

MICHAEL + AMY







# HELLO!

Thank you for taking time to learn about us. We admire your selflessness, strength, and courage. We know that you are making a loving choice, and we embrace the fact that you are the center of your baby's story. We can't imagine the emotions that are wrapped up in your decision; the fears and 'what ifs' that must be flooding your head and heart as you try to decide who will provide the best home for your child. We can't walk in your shoes, but we can promise you that we will give our hearts to your baby and dedicate our life to providing a life of love, safety, and family for your child.

Should you decide to make an adoption plan and choose us, we would love to keep in touch and send as many updates, letters, and pictures as you would like to receive. We will cherish your baby and always speak fondly of you with respect and love. There is nothing more sacred to us than the opportunity to become a family, and your baby will always know how special you are.

*Michael + Amy*

# OUR STORY

We met through mutual friends, though we were living on opposite coasts at the time! We spoke on the phone and emailed for a few months before officially meeting. Michael came from California to visit me in Washington, D.C. We took a quick trip to New York City, and it was the perfect date. We had four hours to talk on the drive and had the best time exploring the city together. After a few more months of long distance dating, Michael packed up his life on the west coast and moved to the east coast. We did so many fun and exciting things while we were dating and getting to know each other. We went to baseball games, visited museums and historical sites, went out for dinners in the city, went biking and skiing, enjoyed music concerts and took weekend getaways together. We quickly realized that we had very similar life values and always enjoyed each other's company. We made each other laugh every day, could talk for hours, and grew to trust and admire one another as close friends.

We were married in Los Angeles at the same church where my parents were married forty years earlier. Michael's brother was his best man, and my sister was my maid of honor. Our nieces and nephews stole the show as adorable flower girls and ring bearers. What we loved and still remember most was how amazing it felt to have all of our closest family and friends in the same room. It was so much fun that we didn't want the night to end! We danced under the stars and visited with our guests until just before midnight. We have been married for eleven years now, and we are still best friends!





## OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION

We have both always looked forward to being parents. After we got married and were ready to start our family, we were surprised at how difficult it was for us to conceive. After several unsuccessful medical treatments and losing a baby in miscarriage, we were heartbroken but still hopeful that we would find the way to have a family. With some heartfelt talks and prayer, we realized that adoption would be the perfect way to grow our family. We cannot wait for a child to come into our hearts and home through the miracle of adoption.

We are excited and feel more prepared than ever to raise a family. The more we have learned about adoption, the more we know it is the right path for us. We have a sister-in-law who was adopted and several friends who have adopted. We have learned so much from their individual experiences and insights. We want to understand all that we can to create a positive experience for all involved, including you, as the first mother to our child. That is so important to us.

*We value*  
our marriage,  
family and friends,  
education and traveling,  
our faith, and community.



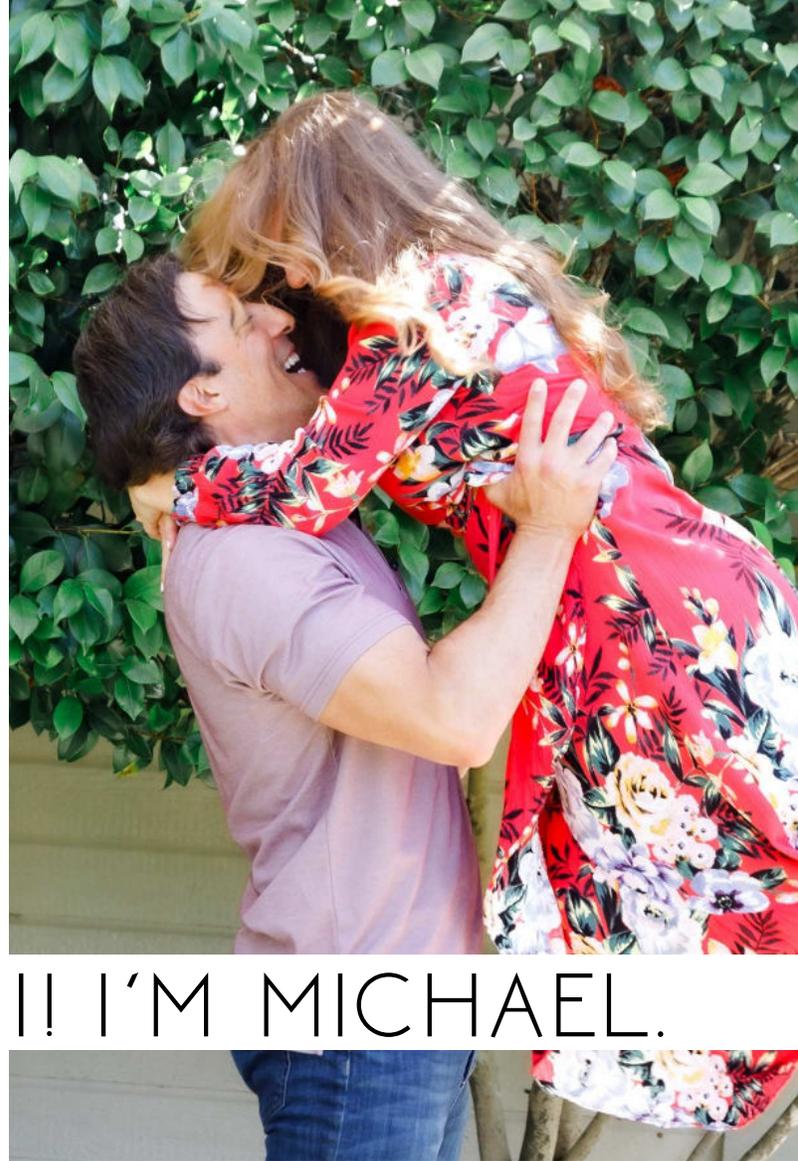




# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

We love spending time together and are truly a case of opposites attracting. I like to climb a mountain, and Amy likes to take in an art museum. We appreciate how our differences stretch us both to try new things, and we always enjoy exploring each other's interests. As a couple, we enjoy hiking with our dogs, dancing, working on home improvement projects, taking walks in our neighborhood, going to the movies, listening to live music, playing cards, throwing parties at home, trying new restaurants with friends, and traveling to new places. Not every day is perfect, but we always strive to serve, enjoy, and support each other. Our lifestyle is mostly focused on having fun together and making memories.



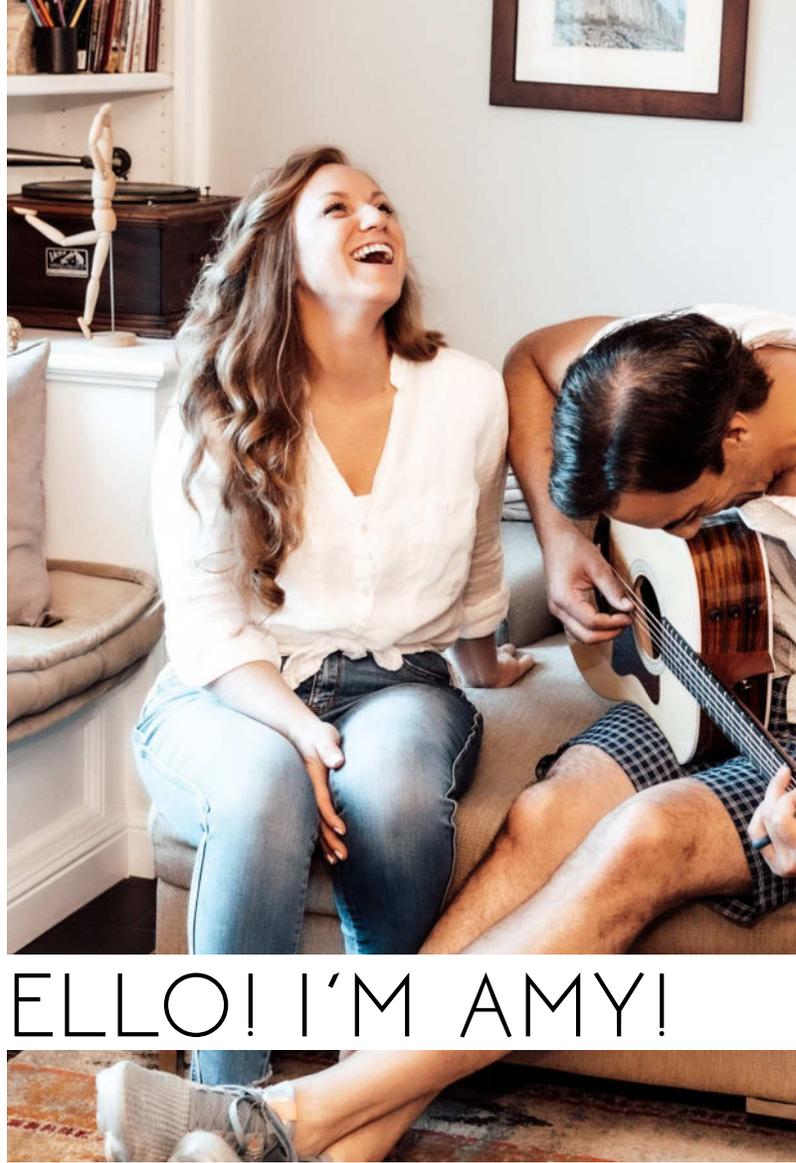


HI! I'M MICHAEL.

I have worked in health care administration for the same company for eight years. It is a close-knit, family oriented company, and I am thankful for my coworkers and staff and have made some of my closest friends through work. Those friends describe me as loyal, hardworking, kind, and a bit silly.

I love children and enjoy being "Uncle Mikey" to our friends' children. I've always envisioned myself teaching my boys how to play sports, how to tie knots, and how to do the things that my father taught me. I've pictured myself teaching my girls how to ride a bicycle, and letting them comb my hair and playing with them. I've wondered what it would be like to be "wrapped around my little girl's finger" and what it feels like to be the father of "daddy's little girl." I often dream about teaching my child life lessons and helping to prepare them in the best way I can so they can grow to be kind, empowered, strong, and loving adults. I picture passing on to them our family traditions; going camping every year like I did growing up, taking them to Yosemite and singing songs with them, coaching their little league or soccer teams, and instilling in them a love for Christmas decorations and lights and being with Grandma and Grandpa and their cousins. I envision playing in the backyard, teaching them to swim, going on hikes, and riding bikes with them. I look forward to teaching them the importance of being strong and standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves.





## HELLO! I'M AMY!

I am a Speech Therapist. I speak Spanish and work with bilingual children of all ages in our local schools. I find my job to be very rewarding because I am able to work with children directly and help them overcome challenges. I love my job and always say that kids make the best clients!

My friends describe me as trustworthy, thoughtful, and free spirited. They say I am funny, determined, wise, and supportive.

When I think about becoming a mother, I picture riding bikes to school, and taking walks with our dogs. I look forward to teaching our children how to cook and bake. I would love to teach our children to speak Spanish, and I plan to teach them baby sign language. I have a library of children's books I have collected over the years, and I am so excited to snuggle in at night and read to our child. I hope we are able to travel with our children someday and explore new places together. I picture our home being filled with impromptu dance parties and family movie nights with homemade popcorn. I look forward to holidays with children, knowing it will just add to the joy and wonder in life.

I plan to postpone my work when children come into our lives. I look forward to staying home with our babies and young children. If I would go back to work, it would be when they are in school. I purposefully chose a career that will allow me to work during school hours and be home over holidays and vacations. Michael and I both loved having our mothers home with us when we were young, and we want the same for our children.





# MICHAEL

Michael is friendly, fun loving, compassionate, faithful, loyal, and supportive. He always does what's right, even when it's not easy. He is able to stay focused and calm in emergency situations. He is my rock when life gets tough. People feel valued by him and consider him a trusted friend soon after meeting and for years after. I've always loved seeing how he treats everyone with the same kindness and respect, no matter who they are.

I often say that Michael was meant to be a father. He genuinely enjoys children, and they gravitate to him. He is patient, engaging, protective, fun and caring with children of all ages. When I watch him with children, it makes me so excited to see him as a father.

*in amy's words*

*in michael's words*

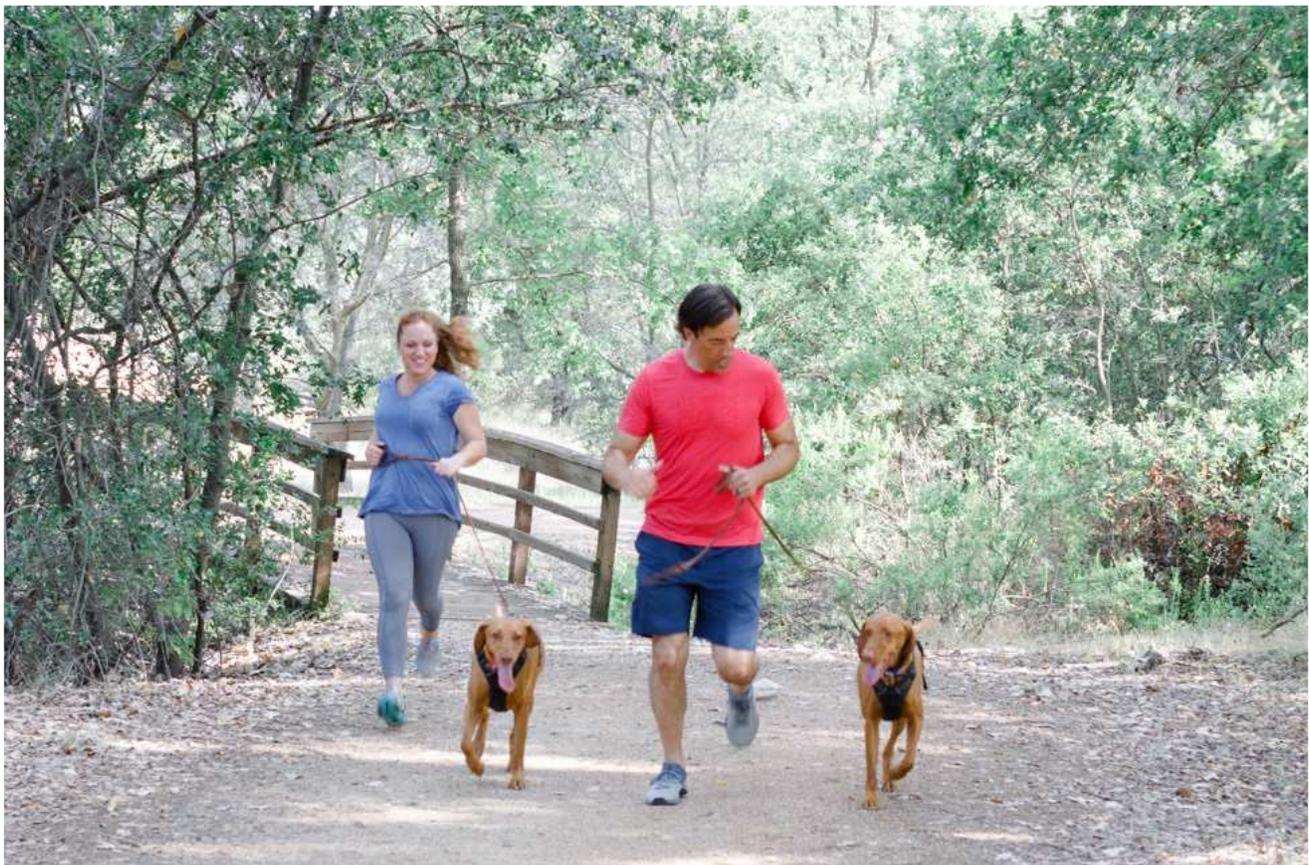


I love Amy's wit and her sharp observation of life and people. I love how easy it is for her to interact with people, especially people she's just met. She cares about others a great deal. She's very funny; she can make me genuinely laugh very quickly. Amy doesn't do anything half way. She's a planner, and she seeks out every detail to make gatherings special and give the best gifts.

Amy can connect with anyone, but has a magical way of engaging with children. She inspires trust and enjoyment from any kids who are with her. She is loving, fun, firm, and most importantly, she is respectful of their innocence and youth. She's a beautiful coach and mentor in the truest sense. She is a favorite auntie to our nieces and nephews, and I know she is going to be a terrific mother.



# BUSTER + ROSIE



We have two friendly, energetic dogs named Buster and Rosie. We often let them play with our nieces and nephews who run around with them, feed them, “dance” with them and even takes naps with them. We chose Buster and Rosie in part because they are both very gentle and love playing with kids.



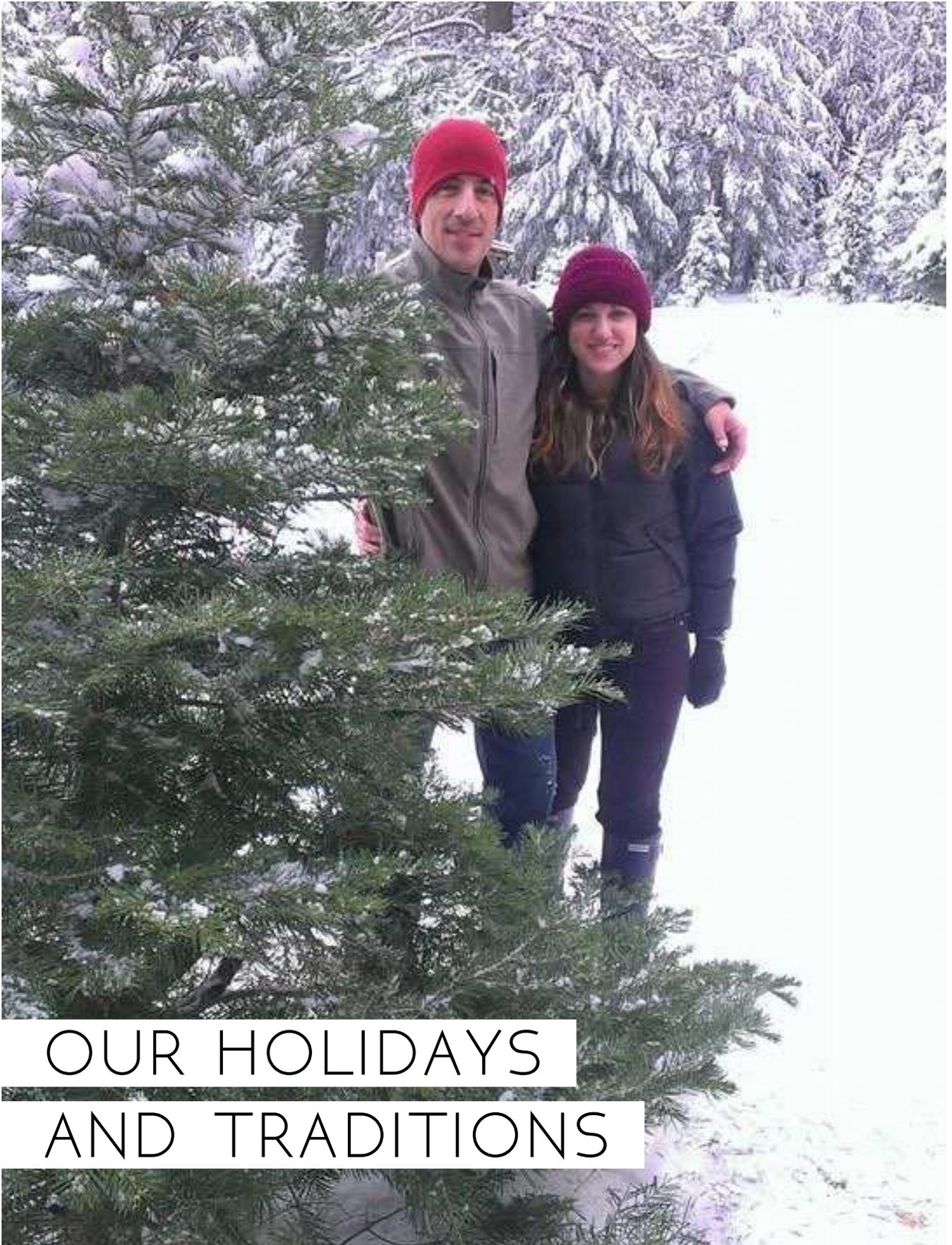




# OUR FAMILY BONDS

We each come from families of four children with two boys and two girls. We are both close with our families and see them at least monthly for special family events, kid's sports, holidays, and birthdays. We have thirteen nieces and nephews in California with us, and seven of them live nearby. We are very family oriented and also have a strong network of wonderful grandparents, aunts, and uncles, including one who was adopted herself.

Our nieces and nephews often ask about our baby, and they can't wait to meet him or her. These guys spend a lot of time together and always want more cousins! Everyone is very interested in our plans to adopt, and they are incredibly supportive. We are so excited for our child to experience the love and support our extended family pours out to each other.



OUR HOLIDAYS  
AND TRADITIONS



We believe family traditions add fun, create stability, and strengthen bonds. We go to annual family reunion camping trips that Mike's family has been doing since he was a child. On Thanksgiving, we have a big family kickball game for all ages. We spend many Saturdays at the local lake, boating with family and friends in the summertime. We also love to spend time at our nearby family cabin year round and even do some sledding in the winter. We have an annual New Year's Day party with a family slideshow, Papa's famous lasagna, and s'mores by the fire. We also get together to celebrate birthdays with big family dinners, presents, and birthday cake. We host an annual 4th of July block party breakfast on our street for our neighbors with red, white, and blue pancakes and a decorated bike parade for the kids. We enjoy hosting a St. Patrick's Day party for which Mike dresses up as a leprechaun to lead our little guests on a scavenger hunt. He also dresses up as Santa on Christmas Eve to the delight of our nieces and nephews. We love doing these things and look forward to continuing many family traditions for our children.

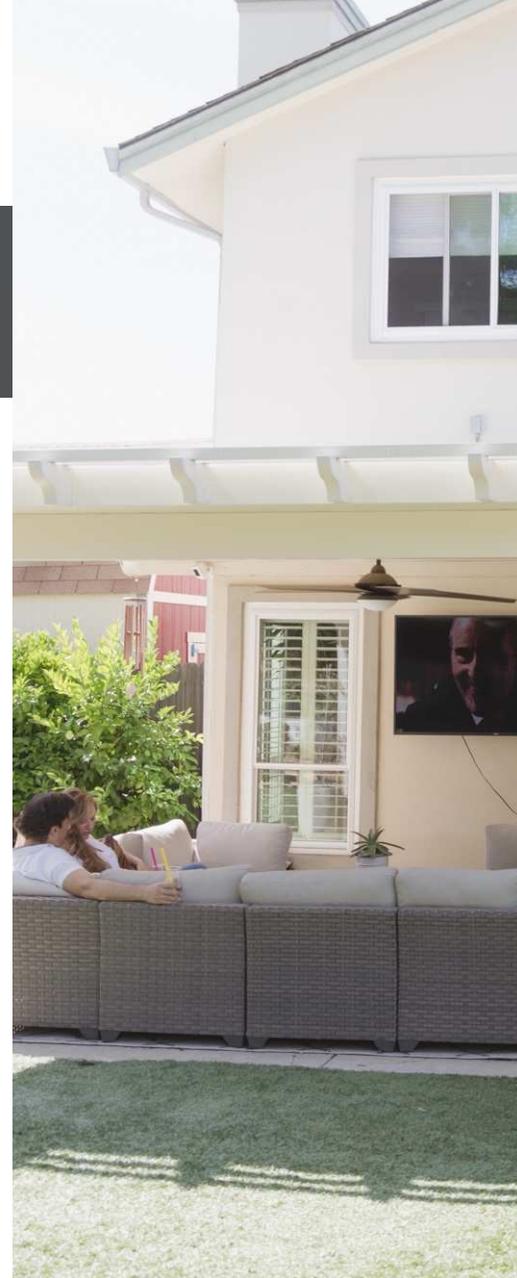


# OUR HOME

*We love to entertain and our home is always open to friends and family.*

We have been living in our home for almost six years. We chose it for its big backyard and extra rooms in hopes of filling them. It is a two-story house with four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The kitchen has a breakfast nook for cozy family eating in a sunlit room. We also designed the main living areas to face large windows to the backyard that allow us to watch children as they play outside. The backyard has a big lawn, fruit trees, hammocks, a built-in fire pit, a barbecue area, small putting green, ping-pong table, patio couches, and a TV for watching movies outside.

We settled in a safe, family-friendly community, and live within walking distance of great schools. We love the idea of riding bikes or walking with our kids to school. Our neighbors are our friends, and we go on walks with them, chat to catch up or swing by to lend a helping hand. We happen to live in one of our town's best trick or treating neighborhoods, so many families come to us on Halloween. In December, Santa comes down the street on a fire truck and tosses candy canes to children who line the sidewalks. We are around the corner from walking trails, a dog park, soccer fields, fishing pond, public library and a community pool. We live in the foothills within five minutes of a large lake for swimming, hiking, and boating. Up the hill about thirty minutes, we can pick apples in the fall and cut down our own Christmas tree in the snow. We can go downtown for brunch, go to the local theater for live shows, or go further up the mountain for skiing. We have a town center with shopping, restaurants, community events, fireworks and live summer concerts. Many young families live in our city and neighborhood for the safety and quality of life it provides.







# OUR FUTURE

We enjoy living near both of our families and will likely stay where we are living now. We have made great friends and enjoy all the opportunities our town offers for quality education, recreation, and entertainment. We may move to another house as our family expands, but we hope to stay in the same community. After we adopt, we will continue traveling to visit family and friends and also to experience new places both for leisure and charity projects. We like to take a trip somewhere new every year.

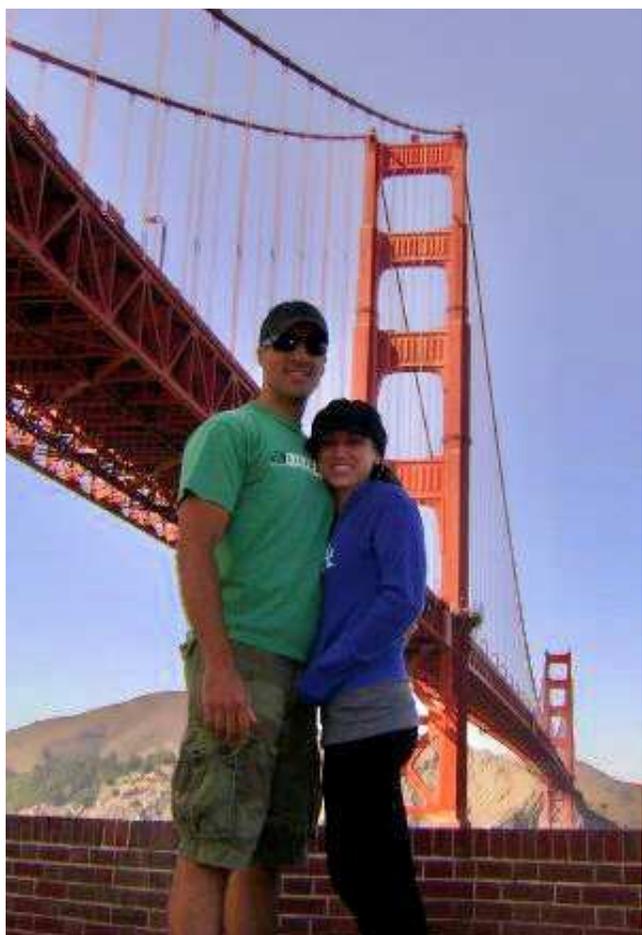


# FAITH + EDUCATION

We were both raised in Christian homes with loving parents. We feel our individual relationships with God have been a source of strength and direction throughout our lives. We have felt relief in knowing that we don't have to be perfect and that we can be loved in our imperfection. We hope to share the beauty of these principles with our children. We currently pray and attend church together. We want to teach our child about honesty, kindness, and respect for all people.

Our child will likely attend the public schools in our neighborhood. We moved to an area with wonderful schools nearby, so our child will get a quality education in a nurturing environment. At the same time, we know that every child's needs are different so we will also consider charter or private schools, if needed, to ensure that our child is learning and thriving.

Our children will be encouraged to pursue their dreams, whatever they may be. We will have a savings fund to plan for higher education, trade schools, or other opportunities they may choose. We will introduce our child to various hobbies and allow them to explore their interests through music, sports, science, dance, etc. We will be attentive to their individual strengths and passions as they grow to be able to nurture and guide them in a direction that brings them the most happiness. We will provide a life in which our child feels secure in the love and support of their family to follow their dreams.





## BEFORE YOU GO

We want to thank you for letting us introduce ourselves! We know this is a very big decision and understand that you have a lot to carefully consider. If you are considering us as a family for your sweet baby, please know we would be happy to answer any questions you have. Our hope is for your heart to be at peace with whatever you decide. We will be praying for you.

Love,

*Amy and Michael*



