

## Emily and Heather's Story

Initially, Heather & I met in 2011 at the Norfolk, Virginia Wine Festival through a mutual friend. Heather was just in town temporarily for work. Years passed by without keeping in touch with each other. In 2014, we reconnected through the same mutual friend when Heather moved to Norfolk, Virginia for work. We immediately became great friends. Fast forward to 2015, when we started dating and knew right away it was going to be something real.

From the beginning we talked about having a family, it was something we both wanted. Along with having a family, we knew we wanted a relationship that made each of us better in all aspects of life - we knew we found that in each other.

We got married in March 2017 and soon after started trying to have a baby. We had 4 failed IUI attempts in the first 1.5 years. After consulting with our doctor, friends who have gone through this process & researching fertility clinics, we decided that IVF would be our next step. Our first IVF frozen embryo transfer was in early 2019 and was successful. Unfortunately at eight weeks, we had a miscarriage. It was devastating but we knew we wanted to try again as soon as possible.

On July 26th, 2019 we had our second successful frozen embryo transfer. Jump to April 14th, 2020...our

beautiful daughter, Sutton Georgia, was born. We are only a month into “parenting” so we are still trying to figure things out. We do know we are tired but love every waking minute with Sutton.

For the future: We of course hope for a much kinder & accepting world. We hope she doesn't have to experience any harsh hate if/when she does, she understands how to process it and use it to make herself and the world around her better. We want her world to be full of love.

We envision a life full of adventure and opportunity. We want her to have experiences that she will be able to tell stories about later in her life. We want her life to be balanced with community service and volunteer work as well. We want her to learn as she grows to always give back and help others.