

Hello we are...

*Beth & Mike*



*Graceful*  
**adoptions™**



## Our Hopes and Dreams...

We are a free-spirited and peaceful family. We are artistic and dance to our own beat, yet are well-grounded and stable. We paint outside the lines, but only because it's more creative and unique. We tend to do the right thing, but we are not righteous people.

We met in martial arts class and were friends for years before we started dating. Then, after dating for four years, we married in a short ceremony in the park surrounded by family and friends. My wedding dress was blue, and Mike wore a fedora. We asked our guests to bring pie for dessert, instead of having a cake. There were hundreds of pies to choose from - berries, chocolate, banana, peanut butter - and people piled their plates high.

We've always known that we wanted to grow a family to share our love and life with a child. Even when I was a kid I was drawn to adoption. I cannot wait to read Harry Potter books to our child and will probably start before he or she is old enough to understand. Together, we will explore the big things and the little ones. We are excited to paint and create art together, introduce him or her to our musical family, go camping and look for bugs and animals, and explore new places, languages, and cultures together while traveling. We know it's time to move forward with our dream.

Last year we made an important decision that Mike would leave his graphic design job to fulfill the dream of being a full-time artist. His art is beautiful and starting to take off. We've since decided that he will stay home with our child, while I go to work, just a few minutes away. This is a dream to me, because I know Mike will be such an amazing, patient, and loving father, ready to show a little one the world.

However, our network of support and those that will hold up and support this child is immense. Of course there are grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, but there are also a group of friends so close we consider them family, and family so close we consider them friends. This journey has shown us that whatever limits we thought existed between us and our co-workers and those we considered acquaintances, have vanished and been replaced by their support.

This might sound corny, but we are sure that support will be there for you too. We've been thinking of you for a long time now and believe in some amazing way that we are connected. We've been sending you lots of love to help you manage the decisions and difficulties of this time in your life. We'll always hope for the best for you and already know you are one strong lady. We know you will be forever part of our story, and we will always honor you.

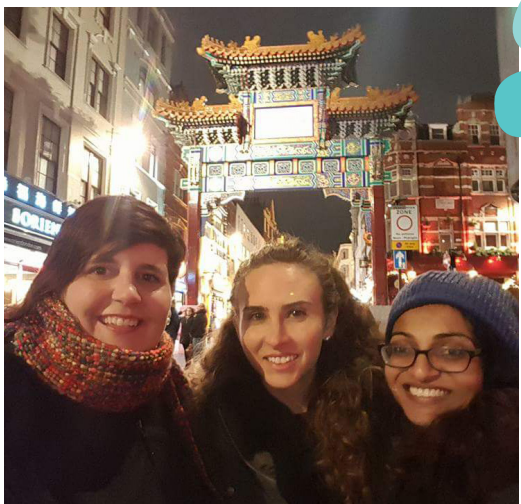
You're in our thoughts,

*Beth & Mike*



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## Our values and beliefs as parents...

**Compassion/Empathy** - Mike and I believe that it's important to "take a walk in another's shoes" to understand his or her experience and perspective. As part of this belief, we are tied to our neighbors, families, friends, and sometimes strangers, to show them love through acts of service and support. When we disagree with other people's ideas, we strive to seek understanding and openness. It does not mean that we are not principled in our beliefs, but that we are curious and inquisitive about the many different ways people live. We will help our child experience many different lifestyles through travel and service to others.

**Curiosity** - Mike and I are artists and learners. We see the world as a place full of wonder and interesting differences. We spend a lot of time learning about cultures and ideas. It's really common in our house to hear music in different languages, smell new spices in our foods, and see a variety of books on many topics. Mike's books are on the subjects of art, fitness, and culture. My books are related to nutrition and healing, being brave, and even some of the classics. This value also leads us to explore different experiences around the world. Beth learned Spanish during college and both Mike and Beth understand a good amount of Portuguese. Our friends speak many languages. We will expose our child to many opportunities to learn through friendships, lessons, and hands-on experiences.

**Friendship and Family** - Our ideas of friendship and family weave together tightly. Many of our life-long friends are like family and our family have become our best friends. We are surrounded with a supportive community through our families, coworkers, and friends. There are so many aunts and uncles lined up and excited for our adoption journey. When we get together, we eat great foods and laugh endlessly. The best environment to create is one where everyone feels invited and included. We strive to make this happen. We can't wait to introduce our child to our supportive community, where we will get together to enjoy each other's company, play games, and celebrate birthdays and holidays.

**Hard Work** - Hard work sounds a little funny, because it can feel strict in a sense. But it's really about setting our sights to what we envision our future to be and then working to make it happen. It's about commitment, overcoming challenges, and giving ourselves new experiences, even though it can be scary sometimes. This value shows up in our house as many paintings, taking opportunities to travel and explore, regular care for our house and yard, learning, and a commitment to doing what we say we are going to do. Through hard work we get to live rich and interesting lives, and others can depend on us. We will encourage our child to try many new things and stick it out when it gets hard. We will help him or her find passion and go after what he/she wants in life.

**Calm** - Mike and I are emotionally stable. This means we actively build routines that help us respond to uncertainty in a way that is healthy and helpful. We stay focused on what is truly important and take time to breathe deeply, take a walk, and meditate. We focus on eating foods that are healthy for us. We rarely drink alcohol, we exercise, stretch, and have regular conversations about our beliefs and feelings. We will help our child to learn healthy ways to overcome obstacles that are healing and empowering.



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- Both non-smokers

#### Hobbies:

##### Adoptive Mother:

Gardening, yoga, dancing, soap making, traveling, coffee with friends, writing, camping, Barnes and Noble, watching movies, reading

##### Adoptive Father:

Art, making music, cooking, martial arts, watching documentaries, camping, Barnes and Noble, watching movies, reading

#### Professions:

**Adoptive Mother:** Director of Content Strategy (Marketing Strategist)

**Adoptive Father:** Artist

#### Education Level:

**Adoptive Mother:** Master's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Associates's Degree

## Our home...

We love our neighborhood! It's the kind of neighborhood where we know our neighbors, the children play together in each other's yards, and the kids ride bikes and scooters up and down the sidewalks. There are big trees, parks, a pool, a basketball court, our elementary school, and ice cream shop all within walking distance from our house. Just a few miles away is our downtown area where there is a kids science center, an art museum with children's activities, a river walk, and a pedestrian area where many festivals are held in the summer.

In the evening and weekends, families work in their yards, play with their children, and walk through the neighborhood. We have a large backyard with a patio and a fire pit to enjoy s'mores. We imagine watching our child playing in our small garden, throwing sticks to our dog, and running through a sprinkler in our yard.

Our home is full of color and warmth, and reflects our passion for life. The walls hold paintings made by Mike, local artists, and even my great grandma who was an artist. There is plenty of space, including a home office for Mike and a finished basement we envision as a place where we set up the big toys like train sets. My favorite room is the screened-in sun porch. In the back of the house, it's a really fun place to listen to the "whooshing" sounds of gigantic trees swaying overhead. We have lights strung all around the ceiling, so spending time here can feel magical. The sun porch is one of the many places where we spend time when friends and family who come to visit. A spread of cheese, crackers, olives, and fruits are always on hand with our favorite music playing in the background.

We enjoy our evenings and weekends together, it's time to unwind and relax. Mike is an excellent cook and makes most of our food look like plates of art. With lots of color, we usually eat healthy, enjoying vegetables from our garden. While not always healthy, our favorite meal is lasagna. It's cheesy, meaty and really tasty.

We look forward to changes a child will bring to our home and life. Our child will be the center of our life. Our entire routine will shift around his or her needs. Evenings will be for park time, play time, bath time, and a bedtime routine of reading, and winding down. Weekends will be a mix of outside time, playtime, exploring, and napping. We cannot wait for time to laugh and learn together. We'll do many fun activities, introduce our child to sports, and have lots of play dates.

Our child's room is almost ready! We've painted a mountain mural on the wall that is in neutral shades. Pictures of animals I've collected the last several years and paintings created by Mike, will hang on the walls. A rocking chair and a book case filled with imaginative stories are waiting to be used to read to and rock our child to sleep.



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# Our family...

Mike and I met more than 12 years ago when we joined the same martial art group. Mike had been practicing since he was a teenager, so I was amazed by his ability to flip and kick. We had a tight friendship and started dating three years later. For all of those years, we would spend many nights a week training and then going to coffee shops afterward to talk with our friends until midnight. Our whole group were inseparable.

The process of being friends and then transitioning to a couple was slow and deliberate. We wanted to honor our friendships, space, and each other. Our favorite memory is all of the time we spent with our friend group, performing, and training together. We dated four years before getting married.

Mike and I are creative, hard-working, physically and emotionally strong, and committed to one another. We love to laugh and seek out wonderful things - beauty, peace of mind, diverse experiences, and friendship connections. Mike can fix anything. He is detailed and takes his time to do a great job. He has the ability to be firm, like a coach, but is also very affectionate and loving. He is also an excellent self-learner. He reads books, listens to podcasts from the experts, and watches videos of people perfecting their crafts. I am a go-getter. I accomplish a lot in a short amount of time, because I'm driven to have many experiences. I like to help others sort through difficulties to achieve a goal. I liked school, but also see a great value in learning through experiences and developing a craft over time.



Mike and I have a really big, happy, and healthy family. Mike's family is full of practical jokers and laughter. Everyone gathers at his granny's house during the holidays, where we eat traditional southern foods and play games. The family also meets regularly for meals out and about on a Sunday afternoon. On these days, we take up the party room for hours! There are fun musicians and artists on both sides of the family, some sing while others are instrumentalists. We look forward to exposing our child to different types of music and lessons.

My dad and stepmother host large dinners, and we'll often gather around watching football games. We enjoy having conversations around coffee to catch up on each other's lives. The grandchildren will spend hours playing together, surrounded by many toys. My stepfather's family is also important to us. These are the friends who I grew up with, so we often erupt in big belly laughs about silly things we did as kids. We are likely to break out in song or tell funny jokes. Our gatherings are often on the family farm, where we will spend time outside looking at the animals or play a touch football game on Thanksgiving Day. We recently went to Costa Rica and on a camping trip with my extended family. This is a lovely way for a child to experience many different lifestyles!

Our entire family is eager for a child to join our fun-loving group. The children are especially excited to have a new cousin to play with, and perhaps get into a little bit of mischief with.



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