

Joe & Emily

with our puppy, Daisy



Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We hope this gives you an understanding of who we are and how much we look forward to becoming parents. We respect and admire the careful and loving decision you are considering. If chosen, you will always be honored in our household. We wish you peace and hope during this journey.



About Us

Our family is so close by, we spend time together often. Recently, we got together for Emily's brother Joey's 40th birthday celebration. Joey has Down Syndrome and his favorite thing to do is collect DVDs. We bought him 40 DVDs for his 40th birthday and it brought us so much joy as he opened each one with excitement, "Oh wow!," "So cool!," "This is awesome!"



We are animal lovers. Our fearless and loving three-legged rescue dog, Liam, crossed the rainbow bridge recently. His perseverance through his life and cancer battle showed us the kind of strength that we strive for. Our favorite memory of him is taking him to the dog pool to watch him swim, then taking him to the local ice cream shop for a "pup cup". Your child will grow up in a home with loving animals.



Emily looks forward to being a stay-at-home mom. Joe has fond memories as a child of getting off the bus and having his mom waiting for him at the bus stop. While Emily's parents worked, Emily remembers her dad taking her for ice cream every day after school. These special and meaningful memories contributed to our decision for Emily to be a stay-at-home mom.

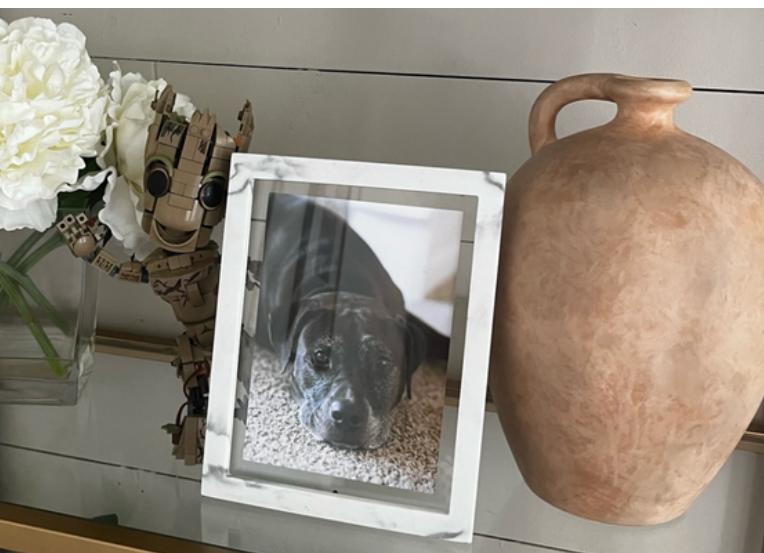


Meet Emily

Emily **extends her love of animals through volunteering.** She volunteers for an organization who raises service dogs for people in need with disabilities or veterans looking for companionship and support. Emily immediately took to a golden doodle, Calloway. When Emily first met Calloway, there was a note on her kennel that explained she was a very nervous pup and was skeptical of people. A month into Emily giving a lot of love, and pets and sweet talking to Calloway, the note was officially off the kennel! Calloway is now very open to people and is well on her way to training for a family with a child who has epilepsy. Your child will grow up in a family that gives back to our community.



While she prefers cooking homemade manicotti and ravioli as taught by her grandmother, Emily spends most nights **experimenting with healthy recipes** or just inventing something new with whatever she can find in the kitchen. Recently, Emily decided to cook turkey stuffed portobello mushrooms – something she had never done before. It was an extremely intricate recipe, so she set up our kitchen like a cooking show and put all the ingredients in individual bowls. Joe played a great sous chef and handed her the ingredients as she cooked over the stove. The experience was fun, and the stuffed mushrooms were delicious.



Emily **loves to decorate** our cozy home. It's her creative outlet! She finds the joy in making things pretty and putting the puzzle pieces of a room together, all the while showing our personality through design. For Joe's birthday last year, Emily bought a Lego Groot figurine, and after it was complete, she added it to the bookshelf in our living room, adding a touch of fun. Some of our friends came to visit the following week and each one commented on the out-of-place figurine and how it made them laugh.



Music has always been a part of Joe's life. He sang in a choir growing up and his voice is still charming. There isn't a day that goes by that Joe doesn't start humming a tune and making up funny lyrics to try annoy Emily, like the time he sang the ingredients of taco Tuesday to the tune of "That's Amore". Joe sang, "When the beef hits the shell with some red pepper bell, that's a tacoooo!" Emily's laughter filled the kitchen – so much for trying to annoy her!

Meet Joe

Joe **loves biking**. His leisurely strolls are a part of his weekend activities and every now and then he participates in races. Once Joe participated in the donut race where he had to eat as many donuts as he could to decrease his race timing. Joe could only eat four donuts so he did not win, but he used his sugar rush to finish the race with a big smile on his face. Afterwards he crashed on the couch and said that it would be the last time he would eat donuts and ride his bike.



Joe loves playing **video games**. It's his time to unwind, relax and enjoy mindless activity. He especially enjoys playing video games with our niece and nephews. Joe used to let them win until they became better than him. Now, when they come over, our home is filled with video game tournaments and lots of cheering. Your child will grow up with a dad who loves to play.

Our Story



We are a "Covid Couple". We met online right before the pandemic hit in 2020. **We went on four dates before the shutdown** so our only option to continue to get to know each other was to spend weekends at one another's homes (our dog joined us too!) and it proved to be one of the most meaningful and treasured times of our relationship. We got to know each other on a very deep level that we otherwise would have not gotten if it were not for Covid.



On our very first date, **we talked about all the things they tell you not to talk about**: politics, religion, family, children, and our futures. It was easily the best date of our lives, until we had our second date five days later. We talked for hours at a cute Italian restaurant. While we were there, three couples next to us came and went and we ended up shutting the restaurant down! This was the date when Joe knew he was going to marry Emily.



We have always planned on being parents. Adoption was a path that we were considering as individuals because **we know in our hearts that love is what makes a family**. Although we spent our first two years of marriage navigating the world of infertility, the experience brought us closer together and made us realize how strong our love is. We are eager to become adoptive parents and are hopeful to share this journey with you!

Meet Daisy

Daisy, our cavapoo pup, just joined our family! She is a sweet, cuddly girl with lots of energy for playtime. **She loves kids!** Her foster family had children so anytime she sees or hears kids, her tail goes wild with joy! We recently had a play date with her human cousins. She ran around with them so much that she slept for 10 hours straight that night, which she had never done before.



We discovered that **Daisy loves the snow!** It recently snowed here and we were uncertain of how she would react. Based on the photo, I'm sure you can imagine she absolutely loves it. She spent an hour out on the deck pushing the snow around with her little nose and biting the clumps of snow trying to eat it before it fell apart. She loved being out there so much, we couldn't get her to come inside and had to bribe her with cheese, her favorite treat!

Daisy is quite the snuggle bug. Every morning after she eats her breakfast, she hops up on the couch to cuddle right next to Emily and then she naps. She especially loves it when we are both home so we can all sit together on the couch as a family. A few days ago, Daisy couldn't make up her mind on who's lap she wanted to nap on, so **she moved back and forth every 5 minutes to make sure she had plenty of quality cuddling time with both of us.** You child will grow up with a real life teddy bear to snuggle with.



Family

Your child would grow up with 4 grandparents,
3 aunts & uncles, and **20 cousins**.

Our **family focuses on the kids**. One of our favorite things to do with them is dress them up with hand-me-downs or buy them new clothes for their special events. Our niece recently had her first school dance and she asked to go **“shopping” in Aunt Emily’s closet**. We found her a perfect black fit and flare dress that we were able to alter to fit her along with some jewels to sparkle it up. Claire talked about how she felt like a princess in the dress all weekend!



We are both Italian. **Our families naturally gather around the kitchen table**. The first time Emily met Joe’s extended family, everyone was gathered around his Aunt’s kitchen, eating and talking. It was noisy and chaotic as each family member fixed their own plates of food, all while talking over each other. Joe’s Uncle Tommy looked over at Emily and asked, “How are you handling all of this?” Emily responded, “It feels like home.” Uncle Tommy smiled and hugged Emily, welcoming her as another “out-law” (which is his favorite joke and preference over “in-law”). Your child’s roots will be honored and encouraged.

Our families love to **play games and appreciate a little friendly competition**. Immediately following Christmas dinner last year, Emily’s Aunt Susie pulled out a deck of cards and challenged the whole family to a game of Rummy. We used pennies for betting, and it was as if the pennies were worth hundreds of dollars. When Joe got knocked out of the game early, Aunt Michelle gave him pennies to jump back in only for cousin Bella to knock him out the very next round and take home the official bragging rights as champion of Rummy.



Traditions

Every holiday, including birthdays, Emily's family gets together to make homemade pasta and sauce. Introducing Joe to our pasta making world was a treat. His first couple tries didn't quite make the cut, but eventually **he caught on and is now a spaghetti making machine!** We would love to learn your favorite recipes and traditions to incorporate in your child's life.



We **have brunch together every weekend** – both Saturday and Sunday ordering from our favorite breakfast spot or making our own brunch. Our dog loved brunch weekends too, because we always included him in on the festivities and would order or make him a special treat. The first weekend after our sweet pup passed away, our brunch made a tough time feel a little less heavy and we made a toast in his honor. Brunch weekends continue to be a highlight of our traditions.



We host **slumber parties with our niece & nephews** every few months. At the last sleepover, Claire, gave us a personal concert of her favorite Disney songs that she can play on her flute, including "Under the Sea", while Carter and Cooper went head-to-head with each other on trivia, just like they do at their school's Quiz Bowl. The night ended with the five of us cuddled up on the couch watching *The Sandlot* with popcorn and cookies, reminding us of the movie nights we each grew up with.

Home & Neighborhood



Our cozy Ohio suburb home is the ideal spot to raise a family. Located in the heart of a safe subdivision, we have a fenced-in backyard with plenty of space for a swing set and a sandbox, and to play soccer or catch. **Our home always has a puzzle on the dining room table.** Our favorite puzzles are ones that remind us of our childhood. Our most recent puzzle was of Beauty and the Beast and we kept singing the songs so much as we were putting the puzzle together, we finally decided to watch the movie. Those feelings of nostalgia and wholesomeness never get old.

Our neighborhood is filled with kids of all ages. Our first Halloween at our house was such a fun time for us. We had about 300 trick or treaters! As we sat outside with a big bowl of candy, we began to worry that it wasn't enough, and we would run out halfway through the night. Luckily, most of the children only took one or two pieces, except for one 3-year-old princess; she made us laugh when she stuck her whole arm in the bowl and pulled out a handful like she was a claw machine! **Her confidence earned her all the candy!** Your child will grow up making friends in a safe neighborhood.



Our favorite spot in our town is the Ice Cream Shop! Our dog, Liam, loved it too. We used to take him there every couple of weeks for his own "pup cup". The first time we took him, **he knocked over the cup** and stepped right in it. He couldn't contain his excitement and decided **to roll his whole body in the ice cream** treat as he continued to lick it up off the ground. A family nearby saw us, and as we laughed together, they brought us a bunch of napkins to help us clean him up.

Quality Time Together

Our favorite thing to do when we first met was play cards. Emily's Grandmother taught her how to play a game called "Pay Me" when she was a little girl and once she taught Joe how to play, he was hooked! After several rounds of Emily winning the game, Joe finally beat Emily and she tossed the score card! **Her animated spirit came out in the moment**, followed by oodles of laughter.



We love to explore new places and cultures through foods. On our last trip to California, some **locals told us about a small French macaron shop, so we drove 40 minutes to try it**, only to realize we had to stand in line for another 20 minutes. It was well worth the wait! We enjoyed our favorite flavors (chocolate and peanut butter and pistachio) with a coffee on our drive back. Your child will grow up in a family exploring new and diverse cultures.



College game day during football season is quite the scene at our home! As our college teams tend to play at the same time, **we decided to set up two TV's in the basement so we can watch both**. This past season, there was a game where a senior wide receiver scored a touchdown for the first time in his career. He had several injuries over the course of college and we didn't think he would be able to play again. Watching him score the touchdown was a reminder that our favorite athletes are still humans and it brought back memories of our personal friendships we had with team players when we were in college.



Weekdays



Emily will be a **stay-at-home mom** for your child. Currently, she prioritizes taking care of the house and ensuring we are organized. She also enjoys her weekly **volunteering** with the pups. Prior to being a home caretaker, Emily worked in hospitality welcoming groups of all types to the hotels and convention center she worked for and made sure their stay was comfortable. Your child will have a mom home with them for the big and little moments in their life.



Joe works in Government Contracting. His schedule is predictable and he is home every night by 5:00PM. He is also able to **work from home** whenever needed, giving him even more **flexibility** with his schedule and work environment. Joe will make being a dad his number one priority.



We eat **dinner together every night** followed by watching our favorite shows together snuggled up on the couch. Recently we got the TV cued up to watch our favorite show, *Modern Family*. Then we started talking about one of Joe's big work proposals, followed by a story from Emily about the puppies from her volunteer efforts. We talked for such a long time that the TV shut off automatically! An hour later, we finally watched the show. Your child will have quality family time every day.

Our Gratitude

Thank you so much for allowing us to share our lives with you. Our gratitude goes beyond what words can express. We would be so honored to be entrusted with the gift of your child and would love them unconditionally. We believe adoption to be the ultimate sacrifice a loving mother can make and you would always be spoken and thought of in great respect and admiration in our home. **We are committed to maintaining contact with you** at your comfort level so that you always have the option of being in your child's life. Your child will always be aware of the tremendous love you have for them.

With love and peace to you,

Emily & Joe



made for you by

Emily & Joe