

Ingrid & Brian



Our Story



We quickly became best friends and had many travels together. We dated for a year before Brian popped the big question, and Ingrid accepted his proposal. We have been married since 2013, and the adventures continue! In 2016, we welcomed Bethany into our family. After a difficult birth experience, she is a thriving seven-year-old who is smart, funny, hard-working, and kind.

We have always hoped to grow our family, but unfortunately, infertility has prevented us from conceiving. It is our hope to continue to expand our loving family and wish to achieve that goal through adoption. We have so much love to offer another child.

“ After Brian charmed Ingrid with his witty humor, we met for the first time at a fancy brunch spot. ”

Hi, we are Brian and Ingrid! Thank you for taking the time to read our story and learn a little bit about us.

Like many families in these modern times, our story began online. After Brian charmed Ingrid with his witty humor, we met for the first time at a fancy brunch spot. Ingrid was dressed nicely for the occasion, while Brian well, he was a bit more casual with flip-flops, shorts, and his favorite Led Zeppelin t-shirt. Luckily, we didn't let that get in the way and several more dates followed.



About Ingrid

I have always grown up around children and this has made me who I am today. I have nine nieces and nephews and many younger cousins. It was always my privilege to be the awesome, fun aunt, load them up with sugar, and then return them home. For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to have kids of my own to raise, love, and keep safe.

Besides my love of family, my passion is art. I love painting, designing, making ornaments, and of course, decorating cakes and cookies. I have vivid memories of creating amazing "masterpieces" with my mother and grandmother as a child. Now, I get to build those memories with my daughter and hope to be able to bring that passion into the life of another... complete with all the giggles and messy little hands!

I am a stay-at-home mom, but my love of learning extends beyond the home. I have a Bachelor's in Exercise Science and another Bachelor's in Health Science. (Nutrition and food science). Despite the cookie-making, I have a love for health and fitness and have even completed two marathons!



Date night at a Thai restaurant means you have to take a pic of the amazing food.



I love twinning with my kiddo and having any excuse to get pics of us together.

Fun Facts About Ingrid

- There has never been a Hallmark movie that she hasn't loved.
- She is an avid photographer.
- Has been to Honduras, Mexico, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Belize, Canada, Thailand, Japan, China, Taiwan and Singapore.
- She would adopt all dogs if she could.
- Has a I love of all things Disney!
- Knew she was going to marry Brian when she saw how great he was with her nieces and nephews.



I love to show off all of the artwork that Bethany makes for me.

About Brian

I have the fondest memories of traveling each year to different places with my family when I was a kid, and I think that my love of travel is what brought me to the Navy. I have served in the Navy since 2002, and I love what I do. Having enlisted as an aviation electrician, I have had the honor of advancing and am currently an officer, running aviation maintenance departments for helicopter squadrons and jet engine repair facilities. I also am a teacher, training new aviation maintenance officers. I have found teaching to be incredibly rewarding and challenging.

Military service is just a part of who I am. My number one job is to be a loving husband and parent. From playing Legos on the floor to reading books together to evening prayers, there is no greater responsibility. Whether it's kicking a soccer ball in the backyard or pretending to be a dinosaur as we run around the house, I am fully invested in the role of being a "fun dad."

I have a love of learning about the world. The Navy has taken me to many different countries, and I am fortunate to travel the world. I hope to share the joy of these experiences to fill the heart and mind of a child.



Date nights are rare but taking a pic of the amazing food is a must.



Vacationing in the Virgin Islands and sharing this epic spread of food.



Fun Facts About Brian

- He is studious and has a Bachelor of Science in economics and a Master of Science in Project Management.
- He has been to 19 foreign countries, including Mexico, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Barbados, St Lucia, St Kitts, St Maarten, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, China, United Arab Emirates, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, South Korea, Oman, and Greece.
- Loves all sports, but especially football.
- Has a love of all things Disney!
- He knew he was going to marry Ingrid when he saw how much she cared for her nieces and nephews.





Studious and hardworking, Bethany continues to get straight A's in school, is an advanced reader, and is above her grade level in math. We are very proud of her. Bethany will tell anyone she meets, including the cashier at Target, that she hopes to become a big sister one day!



“Hafa Adai,” from Bethany! “Hafa Adai” means “Hello” in Chamorro, the language of the Pacific Islands territory of Guam, where Bethany was born prematurely at 32 weeks. She spent her first month on Earth in the hospital, learning to breathe and eat on her own. Since breaking free from her incubator, Bethany hasn’t looked back.

She is a smart, energetic, and loving child. She has a passion for reading books and has been immersed in their stories since the day she was born. Bethany also loves all things art, just like her mother, and her creativity extends beyond artwork to all things in life. She has a love of biology and can be found most evenings lining up her stuffed animals to be her patients as they undergo various medical treatments.



Fun Facts About Bethany

- You might not know by talking to her because of how hard she has worked, but she has been in speech therapy since she was 18 months old.
- She has already been to four foreign countries, including: Mexico, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands and Canada.
- She loves unicorns, mermaids, and pink.
- She can whistle and she wants everyone to know!
- She has a love for Disney!



Our Home

We live in a gated neighborhood with sidewalks and quiet streets. We knew that we wanted to live in a safe place where kids can ride their bikes with friends, and we have found just that. A newer home, we have made sure to make it our own. Our walls are adorned with pictures and mementos from our travels, and of course, pictures of our family.

Not one holiday goes by without all the appropriate decorations to celebrate. From Valentine's Day to Christmas and every Easter, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving in between, you can count on our house being filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of the season. In fact, we have taken decorating for the holidays to another level—our house gets rave reviews in the neighborhood for our themed Halloween decorations and our over-the-top Christmas decorations.

“ We knew that we wanted to live in a safe place where kids can ride their bikes with friends, and we have found just that. ”



When not baking or decorating or enjoying family movie night, we are probably outside. Our backyard is our oasis with plenty of room to kick a soccer ball or swing on the swing set or slide down the tube slide. Across the street is our community pool which is a nice safe place to go for a swim on a hot summer day. Living in Florida, there are plenty of sunny days to get outside, swim in the pool, or head to the beach to build a sandcastle. We have even taken a sandcastle-building class and can build a sandcastle the size of a small human!



Grid with her siblings.



All our family members are very excited about our adoption journey. Ingrid's family has adoption in their story; her sister and a cousin were both adopted. Our families are supportive of our growing family and your child will absolutely be welcomed and loved unconditionally.



This is the Funcle (Fun Uncle) Kris.

Our Family

We come from very different families, but we both grew up surrounded by love and support. Ingrid comes from a large family with big holidays and loud living rooms. She has two sisters and one brother. Brian's family is a bit smaller; he has an older sister, and his parents are nearing their 55th wedding anniversary! Both of us have the love and support of our families as our family grows.

Ingrid's family lives close by, which is great for visiting the grandparents, great-grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Brian's parents are retired, which allows them to visit often, as well. There are always family get-togethers for birthdays, holidays, people visiting, or just a regular Sunday lunch. When sporting events take place and one of the kids is playing, family is always there to watch their game and cheer them on.

Family is very important to us, and big family adventures are a part of our life. One of our best vacations was a big road trip we took with all the grandparents. We got to explore the Amish countryside in Ohio, see Niagara Falls in New York, and visit Hershey Park in Pennsylvania.



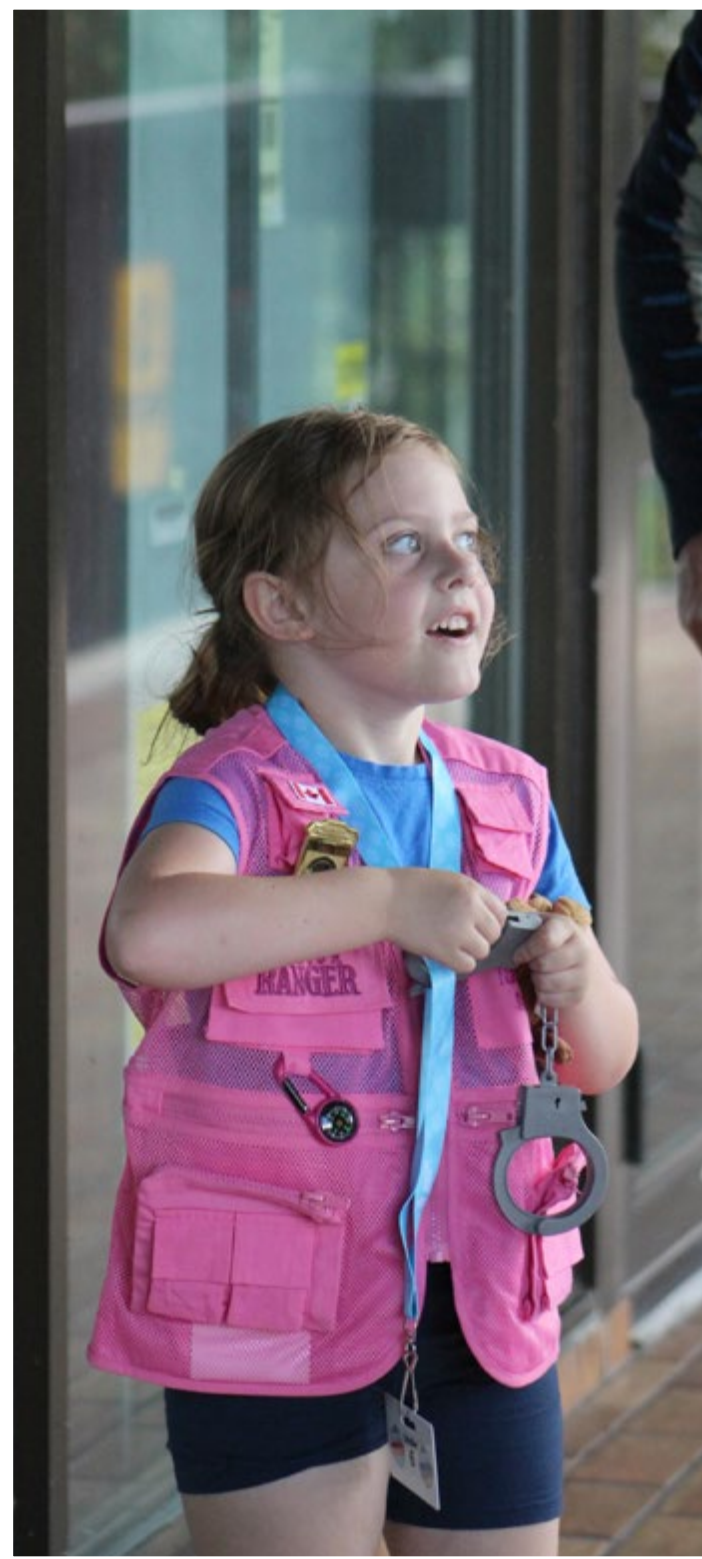
Brian's parents

Hobbies & Traditions

One of the biggest traditions with our extended family is the holiday festivities. We have an annual cookie decorating night where the youngest child gets to be the taste tester. Our family decorates the Christmas tree while listening to Christmas music and watching holiday movies. We go big for Christmas in our home and always make sure to decorate a gingerbread house as a family every year.



Baking with Bethany is one of my favorite things to do.



“ Every year, we plan a super fun vacation and make sure there are plenty of activities for everyone, including visiting many children’s museums. ”

In the fall, we visit a pumpkin patch and pick out the best pumpkins to take home and carve. For Halloween, we dress in coordinating costumes (which are often Disney-themed). Every summer, we meet up downtown with the extended family to watch fireworks. Since Brian loves Thanksgiving, we make sure that we have a big celebration for that holiday, too. We host Thanksgiving not just for our family, but also for our friends. One year, we made it to New York City for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. We love to celebrate all holidays and celebrating with our extended family makes each occasion even more fun.



Hanging out at the soccer field watching Bethany Practice is always a fun time.



Our family loves to travel. Every year, we plan a super fun vacation and make sure there are plenty of activities for everyone, including visiting many children’s museums. Getting out and traveling is a great way to learn about the world we live in. Being in Florida offers us a great opportunity to visit Disney World or take a cruise every now and then.

“ Each night we have dreamed of bringing another life into our family, and Bethany dreams of becoming a big sister. ”



Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read our story and for considering an adoption plan. You are caring and brave. We have a great desire to expand our family and welcome another child. Each night we have dreamed of bringing another life into our family, and Bethany dreams of becoming a big sister.

We can't wait to share our lives with a baby, and we promise to provide them with every opportunity possible, but above all else, unconditional love, nurturing, and complete acceptance. We will provide your child with a great education, a life of adventure, complete and loving support from our extended family, and so much more. We promise that as your child grows, we will offer continuous updates on his or her great adventures and accomplishments, and how they have grown.

We will always make sure that your child knows of the loving choice that you made to offer them a life with our family. We look forward to welcoming a child with full hearts and thank you for considering our loving family. We wish you love and comfort as you consider what is right for both you and the baby.

Brian and Ingrid



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