



Mark and Kelly



Every family has a
story,
WELCOME to ours



We met in college and after becoming college sweethearts we got married in 2005. We both grew up in Iowa and have created our home in Minnesota after we graduated from Iowa State University. Our family has had several pets over the years and currently we have two shelties. Our fertility issues have changed our plans of growing our family naturally. This has strengthened our relationship over the years building a firm foundation for whatever our future holds. We are looking forward to being blessed by the addition of a child through an open adoption.

We share many passions including playing with our dogs, fishing, bird watching from our deck, playing Farkle or doing a puzzle together, looking for Star Wars or animal related antiques, and watching any type of movie. Our favorites are action, thriller or Marvel movies. We look forward to sharing these passions with our children. We want to help them explore new things and enjoy the lives they have been blessed with.

**WE PROMISE TO PROVIDE A CIRCLE OF LOVE,
SECURITY OF A HOME, GREAT EDUCATION, & FUN
FAMILY TIME WITH ADVENTUROUS VACATIONS.
WE WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE LOVE WE ARE
BLESSED TO SHARE WITH EVERY FAMILY MEMBER.**

Mark's Story



Mark enjoys his first day of school pics just like the kids



-Mark started his career as an elementary teacher and has been with the same school since 2008. The first ten years he taught preschool and then changed to a middle school teacher since 2018. He also has a masters in Montessori education.

-He has a passion for Science, Robotics, computer coding and enjoys tutoring students in many levels of mathematics

-He is one of the directors of Camp Invention during the summers and encourages kids to explore their imaginations with inventing unique projects

BACK to SCHOOL!



-Mark has completed 47 races including the Tough Mudder, the Ragnar race and two marathons

-He looks forward to spending time with family fishing, golfing, or playing computer games online with his brothers

-He collects Vikings helmets, antique Star Wars or GI Joe figurines, Marvel toys and Star Wars Legos



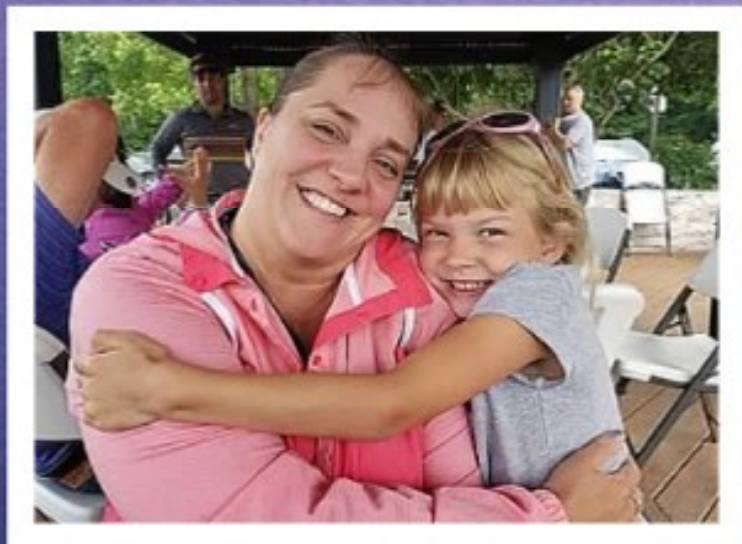
Mark



-Kelly always wanted to be a veterinarian since she was a small child. With the support of her family, lots of dedication and hard work she fulfilled this dream in 2007. She has been working as a small animal vet at the same clinic for 14yrs caring for pets every day.



-She has helped train many technicians, doctors and coached veterinary students throughout the years. She has done pre-vet presentations at Mark's school and the Minnesota Children's Museum educating young students about veterinary care and how to take care of their own family pets.



Kelly's Story

Kelly



Kelly is only 5 ft tall but all her nieces and nephews look up to her as a role model



Occasionally she can claim the biggest fish but usually catches (or snags!) the smallest fish prize



-Kelly has a passion for photography especially while on vacations or taking animal and flower pictures. She loves to create scrapbooks of our adventures for keepsakes

-She enjoys celebrating holidays and birthdays with extended family.

-She enjoys cuddling on the couch with our two dogs and watching a good movie or tv series

-She can often be found getting lost reading a good mystery, fantasy or romance novel

-She loves anything Disney or Harry Potter and we can't wait for our next vacation back to Disney World



Mark is a twin (he gets to claim the older twin by only a few mins) and still has a little more hair than his brother but we don't know for how long



Fun Facts



WE TRY TO TAKE SELFIES WITH DIFFERENT ANIMALS



Kelly shares her favorite color purple with one of our nieces



KELLY HAS GROWN HER HAIR OUT MANY TIMES AND THEN CUTS IT SHORT TO DONATE TO "LOCKS OF LOVE"



KELLY'S PARENTS HAVE OUR DOG LEIA'S HALF SISTER GRACIE AND THEY LOVE TO PLAY TOGETHER LIKE LONG LOST FRIENDS WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER



Mark has dressed up and jumped in freezing water many years to raise money for the Polar Plunge. Sometimes he dresses up just for fun at home in his Star Wars outfits. He has many Halloween options for when we have kids to take them trick or treating.

When we first got married we had 3 cockatiels



Mark shares his favorite color orange with one of our nephews

WE LOVE A GOOD BREAKFAST BEFORE A LONG CAR TRIP FOR VACATIONS OR TRAVELING TO VISIT FAMILY



Our Pets



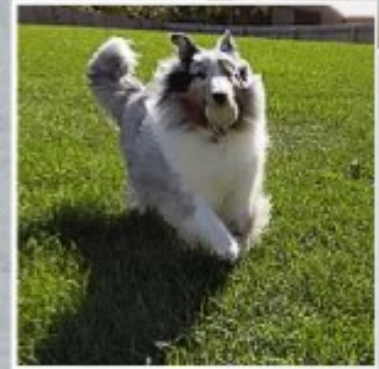
LEIA: Loves playing fetch, giving high-fives and running around in the backyard



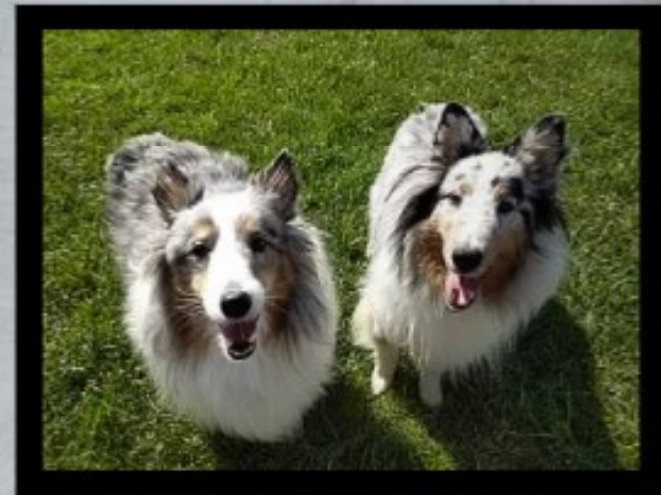
-Our current pets are two loveable, adorable and energetic Shelties. Bandit was adopted at 1yr of age and is now 12yrs old and Leia we raised from a puppy is now 4yrs old.

-Previous family pets that have passed on were also adopted: Koda a Sheltie, Jenni our cat and Parker an Australian shepherd and we love how each one has taught us so much about love, family, and affection and how loyal every one has always been

- We can't wait to share our love of animals and future family pets with our children



BANDIT: Loves chasing the birds at the windows and naptimes sleeping with his head on anything





We love to celebrate the holidays and decorate the house inside and out



-Our house has lots of room to grow our family or have extended family come visit. It has five bedrooms where we are hoping to have siblings in their own rooms one day. It has three levels, an open living space and walkout basement to a large backyard.



-The yard is fenced in for our dogs and future kids to play together in a safe area and our home is near the end of a culdesac in a quiet neighborhood with a small park and playground across the street



LOVE
makes our house a
HOME

-The backyard sits next to a wooded area that brings in lots of nature from various birdlife, deer and many weather changes in the sky

-We enjoy a night in watching the birds come to our feeders, playing card games or puzzles and watching Disney or action movies together

Our Home Sweet Home



Our Family Tree



We always try to color code our outfits for our annual family vacation pics



-We both grew up spending time visiting extended family or having grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins and siblings sharing holiday fun, birthdays, or supporting us at our sporting and music events.

-Mark is the third oldest of 8 kids with 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

-Kelly is the middle child with an older sister and younger brother.



-We currently have 11 nieces and nephews which allows for lots of practicing how to be the best role models we can and learning parenting ideas from all our siblings. All our family and friends can't wait till we become parents and are very excited for this new chapter for us.



-One of Mark's brothers lives in town with their 2 kids and our child will go to his house for in home daycare with his uncle and cousins. Most other cousins would be a few hours away so we hope to continue the traditions of cheering on our kids and their cousins at their events as they all grow up together.



-We love to cheer on our favorite sports teams including Iowa State and the Vikings whether we are in the stadiums or sitting on the couch enjoying pepperoni pizza and candy for dessert

-Our passions involve all things Disney and Star Wars from movies or tv shows and even home decor. We have 5 Christmas trees decorating our house and one dedicated to just Star Wars.

-Many of our family members enjoy searching for antique treasures with us and we hope to pass on this fun activity with our children one day



Our Passions and Traditions



-Some traditions with family include celebrating birthdays, holidays with big turkey dinners, sharing homemade desserts and hot apple cider as well as going on summer vacations

-We add a new Hallmark ornament each year and can't wait to help our kids pick out theirs. Kelly still has her baby's first Christmas ornament. We have a tree filled with ornaments from places we have visited to bring back memories of all the fun places we have traveled.

-We look forward to taking future family pictures with our child creating all new memories and traditions



Can't
forget the
selfies to
document
all the
memories



say cheese!



One of Kelly's favorite movies is Jurassic Park

Mark doesn't claim to be the fastest runner but always completes what he started



We have adopted our pets and encourage others to do the same

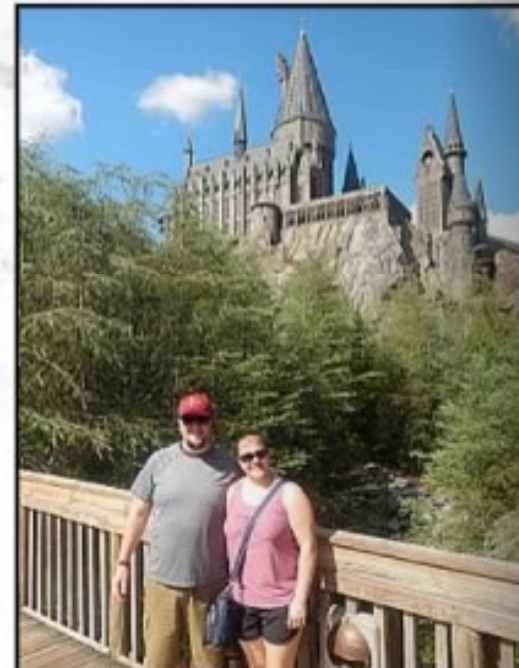


We have visited many museums on our travels

We both love the Harry Potter movies and book series



Our current furbabies can't wait to have a baby sibling in the house



Mark built his own computer from parts and loves to play games with family and friends from around the world



Leia with our travel Christmas tree with ornaments to remember all our trips

We love seeing all the different animals at the zoos and animal sanctuaries we have visited



We tend to go to Itasca on rainy days and hope the lady slippers are still blooming when we go



Mark loves to golf with family and friends and has two hole in ones



One of our color coded outfits for family vacation pics while visiting Yellowstone National Park



Travel adventures



-We love to travel once a year for Kelly's conferences for work. Mark gets to visit museums or do a food tour while Kelly is in classes. We extend the trip for exploring together the zoos, museums, and national monuments to learn about local history.

-Some of our favorite places visited include Disney World, San Diego, Boston, Las Vegas, and D.C., to name a few. We have traveled to 24 states so far and are excited to travel to as many states as we can, possibly one day seeing them all.

-Most years our vacations with extended family are fishing in Minnesota. One of our favorite places was Yellowstone and we can't wait to revisit some of these places with our children one day.





Can't forget the starbursts that are tradition to snack on during the car rides and on the boat



-We rent a cabin and pontoon to go out on the lake several times a day rain or shine

-We catch many fish but also capture lots of pictures of the family memories as well

Fishing Vacations



-Visiting Itasca State Park is one of our favorite things to do. Seeing the state flower blooming, pictures at the Mississippi headwaters, and getting their chocolate malts is a family tradition.

-We have a fish trophy that gets passed around the families for the largest fish. As we get older it is great to teach the nieces and nephews, and one day our child, to see them outfishing us to win the trophy.

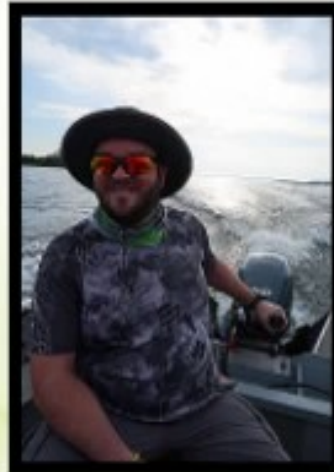




Mark always seems to be the photographer for group pics



Kelly knows how to multitask and tends to have a fishing rod in one hand and her camera in the other



Boating fun

We enjoy just hanging out, seeing a good sunset on the water and spending time with family even if fishing is not always good



Not afraid to be silly

LIFE IS BETTER
WHEN YOU'RE
laughing





With
God
All
things are
possible



Our Faith



-Kelly is a practicing Catholic and Mark grew up in the Mormon faith but after becoming an adult has learned new and different views in life. He can offer our child more knowledge of other faiths.

We have decided to raise our children in the Catholic church and then help them find what they believe in as they grow up.

-We both are Godparents to several of our nieces and nephews and enjoy this role in life of teaching and enhancing our family's beliefs.



Our Thanks to You



-Our story is always evolving and we want to thank you for getting to know a little about us and allowing us to share our life with you.

-Thank you for considering us to become adoptive parents to your child as we hope your dreams for your child may be the same dreams we have to continue adding new pages to our story. We want to keep creating more family traditions with an open adoption where we all can keep making new memories together.



the
STORY
doesn't end
HERE



If you would like to learn more about our story,
please contact our Adoption Agency

Catholic Charities at:

Phone: 1-800-222-5859

Email: adoption@ccsomm.org

Or you can email us directly at:

KellyandMarkadopt@gmail.com



grateful
AND
thankful
FOR you