



Melissa



# Hello!

## Thank you for taking a moment to learn about me.

I know this time in your life may feel uncertain and full of complex emotions, and I want you to know that I am praying for your peace, clarity, and strength as you make decisions for yourself and your child. I hope that as you read my story, you'll see a home filled with love, family, faith, and stability—the kind of life I would be honored to share with your child. No matter the path you choose, I want you to feel supported, respected, and surrounded with compassion.

I love creating a warm, welcoming home—hosting friends, planning small projects around the house, and baking something sweet. Faith is an important part of my life. It has carried me through seasons of joy and heartbreak, including my journey through infertility and the end of a relationship. Through it all, my desire to become a mother has only grown deeper and stronger. I believe God leads us to the families we are meant to build, and adoption has been on my heart for many years.



WITH LOVE

—Melissa

# From Fostering to the Next Chapter

Before I ever considered adoption, I felt a strong calling toward fostering. I've always had a heart for children who need safety, stability, and love, and I knew I wanted to open my home to a child who needed a soft place to land. When I became a foster mom, everything in me shifted. Caring for a little one in such a vulnerable season taught me more about myself and about love than I ever expected. I fostered an infant, and during that time I learned the rhythms of parenting—the midnight bottles, the appointments, the comforting, the deep joy of seeing a baby development and feel secure.



I learned that even as a single mom, I could do it. Some days were exhausting, but at the end of every day, I knew that the baby in my care was safe, loved, and well taken care of. And that feeling made *everything* worth it.



## MORE ON FOSTERING

Fostering taught me patience, resilience, and advocacy. It helped me understand trauma and the importance of creating a safe, steady, predictable home. It showed me how much love I had to give and how natural it was for me to step into nurturing and caretaking. It also helped me see the value of supporting birth families, and I'm grateful that I still have a relationship with my foster son and his family. We exchange pictures and holiday updates, and that connection will always mean something to me. My family embraced him as their own—from babysitting and dropping meals by to gathering up last-minute baby items without being asked. Their support made me realize how ready they are to welcome a child through adoption as well. Fostering shaped the parent I hope to be: grounded in empathy, steady in structure, gentle in patience, rooted in faith, and committed to honoring each child's unique background and story. It confirmed the deep desire of my heart—to become a mother and provide a home full of safety, love, and belonging.



The nursery is ready!





**Chicago views at the top of Willis Tower**



**My version of a perfect day**

# My Career Supports Family Life

I work as a real estate executive, which gives me flexibility, financial stability, and the ability to be fully present for a child. My schedule allows for school drop-offs, after-school activities, and being home when it matters most.



Gardener heaven in a field of wildflowers



I love ending the day with a **warm bubble bath**

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I love to **travel**, and I can't wait to add Christmas ornaments to the travel tree of places that me and little one get to visit

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My love languages are **Quality Time** and **Acts of Service**

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I love to **host** and **entertain** loved ones, although I prefer baking over cooking, I put together a great menu

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I enjoy tackling small home projects, flowers and gardening, and turning a house into a **home**

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I'm a big fan of **puzzles**—the more pieces, the better!

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My not-so-secret weakness? **Diet Dr Pepper** is my daily little treat.

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I have a **sweet tooth** for anything strawberry—cake, ice cream, pastries... if it's strawberry, I'm in!

# Home *sweet home*



Beautiful walking trails



I live in a wonderful neighborhood with great schools, diverse families, and plenty of space to play and grow. My home sits on a large yard—perfect for a swing set, backyard picnics, or a child running and exploring. There's parks, walking trails, splash pad nearby and neighborhood pool and pond for warm days.

One of the things I love most is being close to my family. My parents, nieces, and nephews live nearby, and our home is always filled with activity, laughter, and love.

Having opened my home previously to foster children, I already have a fully prepared, gender-neutral nursery—thoughtfully designed so it can easily be personalized with touches of pink or blue as needed.

We love our warm Alabama summers! Yes, it gets hot — but that just means pool time, popsicles, and plenty of sunshine. The beach is only a couple hours away, and my family takes a beach trip every year. It's one of our favorite traditions, and I can't wait to share sandcastles, seashell hunts, and sunset walks with a child one day.

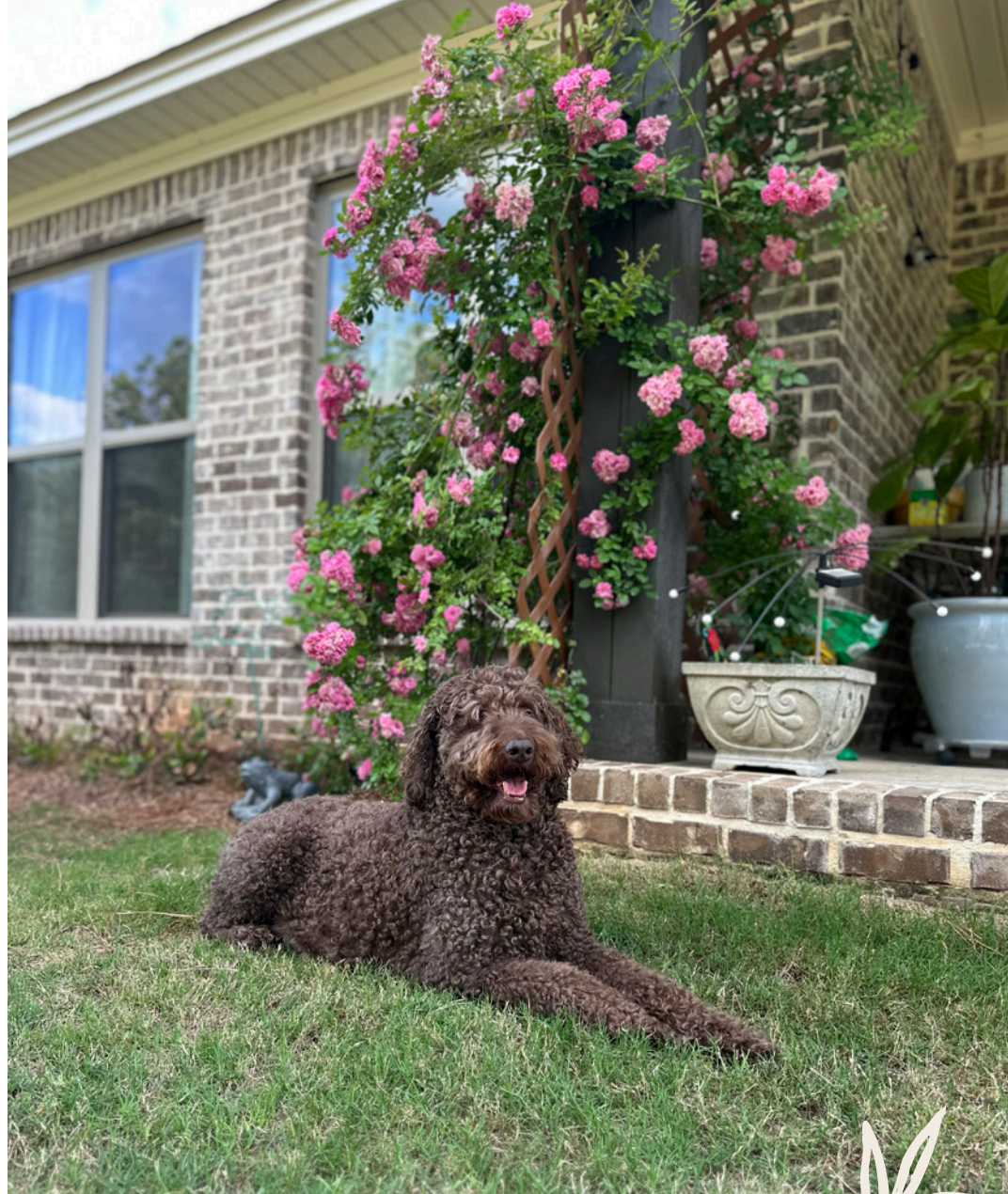
Lottie



Lottie helping babysit



Scenic walks with my cousin and Lottie



## Meet Lottie

Lottie is my 8-year-old doodle who brings joy wherever she goes. She is gentle, affectionate, and truly believes every child she meets is her best friend—and that she's one of the kids. Having had ACL surgery in both legs, she's basically 54 years old in dog years and now prefers being chased in the backyard rather than doing the chasing. Lottie will make a wonderful companion for walks, cuddles, and backyard adventures.





# My Family and Friends

Family is at the center of my life. We're close, faith-centered, and quick to show up for each other. Time together is easy and full of laughter—usually around food, a pool day, or swapping stories.

Kids are a big part of our family. My cousins and their children (who feel like my nieces and nephews) are surrounded by love, and everyone is excited to welcome a new baby.

We take a big family beach trip every year, and I can't wait to include a little one in that tradition.

My brother is already talking about being a hands-on uncle, and is already talking about building a treehouse or dollhouse someday. My friends—both longtime and from work and the community—are also a strong support system. A child joining my family will be surrounded by people who are present, supportive, and truly genuine to welcome them.

# Family Thanksgiving



## Family snapshots



Love attending my cousin's dance recitals



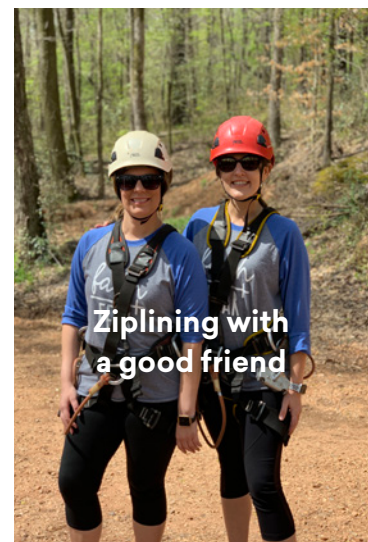
We had a lot of fun at a hot air balloon festival



Maryland visit with a friend



Touring Biltmore with my mom and aunt



Ziplining with a good friend



# What Matters Most

My faith is an important part of who I am and how I live my life. It has helped carry me through both joyful and difficult seasons, and it continues to give me hope and direction. I rely on prayer and the belief that God is present, even in the paths I didn't expect. Adoption is something I've prayed about for years, and I trust the timing will be right.

Faith in my family shows up in everyday and how we support one another. A child in my home will grow up knowing they are loved, supported, and valued. I also want you to know that I respect your beliefs, whatever they may be.

*Most of all,* I want your child to know they were chosen, loved, and prayed for long before they arrived.

# My Promise

*to you  
and God*

A **safe, stable,**  
**happy** home

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**Unconditional love**  
every day

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The **freedom**  
to explore their  
interests, dreams,  
and gifts

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A childhood  
filled with **family**  
**traditions, laughter,**  
and **belonging**

A **strong**  
**foundation** of  
faith, kindness, and  
character

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A big, loving  
extended family  
who will always  
**cheer** them on

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And most  
importantly, the  
**freedom to be**  
**exactly** who God  
created them to be



*Honoring you*





# On Adoption

**One thing that is deeply important to me is openness in adoption.**

I believe a child is best served when they know where they come from, who they look like, and whose love brought them into this world. Your story, your hopes, and your presence—whatever that may look like—are not something I want to hide from a child, but rather something I want to honor.

I want your child to grow up knowing that they were loved twice: once by you, and once by me. I want them to understand that their life began with bravery, care, and a decision made from love.

**Open adoption can look different for every relationship, and I want to build something that feels comfortable, safe, and natural. Whether that's updates, letters, visits, or simply shared understanding. We can walk that path *together*.**

## **WHAT I HOPE FOR**

My hope is that we can create a connection grounded in respect, honesty, and what is best for our child. I believe that when a child grows up with clear answers and an understanding of their roots, it lays a foundation of confidence, identity, and security. I want to offer that, and I want you to have a place in their story.



*With  
gratitude*

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I would be honored to learn about your hopes and dreams—for yourself and for your child. Whatever you choose, I pray you feel supported, valued, and surrounded with grace.

