



## WE ARE THE ENGEN FAMILY

It's a strange feeling writing to someone that we don't know but hope to come to know soon. As we are sitting here, trying to find the right words to start with, I can only imagine how you are feeling. Without getting overly sappy or heavy, just know that we pray for you daily and hope to get to know you soon; for a real hug, a real encouraging word and a real face to put on the person we've been praying for. While we can't wait to get to know you and ask you questions, we thought the best way for you to get to know us was through our letter to you.

# ABOUT US

Mark and I met playing volleyball in a little town tournament in South Dakota in July of 2012. When we started dating, I couldn't believe what opposites we were. Those differences couldn't stop us though...we were married in November of 2013.

Mark is thoughtful, logical, the voice of reason and someone who likes to really think through things. I, on the other hand, am impulsive, spur of the moment, and when I make up my mind to do something, I want to do it now! Thinking back on how God paired us, you would think that it would be a recipe for disaster. But it couldn't have been a more perfect match. He has slowed down my impulsiveness with a balance of big picture ideas. I have loosened up Mark's slow to act timing by turning him more spur of the moment (although it feels a little more spur of .... take your time!)

Accepting our differences and not trying to change the other person has allowed us to be successful in our careers and to open businesses that God has challenged us and changed us with. Even though we have been fortunate to have kids of our own, we have always felt led to adopt and to pursue adoption. As we evaluate our life goals and what we want to accomplish, we want nothing more than to have a large family, with lots of kids. I never want the sounds of little feet, laughter, and yes, even the sounds of toys getting dumped on the ground after I just cleaned, to end.



EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE KIDS OF OUR OWN, WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT LED TO ADOPT AND TO PURSUE ADOPTION. ❤️



## FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mark grew up the oldest in a family of 5. His parent's were dedicated to teaching their kids two things; to have a good work ethic and to love the Lord. They were successful in their parenting as they have raised 5 wonderful kids who have gone on to grow their own families.

We have been blessed to have such a supportive family that looks forward to welcoming a new baby and to love him/her as their own. When we announced we were adopting, it was just as exciting to them as if we were to announce we were expecting. That gives us excitement for the future knowing that we can rely on family to help support us through not only the sleepless nights and sickness, but also on the holidays and family get togethers. The good and the bad, they are here.





Kayce is the middle daughter of 3. She grew up in a household that valued caring for animals and loving God. Growing up was an adventure, literally. Kayce's parents rodeoed and so much of their childhood involved family trips to rodeos! Kayce cherishes these memories and her childhood because it was spent as a family doing things that they were passionate about.

Kayce's family is very supportive of adding a new baby to the family! She is surrounded by brothers that love Audria and Isaac like their own and treat them as such. They are warm and compassionate and genuinely care about the kids interests and activities!



Our support system is second to none. Out of our group, several have adopted and we have leaned on them heavily to help us navigate the process. We are blessed to have a group, many of those which we have known for 10+ years, who have the same beliefs as ours; kids are a blessing. They love God and often challenge us in our daily walk with Him and encourage us when we are struggling. They are always a phone call away for prayers that we desperately need or a shoulder to lean on. We raise our kids in a community of believers that will support them and cheer them on as they grow.





## ABOUT KAYCE

SMILEY

GENUINE

LOVING MOTHER

ORGANIZED



Kayce and I met playing volleyball in 2012. What instantly attracted me to her was not just her athletic ability, but the fact that she literally smiled at everything and everyone. Not just a fake smile, but a genuine, want to get to know you smile. I had to meet her.

I added her on Facebook the day after the tournament and the rest is history.

What I love most about Kayce is just who she is at her core. She loves being a mom and she tries hard every single day to be her best for her kids and her family. Knowing that she had big dreams and goals for her life rodeoing, its been nothing short of amazing seeing her happily lay those dreams aside for our kids. She perfected homeschooling and always makes sure our kids as well rounded. She gets the kids outside daily, taking care of their responsibilities, making sure they are feeling valued in their family roles, and teaching them how to read and trace numbers. She loves God and pursues Him daily. She loves to travel and explore the outdoors. She's a fun mom!

Her ability to give to those in need or organize a way to give to those in need is beautiful.



PLAYFUL

PATIENT

HARD WORKER

LEADER

## ABOUT MARK

Mark is the embodiment of the most fun human I know. He loves God, me, and his kids. There is hardly a time that he ever turns down the offer to play with the kids or push them on the swing.

To know Mark is to know him as a few things. One, he is the most patient man on the planet. There has never been a time that I have called to have him help me with something and he hasn't dropped everything to help. Never an annoyed look, never an annoyed word, just a pure servant's heart. Two, he works hard for our family on a daily basis to make sure that we have food, clothing, and four walls. He has prepared us for our future, but has also prepared for us to go on a random adventure to visit family in Texas or go to DisneyWorld. Three, Mark is a leader. He mentors college kids at our church, participates in small group, leads a disciple group, and has recently been promoted to a leadership role in his job.

With all the time that he devotes to people outside of his family, he makes sure that he is more devoted in his time to his family. He is involved with everything we do on a daily basis and genuinely cares about our days. If I am having a rough day, he makes sure I have some time alone outside with my horses, just going for a ride.

I don't know how I can accurately sum up the kind of human he is that won't sound corny, but I know that men like him are few and far between. He loves us and devotes his time to make sure we are protected and cared for. We love him beyond words.





# AUDRIA AGE 7

**FAVORITE THING TO DO OUTSIDE:**

Ride my horses, build forts

**FAVORITE FOOD:**

Pancakes and Pizza

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

Toy Story 3

**FAVORITE THING TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

Color, dance, and go on trips

**FAVORITE TOY:**

Barbies and Breyer Horses

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT WITH A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER?**

Teaching him/her new dance moves and how to ride horses

# ISAAC AGE 5

**FAVORITE THING TO DO OUTSIDE:**

Play with tractors or try new sports. I like to drive my Gator

**FAVORITE FOOD:**

Cereal

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

Charlotte's Web

**FAVORITE THING TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

Go to Florida

**FAVORITE TOY:**

Magnatiles

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT WITH A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER?**

Teaching him/her new things



## A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS...

### | KAYCE |

**FAVORITE THING TO DO OUTSIDE:**

Ride horses and take care of the animals

**FAVORITE FOOD:**

Pasta or Prime Rib

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

Good TV show like The Office or New Girl

**FAVORITE THING TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

Travel and explore new things with them and going to Church!

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT WITH A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER?**

I'm so excited to have another baby to love on and watch grow up. Seeing a baby smile or hearing them laugh for the first time never will get old.

### | MARK |

**FAVORITE THING TO DO OUTSIDE:**

Projects and push the kids on the swings!

**FAVORITE FOOD:**

Steak

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

Gladiator

**FAVORITE THING TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

Go on our yearly adventure to the Florida beach to soak up the sunshine and watch the kids play in the Ocean

**WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT WITH A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER?**

Having a new family member to teach new things and to do love.





# INTERESTS

One of the most important things to us is our health, so we love to participate in our local Crossfit gym. We have an amazing cast of friends that also coach and attend, so every time we go, it's like a party! Kayce also coaches there two times a week. Another favorite thing for us to do together is play volleyball!! We are on two different city league teams that meet once a week. Animals are a big part of our life, so many adventures for us are found on the road traveling to different rodeos. Our favorites to see this past year have been the Badlands, an Eagle Sanctuary, and many ice cream shops across the Midwest.





## THANK YOU!

We want you to know what you can expect from us as we hopefully go forward. First, I promise you that we pray for you and your baby daily, and we have a group of friends that do the same. If we are fortunate enough to get to know you through this process, know that that baby will be so loved. We will raise them with care, kindness, grace, discipline and patience. We will raise them to know God and be fully surrounded by people that will help us to raise them to know God. We will raise them to want to learn and to seek adventure, knowing that we are always here to support and help them to accomplish life goals. We want them to be all that God has called them to be.

Thank you for considering us. With love

**THE ENGEN FAMILY**