

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and a young child with curly hair are sitting on a grassy lawn. The woman is wearing a blue patterned dress and is smiling. The child is wearing a pink and white striped shirt and is also smiling. A German Shepherd dog is lying down next to them, looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred forest scene with sunlight filtering through the trees.

# Julie & Ayla

A family brought  
together by Adoption

...and our dog O'Bryan, our tortoises, chickens, cows,  
Popcorn our Pony and our village!



# Hello!

My name is **Julie**  
I live in Florida with  
my daughter **Ayla**.



ALL SMILES!

## Thank you

Having already started my family through adoption, I think your decision is a generous and courageous act of love. If you choose me, I promise you I will provide a home full of love for your child.

In this family, your child would have a lifetime of sibling support from a sister who shares the bond of adoption.

My daughter Ayla is biracial, and I try and honor her heritage by exposing her to biracial books, movies and a diverse group of friends. There is so much more to explore as she gets older, and it's something I take very seriously.

CAMPING  
IN OUR  
BACKYARD



Thank you for considering me as an adoptive  
parent for your child. I feel it must take  
incredible courage and selflessness.

Similarly, your child will be raised with an understanding of their roots and culture. I will do my best to provide a life filled with diversity and I will honor your child's history. They will always know where they came from and who they are. If you choose me, I look forward to learning about your heritage and making that a part of your child's life, as I do Ayla's.

I wish you strength and I promise your child will know that that your decision was made because of your unconditional love. I never got to meet Ayla's mother, but I really hoped to. I very much would like to have whatever relationship you feel comfortable with. I look forward to honoring you by sharing the love and dreams you have for your child's life.



WITH  
OUR DOG  
O'BRYAN

## A FEW FAVORITES



### Animal

**JULIE** Dogs, tortoises,  
panthers

**AYLA** Dogs, cows, horses,  
hyenas

### Hobby

**JULIE** Gardening

**AYLA** Buggy rides  
in the woods

### Children's Book

**JULIE** The Lost Little Bird

**AYLA** Dragons Love Tacos

### Movie

**JULIE** Bewitched

**AYLA** Jungle Book

### Game

**JULIE** Anything Ayla likes

**AYLA** Chutes and Ladders

### Dessert

**JULIE** Lava Cake

**AYLA** Ice Cream

# Our Story

Ayla & I are a family brought  
together by **adoption.**

**I make sure to honor Ayla's adoption story.** She knows how courageous her birth mother is, and I read often her stories about adoption and talk to her about her own adoption story. Recently I read Ayla the book "Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born". She was fascinated to listen to a birth and adoption story and talk about how it related to her own story.

**I spend lots of time outdoors.** Florida has a well-deserved reputation as a paradise and I make the most of it. I am teaching Ayla all about nature and wildlife. We recently got a tent and now often sleep out in the backyard to listen to the owls at night. Last week, we heard a Great Horned Owl for the first time! We knew just what it was from our books. We were so excited!

**Our family is minutes away and we get together at least once a week.** Just this past weekend, we decided on Friday afternoon to go camping for the weekend. A few hours later we were having a campfire in the woods! The kids enjoyed the s'mores around the campfire! Your child will grow up surrounded by a loving family.



READING TO AYLA



### Food

**JULIE** Anything with pasta

**AYLA** Strawberries

### Holiday

**BOTH** Christmas

### Ice Cream

**JULIE** Whatever I make in  
our Ice Cream maker!

**AYLA** Chocolate with M&M's

### Season

**BOTH** Summer

### Superhero

**JULIE** Wonder Woman

**AYLA** All Paw Patrol





# A Closer Look

at **life** with me



WORKING!

I AM THANKFUL TO BE ABLE TO DO MOST OF MY WORK FROM HOME!

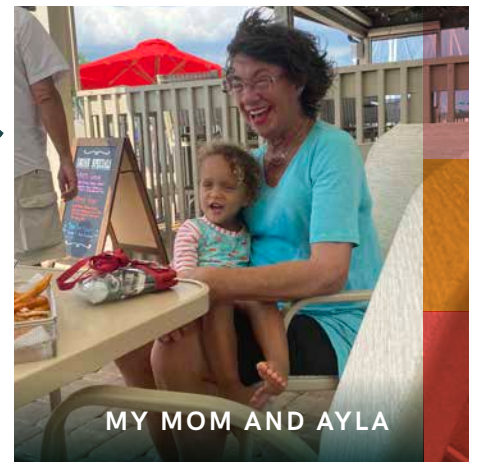
**I mostly work from home and set my own schedule.** Sometimes I visit some of the most beautiful, wild and natural places in Florida. Last summer I was asked to lead a group of high school students around the state to teach them about ecology. I even convinced one of them to join me in exploring the wetlands! He was afraid at first, but soon was off exploring! **Your child will get to travel with me and see parts of Florida that few people get to see.**

**I run my own business.**

**My job is to protect wildlife and natural areas.**

**My mom and dad are great babysitters!**

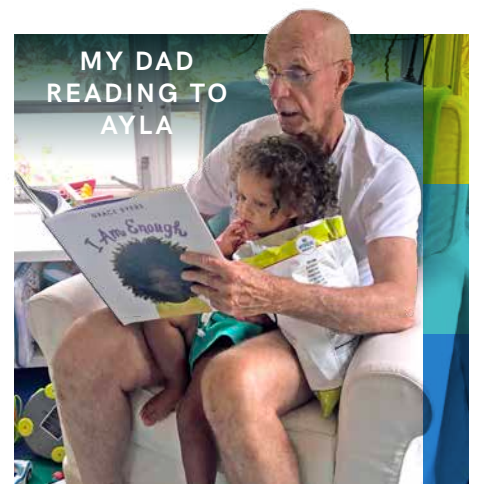
**Your child will primarily be taken care of by me, but my mom and dad will be available when I need them to care for your child.** As a former nurse and a retired lawyer who was a medic in the army, they love nothing more than a chance to relax with the next generation. Your child will have two loving grandparents to care for them.



MY MOM AND AYLA



**Everyday we take O'Bryan on a walk around the neighborhood.** We like to look for different birds (and O'Bryan likes to chase squirrels). Last week we discovered a bald eagle's nest with two baby eagles! Now we go visit the nest every afternoon to check on the baby eagles. Our afternoon walks are a daily ritual and a relaxing way to wind down the day.



MY DAD  
READING TO  
AYLA



# Meet Ayla

Your child will have  
a big sister.

I shared a room with my little sister growing up and we both have great memories of me keeping her up under the covers at night, telling her stories. I even taught her to read that way! We are super close to this day. Your child will share that same bond with Ayla and they will have an even stronger connection through the bond of adoption.

Ayla decided she loves to fish. This past Christmas my close friend Tom got Ayla her first fishing pole. They went right down to the pond to try out the new pole, but O'Bryan chased the fish away! Tom and Ayla now go fishing almost every week. Your child will grow up tremendous support system to help nurture their interests.



AYLA CRUISIN' AROUND



## AYLA LOVES TO RIDE HORSES!



AYLA AT THE RODEO

She started learning on Popcorn the Pony but has now graduated to bigger horses. Ayla recently said she wanted to be in rodeos, so now I take her to the rodeo every month. She absolutely loves it and is so proud to ride out with everyone shouting her name! **Your child will grow up with a parent who encourages and supports their passions as they grow.**

## AYLA FISHING WITH TOM



WE LOVE BEING OUTSIDE



## This or That?

### Swimming or Biking?

**JULIE** Swimming  
but also love  
to bike

**AYLA** Swimming  
but loves to ride  
on back of  
grandpa's and  
mom's bike

### Sweet or Salty?

**JULIE** Salty  
**AYLA** Sweet

### Movie or Book?

**BOTH** Book

### Beach or Mountain?

**BOTH** Beach



# Our Home



ENJOYING ALL THAT FLORIDA HAS TO OFFER!

My backyard is my favorite part of our home because I love to garden and plant flowers.

Recently I decided we needed a vegetable garden, so now we have fresh salad every night! I mainly grow just lettuce because it's the easiest. We enjoy it, especially if the tortoises don't eat it first!



THE PLACE WE CALL HOME!

We have wonderful supportive neighbors who are friends.

This year Ayla was really excited about Christmas lights and I decided to put them up in October! The neighbors thought it was

funny, but the next weekend we weren't the only ones with our lights up; all of our surrounding neighbors had joined in!

A three minute walk down the street is a beautiful little secret park on the water. It's a perfect place to swim. Ayla and O'Bryan love to jump in at any given moment. Recently, we stopped by to look for crabs and O'Bryan and Ayla jumped in to try and catch them! No one caught any and we got wet, but it was well worth it for all of the fun we had! Your child will grow up in a neighborhood where there are always adventures to be had!







WE LIVE IN PARADISE



## A beautiful beach is only 5 minutes away by bike!

Several days a week me, Ayla and O'Bryan walk down to the beach early in the morning to play in the waves. I

recently taught Ayla to look for sharks teeth, now our house is full of bowls of them! Ayla has learned that even though it can be difficult to find the teeth, it pays off in the end if you take your time and try!

My best friend Heather lives just down the street and she is always doing creative projects with Ayla.



AYLA WITH HEATHER ON HALLOWEEN

She drops by with new arts and crafts projects at least once a week to do with us. She even made her pumpkin costume this Halloween! **Your child will have wonderful caregivers in their life who are always watching out for them!**

## I live in an area with excellent schools.

The elementary school your child will go to is a mile away so we can even bike there. My friend Heather is the school

art teacher and she will be there when your child goes to school. It's also where my siblings went to school. I remember riding my bike with them when I was little, dropping them off before I peddled down to my own school.

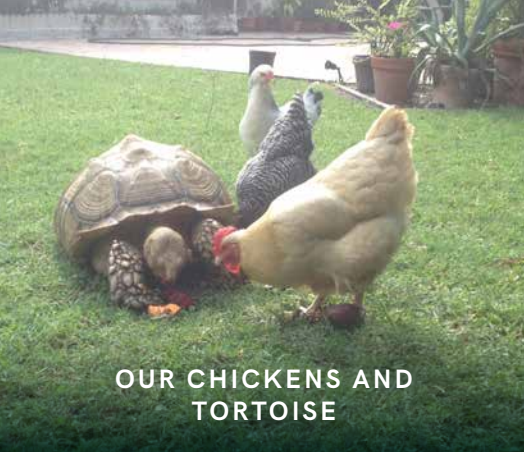


WE LOVE WHERE WE LIVE!



ART CLASS!

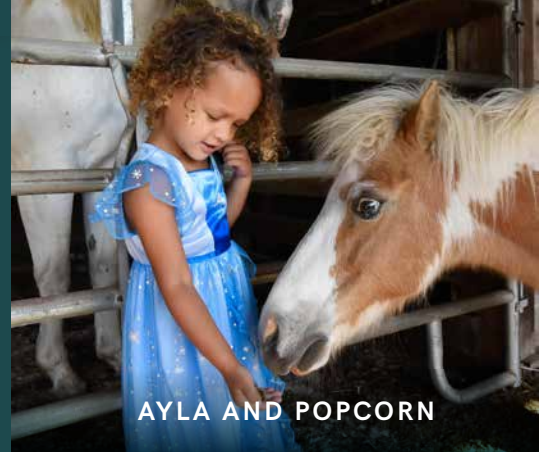




OUR CHICKENS AND TORTOISE

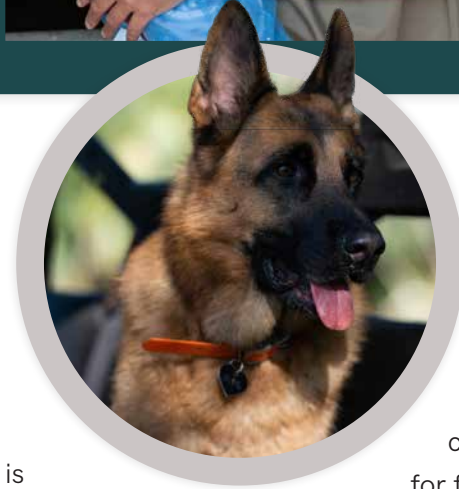


AYLA AND POPCORN



# I love animals!

**O'Bryan is our gentle rescue German Shepherd.** Last year I found out about a German Shepherd that had been abandoned. We went just to "see him" but as soon as we saw him he ran up to us and laid down next to us, I knew he was our dog. He is part of the family and is by our side wherever we go. He loves all kids and outside adventures.



**I've always had animals. From dogs to cats, chickens to goats, squirrels, rabbits, horses and even tortoises!**

**We have backyard chickens and we always have fresh eggs to eat and share with the neighbors.** Sometimes the chickens compete with our pet tortoises for food! Last week I put out a bunch of strawberries and the chickens kept jumping on top of the tortoises.

## O'Bryan is obsessed with water!

Last week my mom tried to water the plants with Ayla, but Obryan kept trying to catch the water out of the hose! He ended up eating holes in the hose but it was worth it to see him so happy.



FRESH EGGS!



TORTOISE RIDES



HANGING OUT WITH THE CHICKENS AND TORTOISE





TOBIAS CAME INSIDE

**I have large and gentle rescue tortoises.** Tobias, Tabitha and Gina were all rescued after people abandoned them when they got too big. I was asked if I could take them in. Recently I left the back door open and Tobias wandered in, looking for a snack. Ayla managed to ride him right out the back door! Your child will live in a house full of life to discover.

**About a year and half ago I got Ayla Popcorn the Pony. Popcorn is miniature, and very gentle with kids.** Ayla and Popcorn bonded immediately. Soon after we got Popcorn, my friends kids were coming over to learn to ride on a gentle and tiny pony! Popcorn is even trained to pull a cart. Your child will grow up learning how to care for animals.



AYLA AND POPCORN

# The Ranch

**We spend a lot of our free time at a cattle ranch outside of town. "Uncle Jim", the rancher, is my great friend and Ayla's Godfather.**



LEARNING ABOUT THE COWS



**WE HAVE A CABIN WHERE WE STAY AT THE RANCH**



**I have get togethers there with friends about twice a month.**

Recently, we were on a swamp buggy ride and I jumped out and caught a turtle as he was swimming in the creek! Adults and kids alike were thrilled to see the turtle! Your child will grow up spending time having fun in the outdoors!

Jim is teaching us all about cows, horses and how to care for the land. Ayla and I spend a few days a week at the ranch, checking on the cows and making sure the calves are all healthy. **Your child will grow up learning how to take care of the land and how to be responsible and care for animals.**

We love the wildlife at the ranch. deer, wild turkeys, birds and sometimes the occasional bear all roaming freely. Recently we discovered a newborn baby deer! We were in awe and felt so blessed to see it. **Your child will grow up spending time in the woods, learning all about wild Florida, and the creatures that live here.**



A BUGGY RIDE



# My Loved Ones

Meet my **family**



BOATING!



I LOVE HAVING MY FAMILY VISIT THE RANCH!

**If you choose me, in addition to a big sister, your child would have 2 grandparents, 8 aunts and uncles, 12 cousins and a very devoted Godfather.**

## Our family is always around.

My niece Charleigh and my nephew Jake are both in high school and they spend a lot of time with us. Last week I came home to find my surfboard and kayak missing. I was so confused until Charleigh and Jake showed up later that day with their friends to return them soaking wet! They had a great time in the waves!

## Everyone in the family loves the water, whether

**freshwater lakes or the ocean.** We spend a lot of time on the water. My brother Andrew took Ayla and her cousin Mia out on the boat the other day; the girls were so excited to come back and tell me they saw dolphins and manatees! Your child will grow up with many fun experiences on the water!

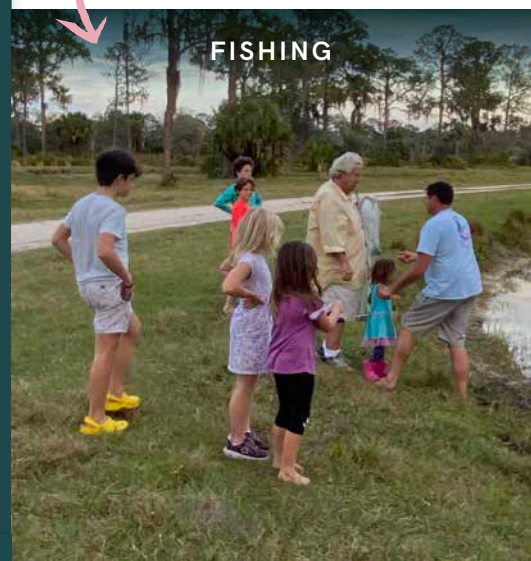
**We love to fish.** Recently we had friends out to the ranch to bring the kids fishing. My brother Andrew tried to teach the kids how to use the net. O'Bryan tried to catch the little fish as we threw them back in, but he wasn't successful. Not many fish were caught but we all had a fun time!



WE LOVE TO KAYAK



AYLA AND HER GODFATHER



FISHING



## FAMILY TRADITIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME!



### On Easter we always have an Easter egg hunt for the kids.

Last Easter, the kids got together to color some eggs and we hid the eggs a little too well! When the younger kids had trouble finding them, my nephew Jake walked around patiently and helped them find them all! Your child will always have a fun, caring and present family to help them when needed. I look forward to learning some of your family traditions to include in our gatherings for your child.



EASTER  
WITH  
FAMILY

### On holidays we all get together at the ranch.

One of our favorite things is to go on family buggy rides through the woods! Last Easter my nephew Dillon drove and got everyone stuck in the mud! Luckily we were able to dig out without too much trouble!



FAMILY BUGGY RIDE!



AYLA WITH TOM



AYLA WITH HER  
COUSIN CHARLEIGH



COOKING WITH MY MOM!

### We get together for family meals once a week.

My mom and I take turns cooking. Recently we made brownies for the kids but my mom and I ate them all! Your child will grow up surrounded by a close and loving family.



# Thank you!

**Words cannot express how thankful I am to you for considering me as the adoptive parent of your child.**

If you choose me, your child will know that your decision was an act of tremendous courage and unconditional love. You will always be deeply respected in my home.

I am open to the idea of meeting the right man and getting married one day, but so far that hasn't happened. For me, children will always be my priority. I am self-sufficient and am blessed to have an incredible network of family and friends that surround us with love and support.



I deeply respect your selfless decision and cannot begin to imagine how emotional this must be for you. I want to have a level of openness that you are comfortable with. Maintaining contact throughout

your child's life, within your comfort level, is a priority for me. I am so grateful for the chance you are giving me, and I hope to hear from you soon.