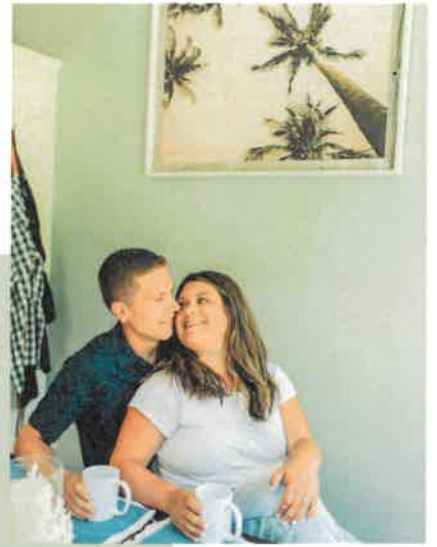


BEN + NICOLE



— YOU ARE SO LOVED!



WELCOME!

WE ARE SO
HAPPY OUR PATHS
HAVE CROSSED!





HELLO!

One thing we know we have in common with you is a beautiful heart big enough to want the best for your child. This is such a beautiful, selfless decision and it takes a very strong person to make it. **Your decision to ensure the best possible life for your child speaks volumes about your character and the depth of your love.** Nobody expects this decision to be easy, nobody sees this as a walk in the park. We understand the complexity of your emotions and the weight of your choices. This is a very emotional and vulnerable journey. When we went through our infertility journey, we felt very defeated many times. We were scared and had to lean on each other for strength. Although our journeys may be different, they are similar in the sense that we both know what it is like to feel a certain type of pain we did not know could exist. Please know that we see you, we feel your vulnerability, and are here to support you in any way we can. **Our hearts are touched by your bravery, and we are here to offer you not only our support but also our admiration for the remarkable person you are.** We acknowledge your bravery and strength during this time, and we admire your decision to take the first big step into considering adoption. We are committed to providing a loving home, a good education, a life full of travel, and a strong foundation on which they can grow up knowing who they are and where they came from.

We are so glad you are taking the time to get to know us, and we hope these pages help you get a feel for who we are and the love we have to share with a child!

Ben + Nicole



Our journey to get here began nine years ago when we first met. It has been a long journey for us, but we are very excited to begin this new chapter in our lives and to welcome a new member into our family. **This is something that we have been dreaming of for a long time and have had many challenges along the way, but we know we can welcome any child into our life with open arms.** To us, it does not matter how a family is created; every family is unique, and we know we would provide a beautiful life for any child we are lucky enough to welcome into our family.

IN NICOLE'S WORDS

When I was nineteen, I was told by one of my doctors that there was a chance I could not have children. We were newly dating at the time so we were prepared that if we got married and wanted children there was a possibility that would not happen for us naturally. Fast forward six years, we got married and decided to dive more into finding out the extent of these fertility issues and what building a family would look like for us. After multiple doctor appointments, second opinions, and an ample amount of blood work, it was determined that I could never have children, and was recommended to have a hysterectomy. It was a big pill to swallow for both of us as we were only twenty-seven years old, but also a sigh of relief because we could finally close that chapter in our lives and put all of our focus into adoption.

WHY ADOPTION





*We have always felt we
were destined to be parents,
and this is the path that
was chosen for us.*

A family friend of ours was adopted at three months old, and she really gave us some insight into what it was like being adopted. She had a beautiful experience, and her words of wisdom really inspired us to begin this journey. We have another family friend who adopted a little girl from China, and something that he said that stuck with us is that although they are different ethnicities, he never once felt like she was not his daughter. He said adoption chose him and his wife, and there's never been a question of doubt if she is truly meant to be a part of their family.

OUR DREAMS FOR OUR CHILD



We hope our child grows up knowing that they can achieve greatness. We want them to know that they can spread their wings and fly, and they can do whatever they set their mind to. We never want them to struggle, but sometimes life will show them what struggle looks like. We never want them to know what disappointment feels like, but sometimes they won't be happy with their own abilities. But, our promise to them is that we will be there with love and support throughout their whole journey, both the ups and the downs. We want them to have a solid foundation of love and support which they can launch off into whatever dreams they have. Our greatest wish for our child is that they grow up always knowing how loved they are and that they never question their purpose in life. We pray that our child lives a happy, healthy life full of gratitude, adventure, and purpose.





OUR STORY

We both went to a small private college where our story began. We were sophomores when we met. We were young and starting our careers. Dating was not big on the priority list at the time but we were drawn to each other, so we decided to give it a try. After one official date at a sushi restaurant, we were hooked. **Since we started dating at a young age, looking back it felt like we grew up together. We went through many milestones together and that made us grow closer.** We graduated college together, started our careers, got our first apartment and later a house, figured out how to jointly file taxes, navigated conflict, learned how to be adults in this crazy world, became godparents, and got our sweet puppy together. All of these things made us grow in love and so much more. We wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

*Our
Milestones*





Over the years, communication has been a key component of our relationship. Ben's work schedule can be time consuming and irregular. It was very challenging at first, but we have learned how to communicate in our own way that works for us when he is gone. One thing we always do, no matter what the day's work schedule looks like, is talk to each other on the phone before bed to let each other know how the day has been, and most importantly, to say "I love you." It is a schedule that may not be for everyone, but we have mastered how to make this life work for us. Although it can be hard at times, it provides us with a great life full of travel and stability.

We have been married for three years and together for nine. One thing that makes our marriage strong is that we both know that everything happens for a reason. We have had our highs and lows through life's many challenges, but we've always circled back knowing each of us has the other's support. Even in everyday life, we try to support one another, no matter how simple the matter. When one is out at work or has a busy day full of plans, the other always tries to have dinner cooked, the laundry done, and the house clean by the time they get home, so they don't have to.



FAVORITE THINGS

We both have a love for cooking. Most nights, you'll find Nicole inside making anything from roasted chicken to peanut butter pie, and Ben outside grilling whatever meat he could find that day. Some days, he'll even get up at the crack of dawn so he can spend all day making a brisket or pork butt on the smoker. We enjoy cooking so much that we run a small online business, selling barbeque supplies and sharing our love of the craft with others.

We are lucky enough to live in a place that is full of walking trails, parks, and beautiful beaches. We love to take advantage of a gorgeous day by finding somewhere new to explore and just be outside. It's so nice to get away from all other distractions and simply be together.





Meet Ben

DETERMINED

JOKESTER

RESILIENT

Ben is the funniest, sweetest, smartest, most genuine, hard-working, and caring individual I have ever met. He always puts 100% into everything he sets his mind to. He is never afraid to try something new. Something that I especially admire about him is his outlook on life. He always finds the positive in a negative situation. He has always made me feel that if we work together, we can do anything and it is just more reason why I love him. He reminds me to take a deep breath and to just enjoy any moment because life is short and we should always try to make it fun. Life with Ben is always fun. He knows how to make me laugh and put a smile on my face. I know our life will be even more fun and full of laughs when we welcome a child into our family.

Ben is a giant kid at heart. We have two nieces who we adore and Ben loves to play with them any chance he gets. They live in south Florida so we don't get to see them too often, but when Uncle Ben comes to town it's nothing but fun. Two of our best friends have two little boys who we treat like our own nephews. They live down the street from us so we get to see them often. They refer to Ben as "Uncle B" and they are always asking for him to come over to go in the pool, play trains, or go to the park. Ben will be the best fun dad. I think becoming an uncle really made him excited and more ready to have children. We have always joked with our friends that Ben is such a dad. He always has a corny dad joke on hand ready to put a smile on anyone's face. He is and always has been a dad at heart and I know he will make an incredible father.

WHAT NICOLE HAS TO SAY



MORE ABOUT BEN

I work as a pilot for a large airline. Scheduling can be somewhat unfriendly at times, and this means I must spend some nights away at hotels in different cities, and sometimes I have to work weekends, birthdays, and holidays. However, scheduling is preferential, meaning if I ask for certain days off, I am likely to get them unless the airline needs me to work. But every downside has an upside - for my job, that means a wide range of benefits and the means to provide a comfortable life for my family. In that sense, I consider myself very lucky to be able to remove certain insecurities from our life. We also have the benefit of travel! Nicole and I have been to many different places, and we want to continue to experience the world around us as much as we can with our children.

Becoming A Dad

I look forward to life's many moments that will allow me to be such a proud father. I want to be there to love and support my children through all of their accomplishments and all of life's biggest moments. Their first hit in a Little League game, their first dance recital, being in the school play; all the way up to graduating school, finding a life partner, or landing a dream job; no matter the occasion, I look forward to the overwhelming feeling of pride and joy that I know I'll feel watching my children succeed in truly becoming who they are.

I love playing with what I call "my toys," which include my grill, my tools, and my golf clubs. I love being outside cooking on my grill, in the garage working with my tools, or at the course playing golf. You can find me at least a few nights a week grilling burgers, steaks, chicken, or anything else I can get my hands on. I have four different grills to feed my obsession. Out in the garage, I've got just about any tool you can think of. Nicole and I like to get inspiration from HGTV and Pinterest. I'll always try to do some sort of home improvement myself, and I love the challenge of learning a new skill and using my own two hands and tools to do it. I also love spending a beautiful day with Nicole and our dog, Buzz. Anything from just throwing a ball for him out in the yard to taking him to a new walking trail, park, or beach.



Meet Nicole



THOUGHTFUL

GENEROUS

CARING

Nicole has the biggest heart of anyone I know and is the person who everyone runs to when they need someone to talk to or a shoulder to cry on. She is so good at relating to others, listening to what they have to say, and understanding what they're going through. She has gone through many different trials in her own life and knows better than anyone the value of someone who loves you and supports you. I'm so proud of her all the time for being such a great person and wife. She is a great wife each and every day, and I am so lucky to be able to call her mine. She's always showing me how much she cares about me and loves me. It could be something as small as picking up my favorite candy or as big as planning the perfect birthday or anniversary weekend. She's always willing to forgive, she's always willing to listen, and she's always giving support.

Nicole seems meant to be a mother. She has the magical power to make any baby's face light up and has a natural ability to know what the baby needs or what they're trying to say. Our nieces in Florida and "nephews" right down the road love Nicole. Every time she goes to see any one of them, she always has a gift for them that she picked out with love, and really enjoys seeing the smile it brings to their face. She'll hold them, play with them, and love them as much as she possibly can. I know she will be such a good mother to our future children. It's almost indescribable - it's just a feeling you get when you know someone is meant to do something. Her heart is so full of love, and I know she will love her kids with all her heart.

WHAT BEN HAS TO SAY



MORE ABOUT NICOLE

I graduated college with a Bachelor's in Nursing. I have a background in medical/surgical oncology and transplant nursing. Two years ago, I decided to try something new, and now work as a nurse at a university student health clinic. I decided to leave the hospital to have more time at home and to make our life more flexible. My current job is very family-friendly and flexible. I work part-time and I will be able to take off as much time as I need for the adoption. I would love to be a stay-at-home mom and plan to work only once a week or maybe once every other week once we add to our family.

Becoming A Mom

The thing I look forward to the most is seeing our family complete. For the past nine years, it has just been Ben and I. We both have dreamt of being parents for a long time and we are really looking forward to growing as a family, learning from each other, and building a beautiful life together with a little one. I look forward to watching Ben be the best father he can be. I think a big part of being a parent is building trust, forming a bond with your child, and giving them the right tools to thrive in life. I really look forward to watching our child grow up, learn about their hobbies, and watch them learn what makes them who they are.

I grew up in a household that loved to cook. I have a lot of food allergies so creating new dishes that are allergy-friendly is important to me. Today, I consider cooking one of my favorite hobbies. You can find me at night on Pinterest looking up new recipes and, in the kitchen the next day either spinning a recipe I found to make allergy-friendly or simply making up my own recipes. I absolutely love to cook for my family and friends. I find it to be relaxing and I love it when food can put a smile on someone's face. In my free time, you can find me on a beach. I am a beach girl at heart. I grew up in South Florida, always in the water. If we weren't at school we were snorkeling, scuba diving, paddle boarding, or out on the boat. I try to carry some aspects of that lifestyle into my life today. I usually sit on the beach with a good book or walk our dog and let him jump in the waves.



OUR VALUES



Honesty

We always tell the truth to each other, because a strong relationship is built on trust. It is so much easier to trust when you know your counterpart is honest.



Community

Family and friends are so important to us, and we value the sense of community that they bring to our lives. Life is better with loved ones by your side, and we're always trying to welcome others into our house.



Perseverance

Perseverance is important to us because we never want to give up. No matter how challenging the situation - anything from a small afternoon house project to dealing with intense medical and emotional issues - we know we are strong enough to get through life's challenges together.



Humor

Lastly, humor carries us through our day-to-day lives. To us, there's no need for life to be dull; you only get one, so make it count and have as many smiles and good memories as you can!





WHAT LIFE LOOKS LIKE

Travel is a big part of who we are and we look forward to giving our child the gift of travel and adventure. We are very lucky to be in a position where traveling is easy for us. We absolutely love to travel and plan to incorporate that into our child's life. So far, we have been from the east coast to the west coast of the United States visiting many cities along the way, down to Central America where we visited Costa Rica, to the other side of the world where we visited Australia then traveled to Bali. We have been to some places in Europe including Germany and Austria, and then some of the Caribbean islands including Guadeloupe and the Bahamas.



Although travel is a big part of our life, it is not our whole life. We have friends who are like family to us and parents who live down the street from us. A typical weeknight for us looks like dinner with our friends or paying a visit to Ben's parents who live in our neighborhood. We usually have a weekly dinner with them. Family and friends are a big part of our lives, and we enjoy spending as much time with them as we can.



Holiday celebrations look a little different from year to year in our household. How we spend a holiday is dependent on Ben's work schedule. To us, a holiday is just a day on the calendar, and we are okay with celebrating on another day if it means we can celebrate together as a family. If Ben is gone on Christmas or Thanksgiving, Nicole will try to make it to South Florida to spend the holiday with her family and we celebrate together with Ben's family on another day. No matter what day on the calendar it may be, holidays always include a house of joy, a table full of good food, and making new memories.



One birthday tradition for Ben growing up was a trip to Dollywood every year. Ben has many fond memories of this and would love to continue those memories with our child. Nicole's birthday tradition growing up included a big family dinner with whatever food she chose, and a Duncan Hines yellow cake with chocolate frosting that is her absolute favorite and still requests for her birthday today. Birthday family dinners always felt special and are still a tradition in her family. We would love to continue that tradition with our child.

In college we started a tradition of doing a Friendsgiving and that usually replaced our actual Thanksgiving. We are lucky to still have friends from college who live in the same city and we still consider family. Today, we have continued the traditions of Friendsgiving, as we believe we all have a family we are given, but friends are the family you get to choose.



OUR HOME

Our home has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, with a half-acre backyard. It is a dog's dream backyard and will be our child's playground as there is so much room to run and play. Our house was renovated with our own two hands and a lot of love. We have put so much energy into making our house a home and we feel we have accomplished just that.

Our house is usually the home where dinner parties, backyard barbeques, and game nights happen. When we bought furniture we made sure to buy a dining table big enough to fit all of our friends and family so we could create memories together.

We live in a wonderful community in Florida. There is so much to do here that it's hard to get bored! We have beautiful beaches, parks, and walking trails.

We also have a downtown that is always full of family fun events like the art market, river walks, festivals, and museums. We love where we live as we are ten minutes from the beach and twenty minutes from downtown. We love our neighborhood and location so much that we would love to expand our current house someday to accommodate more children. We would absolutely love more children and fully plan to adopt a second child in a few years.



Meet Buzz

We have a sweet two and a half year old German Shepherd named Buzz. He is the protector of our house and we know he will do very well with a child in our home. He has been around our nieces and nephews and has always been so friendly and patient with them!



OUR FAMILY

NICOLE'S FAMILY

My mom and dad are Terry and Paul. My sister, Danielle, and her husband, Nate, have two girls: Remie and Noa. They all live in South Florida where I was raised. I also have grandparents on both sides of the family and lots of aunts and uncles. I have three male cousins who I consider like brothers as we grew up down the street from each other and were raised together like siblings. All my extended family still live in South Florida so when I visit, I get to see the whole clan. We are very close and enjoy spending time together. When we are in town, we always make sure to have at least one family dinner which includes a party of about twenty and my dad cooking something amazing. My family has been extremely supportive, and they have always made sure to let us know they will love any child we welcome into our home. My sister is particularly excited as she so badly wants cousins for her two little girls. They have all shown so much love as we went through our infertility journey and now our adoption journey.



BEN'S FAMILY

My parents are Sue and Bill. I have a brother, Sean, who is married to Joelle. I was born and raised in North Carolina. Sean and Joelle got married and settled in North Carolina and my parents moved to Florida about two years ago and now live in our neighborhood. We are excited to have family near us because we went many years being about hours away from either side of our family. We look forward to having a set of grandparents down the street from us and making new memories together as a family of three. When my parents found out about us beginning our adoption journey, that is when they made the decision to leave North Carolina and move to Florida. Moving close to us really showed us how committed they are to being amazing grandparents. They have given us so much support and they cannot wait to welcome a grandchild.

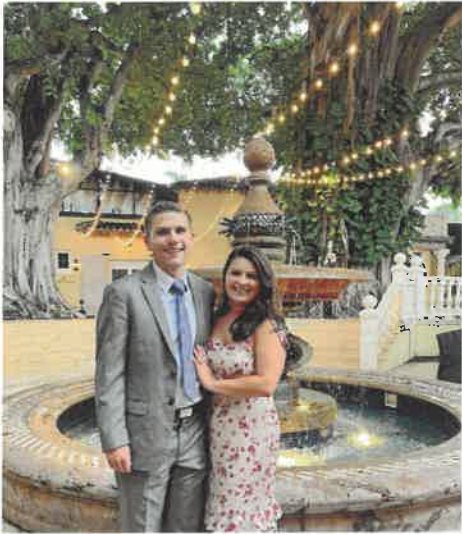
OUR COMMITMENTS TO



Our Faith

We were both raised with Christian values, and we believe that helped shape us into who we are today. We plan to take what we learned growing up and apply that to our child's life. We want them to grow up knowing that God is always protecting them, and will be their ultimate rock when life gets hard. Church is a place where a child can really develop, and we hope to immerse our child in all that church has to offer. Vacation Bible School, church camps, mission trips, and even weekly gatherings of fellowship with other church members will help them grow in faith. Church isn't just a place to go on Sunday morning because you have to. We want our children to know that if you put good out in the world, a life full of joy will follow.





Education

We plan to send our children to public school. There are many great schools near us that will provide a diverse environment and a great education. An education from a public school will not only allow our children to learn, grow, and develop into who they are but will do so while letting us commit our valuable resources to better other aspects of their lives. There are many great experiences to be had at school, regardless of whether it's public or private, and we know our children will thrive, work as hard as they can, and set themselves up for success for whatever lies next.



We believe in the benefit of going to college and we plan to work very hard to be able to send our children off to college. For us, college is where we really grew and thrived as individuals. We had the support of our parents who allowed us to expand our horizons and dream big. We want to be able to support our children in whatever they dream and help them spread their wings and fly. We don't want to pressure our children into a certain career path as we both believe that is something they must figure out on their own and we will support them in any way we can.





*Before
You Go*

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOU!

If we are chosen, please know we will make sure your child will always know they are loved by you. We plan to be very open with your child about their adoption story and always want them to know who they are and where they came from. We look forward to sharing pictures and life updates as the years go by. You will always be a part of their heart and we intend to make sure they understand that their adoption came from a special type of love.

Thank you for allowing us to share our story with you and considering us to be a part of your adoption journey. We admire your bravery and strength and know you will continue to love your child through your decision in the weeks and months ahead. Everything happens for a reason and no matter what, you and your child will always have our support.

*love,
Ben + Nicole*



