



*Ashley*

# Hello



Hi, I'm Ashley, and I'm very excited to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you and possibly walk with you on this adoption journey.

I've always dreamed of being a mother, and I've always surrounded myself with children. I'm an aunt and godmother to 10 beautiful children.

I always thought I would meet a guy, get married, and have a baby. But life doesn't always work out as planned, as I'm sure you know. While my road to motherhood has had some twists and turns, I've held onto my faith, trusting that you and I would find each other.

If you decide to choose me to parent your child, I promise to love, protect, and cherish him or her with all my heart. I promise you that I will nurture your child's spirit and help him or her find a special place in this world. I will make sure that your child never forgets the sacrifices you have made and the love that brought him or her into my life. I will be your child's support for the rest of his or her life, and I will love your child unconditionally.



# About Me

I pride myself on my compassion, positiveness and unwavering devotion to my family and friends. I firmly believe life is to be embraced and treasured. There's joy and beauty around every corner if you're patient and keep holding on.

My inner strength, independence, positive outlook and faith in God are the main things that have shaped my life. I am a firm believer in my Gratitude Journal which I write in every morning. It helps me never lose sight of the blessings in my life.

I am so grateful for all that life has presented me with thus far, and I'll be forever grateful to you for the gift of a child.



# Live Life Outdoors

I love the outdoors! I need fresh air and sun as there's nothing better! I love to exercise, jog, kayak, hike, ride bikes, and take long walks with the pups.

I have always been a water baby, no matter what kind of water - river, lake or ocean. I just love being by the water! My mother says the first time I crawled it was on the beach towards the water.

I can't wait to take a child to the beach for the first time to enjoy sand between our toes, building sandcastles, chasing waves, and hunting for seashells.



# My Job

I've been blessed to have an amazing career that I love that has provided me with the means to live comfortably and provide fully for a child on my own.

My job as an engineer and contractor is an absolute joy! I've been blessed to have made a successful career out of my passion.

My job provides a creative environment, allowing my artistic expression and love to be put into the entire process. I love design!

Every day is an adventure and is filled with all sorts of challenges. The reward of seeing my work progress through each stage is deeply gratifying. There is nothing more fulfilling than turning an old, beat up, worn out home back into its original grace and beauty.

The wonderful part of my job is that I work from home and on my own time all throughout the year, which allows me all the time I need to devote to being a mom.



# My Home

You can take the girl out of the South, but you can't take the South out of the girl! My southern values have stayed with me no matter where I've lived - integrity, kindness, honesty and manners. I grew up and currently reside in New Orleans, Louisiana, but I have also lived in Brazil and England.



# My Fur Babies

I LOVE animals and have been a rescue and foster mom to lots of pups and kittens. My home is a happier home because of my fur babies! They just make life all the better!

My godchildren actually send me letters to read to the dogs. They draw me pictures of the pups to put in my room and always ask to talk to them when they call me. I oblige and put the phone next to their ears and we do a lot of FaceTime with the pups. My pups have been to their schools for show-and-tell.



They absolutely adore the pups and I think it's mutual. The kids love being around the pups and fight over who gets to sleep with the dogs when we have slumber parties. We take them to the dog parks, dress them up in silly outfits, and go on long walks on the beach.

One of the pups' favorite things is the Krewe of Barkus parade. It's a dog parade in New Orleans. We dress the dogs in costumes and decorate a doggie float to march in the parade through the French Quarter, and we throw dog bones to the doggie crowd. It's a blast for the pups and the kids!

At our restaurant we host charity events to help local shelters and the animals who need support. I also do rescue work for Labs4rescue, helping support and re-home labs around the country. It is one of my greatest passions.

## Sadie



Sadie the Lady is my sweet old girl. She is a yellow lab and has been my best friend for 15 years. She has been by side through it all. She loves me like no one in this world. She is a loving soul.

She is my greeter and welcomes everyone with her wagging tail and big smile. She loves to go on walks with my godchildren and sits in their laps. I sometimes wonder if she thinks she is a person. She is also my most spirited pup. In her younger days she gave me a run for my money! Oh, the stories we have together!



## Sophia

Sophia is my good girl. She aims to please. She is a gentle giant. She loves to listen, which is somewhat strange for a lab. At times, her eyes say, "All I want to do is love you."

She just loves kids. She will snuggle up next to them on the sofa and take naps. She will swim with my godchildren in the water and play with them in the sand. She likes to put her nose in everything they are doing.

## Maximus

Maximus is our rescue. He is a small fella but full of personality. He wants to be just like Sophia. He follows her around like a little mini me. He just learned how to swim and is learning his manners from Sadie.

He is silly and clumsy as all puppies are but always brings a smile and laugh with his goofiness.



## and Zulu!



Zulu found us because he loved the dogs. In fact, he thinks he is a dog! He walks on a leash and paws at the door to go out and play with the pups. He is one of a kind! He is so curious. Zulu will walk up to any dogs and the dogs get so confused because they can't believe a cat wants to be their friend!

He loves car rides and to put his little head out the window and feel the breeze. He learned all he knows from his pup siblings. He does not know how to be a cat.

# Life in the South

Growing up in New Orleans is a magical experience as the city has a life of its own with its deep cultural roots. My family has a long history here that is centered around French cuisine. My great-grandfather, Poppie, brought recipes and traditions from his homeland of France and founded a restaurant in New Orleans 114 years ago. The restaurant is still just as loved today.

The idea that family life is centered around cooking was instilled in me from the time I can remember. I have the fondest memories of helping my grandmother bake her special cookies for our Sunday dinners, and getting on my little bicycle and delivering extra batches to friends and neighbors. Other times I would wake up bright and early to go with Pops to get to the restaurant to accept food deliveries. He taught me how to check the produce and do the smell test on the local seafood. I would follow him around as he went through the checklist of the morning routine to ensure the restaurant was ready to welcome its line of waiting patrons. Just before the doors opened, he and I would sit down for our taste test and quality check, but to me it was just lunch with my grandfather after a hard day's work.

Then I was off to be a busy bee with my grandmother, whether we were building a doll house together, going to the park, doing pottery or making porcelain dolls. Those days instilled in me the value of family, hard work and dedication. My grandfather and grandmother taught me to be kind to others, to be giving, and to appreciate how blessed I am, values I want to pass along to a child.

From my father's side, I inherited the gift of music. I remember bopping to my grandmother and aunt playing the piano, and thinking my banging of the keys sounded just as whimsical as theirs did. As soon as I was able to I was into piano lessons. I wanted to be just like Grams and Aunt Barbara. I was quite inquisitive and eager to learn and be a part of new things. For my birthday, I will never forget a knock at the door and the delivery of my Grandmother's Baby Grand Piano. I was so moved by this gift as it represented her and all the special memories we had surrounding this piano. Now I look forward to creating special and dear memories with a child.







# Family Life

The holiday season is a magical time of year in my family. Thanksgiving is filled with traditions. I've taken over the tradition of hosting Thanksgiving dinner which means cooking for loads of people every year. It's insane and I love every minute of it. I cook many of my grandfather's French creole Louisiana recipes from his family restaurant, crabmeat maison, shrimp remoulade, seafood stuffed miltons and all the traditional fixins!

My dad and I make Okra gumbo every Christmas Eve, a tradition I took over from my Grandmother, Mere. Each family member gets to open one gift and then we all head out to Midnight Mass.

On Christmas Day my mother hosts lunch, we both cook recipes that have been in our family for generations. We open our hearts and home to those who are not as fortunate as us and it is the very best day of the year.

While the food is delicious and the festivities are fun, we're very mindful to instill in the kids that holidays are a time to reflect on our blessings and good fortune. I look forward and am delighted to share these traditions with my little one to come.



A big part of New Orleans is celebrations. We celebrate anything and everything. There is a party or festival almost every weekend. I love to host my family and friends and have get-togethers on a whim. Sundays are my favorite, just a quieter day of the week. During football season you will find a black and gold OR purple and gold-themed party with everyone gathered near the TV to watch our favorite LSU or Saints teams. Football in the South is a big part of life. We live for our football teams! I can't say I know all the rules of the game, but I can say I have fun cheering and thinking I know!

I share this love of sports with my dad and brother. My dad was always my coach for any sports I played. He was my biggest cheerleader on the sidelines, always rooting me on and instilling the confidence I needed. I didn't need to be the best, just do my best. We would laugh at the blunders and cheer at the wins. He would sometimes pull me aside and give me just the pep talk I needed. It always made me feel so loved to have him on those sidelines smiling at me and rooting me on!

Festivals, oh how I love our local festivals! Just like the parties, there is a festival for everything in New Orleans: Strawberry fest, jazz fest, poboyn fest, oyster fest; you name it and there is a celebration fest for people of the community to gather together. The food, the music, the soul of the people, and it's just down right fun for all. There are art stands, food stands and music to enjoy. It is good, outdoor family fun.

I think as a child my family and cousins hit every fest in the city and then some. We would run around and just be silly, dancing and being together. Life was simple, and that's the kind of childhood I hope to share with a child. The simplicity of just being together with family and enjoying all the city has to offer. There is not a stranger to be found in New Orleans, and everyone is welcoming and instantly a friend. It's an eccentric city and a city of no judgement. All are welcome, and you can just be who you are and be celebrated for that!



WHEN WE HAVE EACH OTHER

we have everything



# Beach Time



My family has a beach cottage on the Gulf Coast. We spend every Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day there together. We boat, ski, tube, kayak, paddle board and swim. It's a summer tradition and I'm excited for next summer so I can share it with the newest addition to our family!





THIS IS OUR PLACE  
*happy*



# Travel

My parents instilled in me a love of travel and exploring new places. I can remember all of our travel adventures. We would have planned vacations and spontaneous vacations. Thinking back on it, it is those unplanned trips that have the best memories. We took an RV trip up the East Coast to Canada and stopped all along the way in different small cities. The best part of the RV trip was spending time outdoors. We went rafting, hiking, kayaking, bike riding, horseback riding and much more.

My first international trip was with my grandmother and cousin to London. That was it for me; I was hooked! I just knew there was so much to see in this world, and I wanted to see it all. I had a curiosity to experience the cultures and traditions of the people of the world. I always ask the locals what they love and what I should do and see, and they always steer me in the right direction. It's so exciting to learn the ways of other communities. I always take away value from my trips that I bring home and try to incorporate into my life. Travel also gives me a deeper appreciation of how blessed we are in this country.



My best friend from kindergarten and mother of my godson, Peyton, is a flight attendant and has the same love of travel. She and her son are my travel buddies. We have made so many wonderful memories travelling and being silly on our adventures. Peyton has been our side kick from just a couple months old. We pack him up and off we go with him on our backs or in the stroller. He's always ready for our next journey. Oh, the things we have seen and done! I can't wait to have a child to share in our travel adventures.



Peyton's picture of us  
as taking the baby on  
flight to New York!

Peyton is ready to travel with a new friend!



# Kids in my life

For Christmas break, I loaded up the car with my godchildren and we all headed to Houston for a winter wonderland Texas express! We made a visit to the festival of lights show at Moody Gardens, stopped at the NASA Houston Space Center for some space and discovery fun, took a Polar Express train ride, and went ice skating. Fun times for all with lasting memories.



New Orleans has so many kid-friendly activities that we never fall short of fun things to do. In the fall, we like to go to the Audubon Zoo for the Boo at the Zoo kids' Halloween event. The kids dress in their costumes and trick-or-treat with the animals. It's so interesting to be up close and interactive with the animals. We have such fun and get an education on different species of exotic zoo animals.



Every first Saturday of the month, Home Depot offers do-it-yourself days for kids. The kids love to go and learn how to build things like their Aunt Ashley does in restoring old homes. My future little helpers!! We have made so many arts and crafts, bird houses, kaleidoscopes, wooden boats and so much more.



We love to bake when we have slumber parties. We make cupcakes, brownies, or s'mores, but the fun part comes in the decorating. I'm not sure which gets more decorating icing, the cake or the people, but it's a fun mess for sure.

The kids and I love to pack a picnic lunch and to go to the Blue Angel's air show and watch the amazing tricks and special effects the planes can do! After we leave, all of them talk about wanting to grow up and be airplane pilots.

Some other fun things the godchildren and I have done are a swamp tour in an air boat, putt putt at the park, paddle boating, go-cart riding, Mardi Gras parades, fishing, the Wooden Boat Festival, scooter riding, and so much more. We love our adventures, and we are never short of fun things to do.





# Parenting

I have always wanted to be a mother. Everyone who knows me knows that I love kids of all ages and was pretty much born to be a mother. I am happiest around kids.

I knew something was missing from my life as I was not fulfilled, and it didn't take much soul-searching to know that it was a family. Once my heart was set on having children, I just knew it was the only choice for me. I have so much love to give, and I want to experience the ultimate miracle of nurturing and supporting a child's life.

I believe wholeheartedly that we are all God's creation and our differences are to be embraced. I live in a community that celebrates and accepts diversity. The child I adopt, regardless of race or gender, will be raised in a supportive environment. Cultural diversity is enriching for everyone, particularly children. I promise to do everything possible to lead and support your child in all of his or her desires, including exposure to the people and opportunities that will enrich your child's life and aide in their growth and experiences.





I believe in unconditional love, security, patience, kindness, stability and laughter.

I believe that a strong spiritual foundation is one of the most important cornerstones of life. My faith has been a bedrock during difficult times and a joy during celebrations. Whether it be Christmas Eve service or the christening of a newborn, faith has brought immense joy, connection and strength to my family and it will continue to do so for my child.

I believe in independence. An important lesson my mom taught me is that "behind every successful woman is herself." As much as I am made whole by my family and friends, I am equally independent. I am strong. I am determined. I am hardworking. I have built a life for myself that is stable, comfortable, and happy.

I'm so excited to be at the point where I am prepared and able to give my love and guidance to a child. I was raised by strong role models who guided me to make good choices. I've always wanted to provide a similar life for my children just as my parents provided for me.

I believe stability and structure is paramount for a child's well-being and development. I will provide him or her with a sense of security so that he or she has the freedom to thrive, knowing there is a strong, stable foundation at home. It is also so important that young people know the value of their voice and speak it.





Thank  
You



I'm grateful for your open heart and generous spirit that have enabled you to consider me as a possible mother to your child. If you put your trust and faith in me, I will be the best mother I can be.

I made the decision to adopt because I know my calling is motherhood. I promise to provide for your child not only in material ways, but by nurturing his or her spirit with love, respect, and happiness.

You are searching for a wonderful home for your baby, and I'm looking to share my heart and life with a child. I hope we are the perfect match.

Sending strength and peace as you continue your journey. Thank you for your consideration.