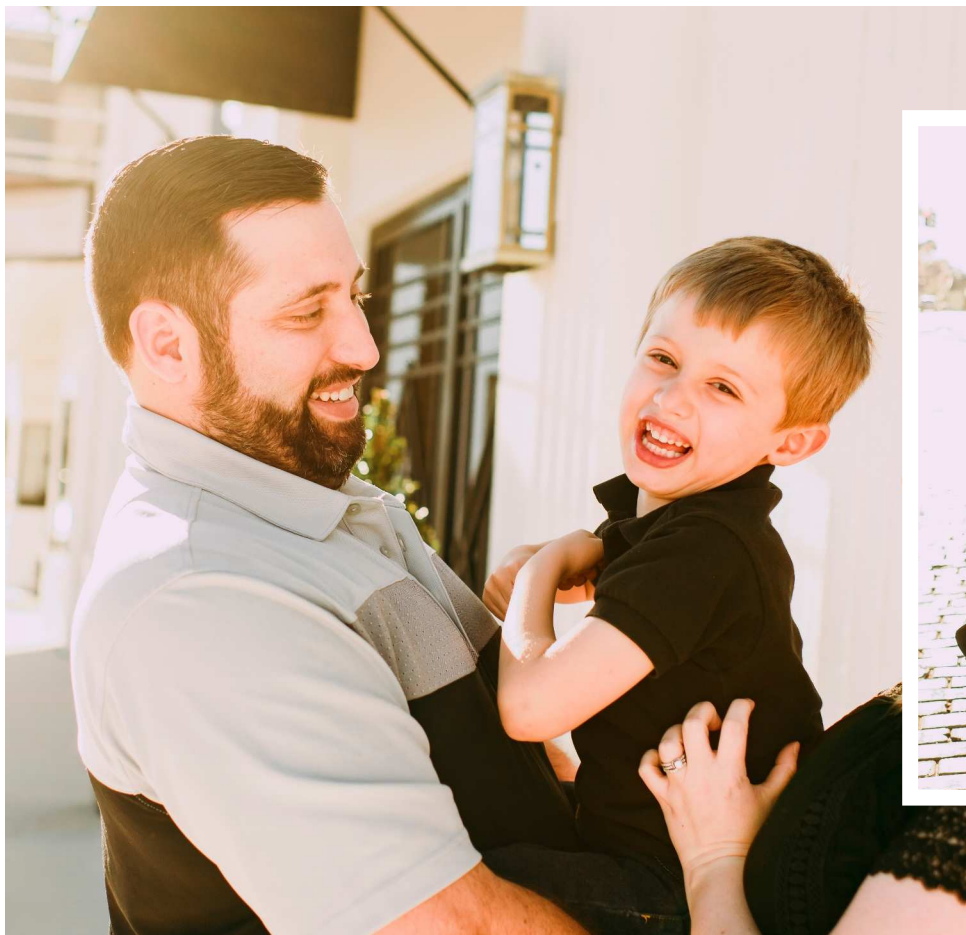
WE WERE MARRIED IN JULY OF 2010

We were so thankful for a beautiful day surrounded by our friends and family! We have been married for ten years now.



LIFE TOGETHER

We love spending time with friends, with and without the kids. It's always a great time joking and laughing. Dinner dates and movie nights are a treat, especially when it's a Reese Witherspoon or sports movie! Country concerts are our jam and we enjoy going to football, baseball or hockey games to cheer on our teams!



IN CAROLINE'S WORDS

Thomas is a very hard working and loyal husband and father. He is always willing to help no matter what, even when it comes to my crazy ideas and projects I want to do for my kids at school. He is up for anything. He is fun and makes me laugh constantly and is always there for me, even if it just means sitting beside me in silence so I know I am not alone.

Thomas is like a big kid himself! He loves hanging out and playing with kids. When we are with friends, you can always find him with one or more of the kids on his back or playing some kind of fun game. He coaches our son's t-ball and flag football teams and they are always in the yard throwing, catching and hitting balls. He always makes sure that our son knows he loves him no matter what. I have no doubt that he will love any other children added to our family, just as he loves our son.

IN CHASE'S WORDS

My daddy is so fun because he always plays with me. He helps me to fix things that are broken and he teaches me how to be safe and how to play baseball and football.



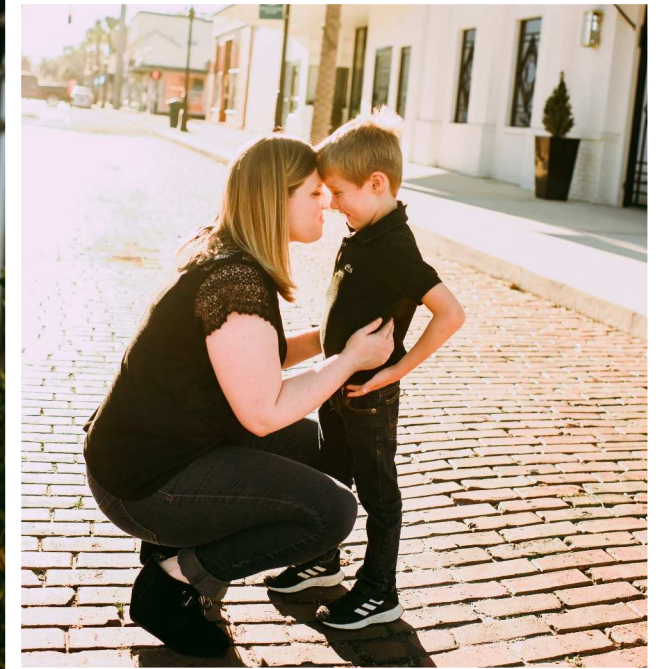
**HEY THERE!
I'M THOMAS**

outgoing helpful loyal fun

I am a Police Officer, currently working as a Judicial Officer at the Court House. My job allows me to take off when needed, and I have a lot of extra time off accrued. I am highly regarded by my employer and my boss comes to me when she needs something done correctly and efficiently. My good work ethic came from my childhood. I was raised mainly by my single mother and have had to work for everything. I also learned to always have confidence in myself and never count myself out, if I kept trying I could always accomplish what I put my mind to.

I love watching and playing all sports. FSU, Dallas Cowboys, and Boston Red Sox are my favorite teams. I enjoy playing golf even though I am not always the best. When I can, I love to fish and go to the beach with my family.

I love being a father and I am excited to experience all of the firsts again with another child. I love teaching them and then seeing how proud they are when they accomplish something that seemed almost impossible. I want my children to believe in themselves and always strive to be the best they can be. I also want to be a father who gives my kids my time. I always remember the fun times I spent with my parents, even if we were just playing baseball in the backyard or sitting around the table playing a board game.



IN THOMAS' WORDS

Caroline is compassionate towards everyone and she strives to make other people better. She is patient and creative and always has a solution to any problem no matter how minimal it may be.

Caroline has been around children her whole life and is a natural around them. As a kindergarten teacher, she loves to draw and create with them, and teach them whatever she can. She is a fabulous baker and has a blast baking with Chase and his friends while sugar and flour fly around the kitchen. You can't forget the fun tunes and of course a dance party as well! Snuggling up and reading is also a favorite for her and Chase, but she is willing to get outside and get dirty with him too! She is up for whatever the kids may want to do. I love watching her interact with Chase and any other children. It always puts a smile on my face!

IN CHASE'S WORDS

My mommy is fun because we make cookies and she teaches me what to add and how to mix it up. Then she lets me choose the shapes I want. She reads to me a lot and we cuddle up under a blanket. She helps teach me letters and numbers and we play games and do puzzles together. I always win!



HELLO! I'M CAROLINE

creative quiet easy going

I am a kindergarten teacher. I consider my eleven years as a teacher to be one of my greatest accomplishments. Connecting with new students each year is amazing! I love that my job allows me to have summers and all holidays off. I plan to take 12 weeks of maternity leave once we adopt. After that, the baby will go to daycare during the school day. I have very good relationships with my co-workers and my grade level teammates are my close friends. We help each other at school and with anything else we may need support with in our lives. I go to them for a lot of parenting advice, as we have kids of similar ages and they have children who are older as well. It is a wonderful community to be a part of.

I love being creative. I am always doing some sort of craft, painting, drawing, or learning how to sew. I also love baking and used to have a cookie and cake decorating business, now I just bake for close friends and family on special occasions! I always love to get outside and play sports with my family, take walks, go fishing or build sand castles at the beach!

Children bring such joy and laughter to a family, and I am looking forward to the dynamic that another child will add to our home. I am excited for all of the milestones and firsts. Watching children grow and learn is amazing! I love being a mother and I am so excited to see Chase become a big brother! I strive to be a mother who is approachable and caring. I want my kids to know they can come to with anything, no matter what the situation.



**CHASE IS SUCH A
LOVING, KIND
LITTLE BOY AND
HE WILL MAKE A
WONDERFUL BIG
BROTHER!**



MEET CHASE

Chase is our energetic five-year-old. He is all boy and loves watching and playing sports. He plays t-ball and flag football. He loves super heroes, action figures, construction, cars and monster trucks. If he could be outside constantly playing baseball, football or just running around and riding his bike he would be. He loves playing with other kids and gets along with everyone. He is also a cuddler and would have us read 100 books each night if he could get away with it. He loves animals, especially ocean animals, and he loves going to the zoo or aquarium to see them "for real" as he says.

FAMILY TIME

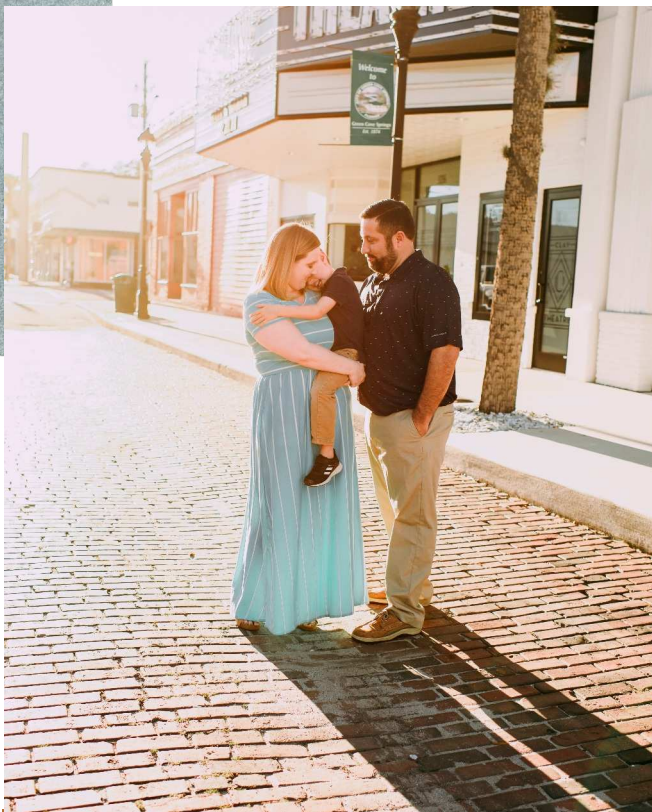
We love having pizza, popcorn and movie nights on the weekends. Playing outside, swimming and going to the beach are always fun adventures, as well as visiting the zoo or an aquarium when we can. Hanging out with our friends who have children of similar ages is a favorite. The kids run around, ride bikes and scooters and have the best time! We love grilling out while the kids play in the yard or in sprinklers, small pools and the water slide in the summer. We enjoy cheering on our favorite sports teams on TV and from the sidelines!



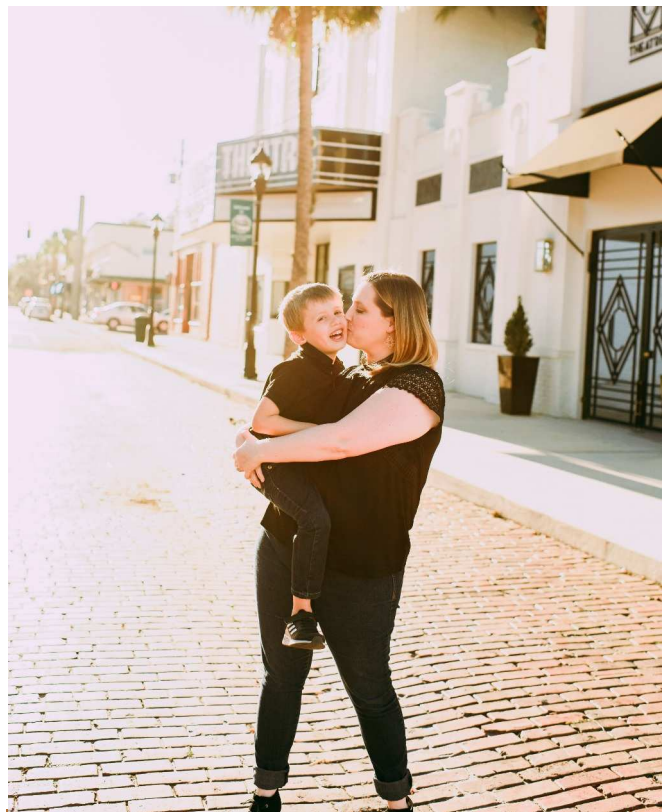
OUR FAMILY



VALUES



KINDNESS



HONESTY



LOYALTY



HARD WORK


OUR HOME



Our house is a four bedroom, two and a half bathroom house built in the 1950's. Each of our children will have their own room and also a shared playroom. We have a good sized back yard where the kids can run. We have a small garden where we grow okra, tomatoes, and peppers and we like to try something new each year. There is a play set with swings and a slide and a shed full of outdoor toys. We have a large deck with lights that we hang out on in the good weather months and have dinner after swimming next door. We also love to put out sprinklers or a water slide and small pools for the kids. There's a chalkboard and giant Connect 4 on the deck. We love to hang out at home and play games, inside and out, and just spend time with each other. Many times we are racing cars in the playroom, or drawing and painting pictures.

Our community is a middle class community with tree lined roads and sidewalks. All of the neighbors are friendly and wave when you walk by. There are many kids on the street who we play with often. We have a zoo, beaches, walking trails, and parks close by that we enjoy visiting.






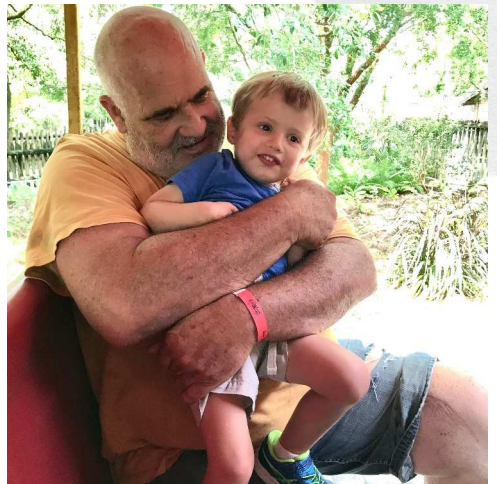
OUR FAMILY IS SO SUPPORTIVE AND THEY ARE ALL SO EXCITED TO WELCOME ANOTHER LITTLE ONE INTO THEIR HEARTS AND LIVES!

Caroline's family is very involved in our lives and we see them all the time. They come to Chase's sporting events and live close by. We spend holidays and birthdays with them. Caroline's mom, Barbara, lets Chase help in the garden, planting and then picking peas, broccoli, lettuce, carrots and many other fun things. She has a playroom at her house for him full of stuffed animals and toys. Caroline's dad, David, loves to come over and play sports with Chase and watch him play his games. He is the fun grandpa that is up for anything and is always being silly and joking around. Uncle Ted is more like a brother to Chase and is always around. He and Chase love to go on adventures together.

Thomas' dad, Thomas, lives in North Carolina and we talk to him weekly. He comes to visit a few times a year. When he visits, we love to head to the beach and the zoo and just spend fun family time with him. We see Thomas' sister, Nicole, and her family a few times a year and for special occasions.

We have close friends who are more like family who continue to have a big impact on our lives. Growing up, Thomas spent a lot of time at his best friends house, and his parents, Pat and Mike, are like second parents to him. Allison, Caroline's best friend of 27 years and Chase's God Mother, is around all the time and so much fun!









CELEBRATING LIFE

We always gather for meals for holidays. We usually go to Caroline's grandmother's or mom's house for a meal, then to her dad's or one of the extended family member's for another meal and fun. On Christmas Eve, we attend the candle light church service and then we have our traditional appetizers for dinner and family time. The kids always get to pick one present to open on Christmas Eve and we leave cookies and carrots out for Santa and his reindeer. After opening presents on Christmas morning at our house, we spend the rest of the day opening presents and enjoying time with family. We always do a special dinner or two for birthdays and make sure there is always a favorite dessert. On the 4th of July we cook out and spend the day at the beach or in the pool and then watch fireworks when it gets dark. Halloween is always a favorite. Our neighbor decorates inside and out and has a party where everyone dresses up. We usually do homemade family costumes. On Halloween night, we have chili and go trick or treating. On New Years Eve, we celebrate by setting off fire works, getting hats and noise-makers for the kids, and celebrating with friends.



ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE BRAVER THAN
YOU BELIEVE, STRONGER THAN YOU SEEM,
SMARTER THAN YOU THINK, AND MORE
LOVED THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW.







OUR FUTURE

We plan to stay in our current home for a long time. Caroline grew up here and we love our neighborhood. Our extended family and friends live close by and we love doing life with them. We love to travel and take family trips in the summer and we look forward to continuing these trips as our family grows.



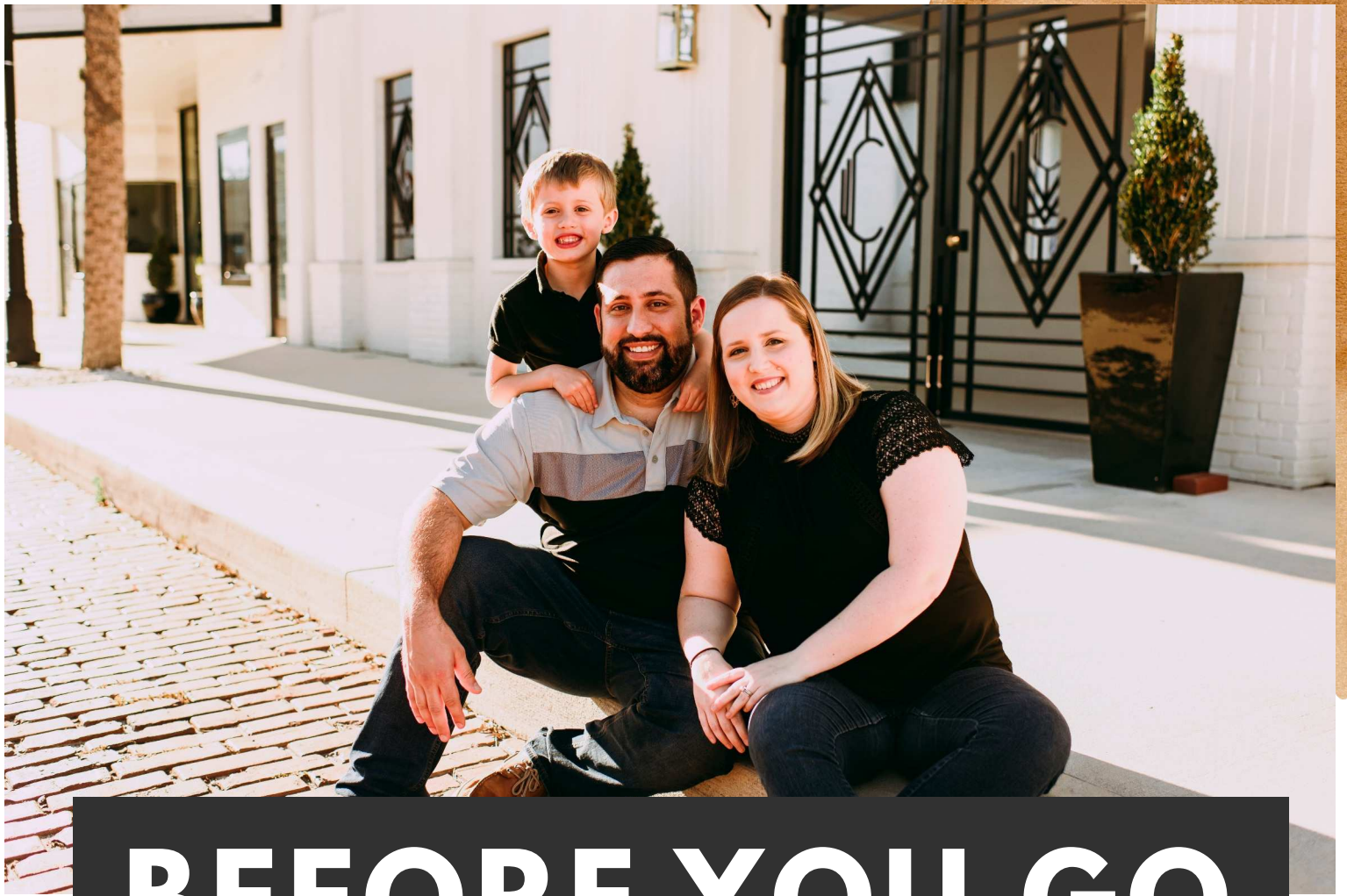


EDUCATION

Our children will attend a Christian school, so that our Christian beliefs will be interwoven into their every day lives. They can get a wonderful education at a Christian school, as well as be surrounded by love and good examples. If they learn to be kind like Jesus that is what is most important. There are numerous people to look up to in our church community who are good examples for our children. They will experience the formal Sunday church services, but also the daily life lessons and examples from us as we go about our days.

If college is something our children are interested in, we intend on supporting that. We want our children to be happy, but also be able to learn skills so that they can get a job and support themselves and their own family one day. If they choose not to go to college, we will encourage them to pursue a job that will fulfill them in the future.





BEFORE YOU GO

we want to say . . .

Thank you again for taking the time to consider our family and getting to know us. We hope you were able to get a glimpse into our lives and the love that we have to share. Any child that joins our family will be loved unconditionally, given every opportunity to pursue their dreams, and most of all have fun and laugh with us always! They will grow up knowing how grateful we are for you and the blessing you have given us. They will know that the decision you made for them was made out of the deepest, sacrificial love.

You will continue to be in our prayers and we hope to meet you someday soon.

thomas + caroline



"EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE."
John 1:17