



Hello We Are...



Matthew & Gina



## Our Hopes & Dreams

From the start, we shared the same dream: to raise a joyful family. Our first date was at an Italian restaurant and before the pasta arrived at our table, Gina had to ask, "You do want kids, right?" Less than a year later, we said "I do."

Michael J. Fox said, "Family isn't an important thing. It's everything." This mantra became especially meaningful to us after miscarrying our first baby. In that difficult time, we clung to each other and our shared dream; we weren't going to let infertility shatter our vision for the future. Our miscarriage affirmed our desire to provide a child with an unconditionally loving home and paved the way to what is the next step for our family – adoption. Gina's aunt was adopted, and Matthew has many friends who have adopted, so we know this will be a beautiful way to grow our family.

As parents, we will strive to encourage creativity and free expression. Being the bookworms that we are, we already have a full library of books waiting for your child. Through the many phases of childhood development and self-discovery, we can assure you that your child will have our unwavering support. We commit to providing an excellent education, opportunities to experience diversity and culture, and most importantly– a model of everyday acts of kindness. We can confidently promise you that, if you allow us the honor of parenting your child, he or she will know their first family treasures them. Our mission will be to dedicate our lives to fulfilling the dreams you have for your child; your dreams will become our dreams. If you would like to be a part of our family, the door is open. We welcome you with open arms.

For you, our sincere hope is for you to thoroughly enjoy opportunities that come your way-- education, career, travel, etc. We hope that you are able to arrive at a place where you don't feel limited, but free to make decisions that you are confident in and proud of. In this process, we want you to feel comfortable asking the questions that are important to you. At every stage of this journey, we hope that you have someone there to support you. Most of all, we want freedom and empowerment for you.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for taking the time to read our profile. No matter what you decide as your next step forward, we hope that you are able to find beauty in the little things and are able to accomplish what you set your mind to. We're dreaming right alongside you.

Warmest Wishes,

*Matthew & Gina*

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

**EMPATHY** - If we can be remembered as empathetic individuals who made others feel less alone, then we have done our job. We are motivated to teach our child the importance of loving others as themselves and the fruitfulness that can come from considering different perspectives. Practically speaking, we demonstrate empathy in our marriage by putting the other spouse's needs in front of our own. Your child will be raised with the knowledge that not all families look or act the same, but everyone's story deserves to be respected.



**LEARNING AND CURIOSITY** - As lifelong learners, we will enjoy nurturing a child's sense of curiosity. An education is something that no one can take away, and fostering a love of learning is required if we are seeking to make a positive impact. We commit ourselves to providing a well-rounded education and taking an interest in whatever extracurricular interests our child is passionate about. We will encourage our child to never be afraid to ask questions and we are looking forward to learning from them as well.

**INTEGRITY** - Honesty is essential to any healthy relationship, which is why we have a transparent marriage. Teaching our child to take responsibility for their actions by modeling that ourselves will be paramount. We recognize that trust goes both ways, so we will be honest with your child about their adoption story from the beginning. Your child will be celebrated for walking in integrity both by embracing their identity and owning their personal truth. Lastly, we commit to integrity when it comes to our interactions with you. We will not make promises we can't keep and will honor you with the truth for any questions you may have.



**FAMILY** - First and foremost, we want your child to know that our love for them is built on a firm foundation. Nothing they could do would ever change our support or forgiveness. Your child will never have to earn our love because family is an unbreakable bond. Putting this value into everyday practice, we will demonstrate the importance of family by frequently hosting family gatherings and spending quality time together on a daily basis. Our jobs, while essential to providing stability, will never come before family.



**SELF-WORTH AND CONFIDENCE** - Building self-worth starts with appreciating the wonderful attributes that your child has. We want to cultivate a growth mindset; your child will be told that they can accomplish anything they set their mind to. Promoting confidence will look like frequent positive affirmations, praising their efforts, and showing them examples of relatable heroes that they can strive to copy. When our child makes a mistake or feels discouraged, we will encourage them to try again, cheer them on, and remind them of the special person that they are. We will talk about emotions often so that your child will not be ashamed of their feelings.

*A Beautiful Experience*





# Our Home

Our neighborhood is tucked away down a road lined with canopy trees within walking distance to the elementary school. Just 5 minutes up the road you'll find a coffee shop, preschool, the local library (which we visit a lot), and a grocery store.

Our first impression of the neighborhood was that it would be an ideal place to raise a child. The neighborhood cul-de-sacs are a popular congregating area for the children on our street. Many of them seem to play together, ride their bikes on the sidewalks, and visit the ballpark playground. What we love most about our location is the diversity and access to nature. We feel as though we live in the cultural hub of our city and we are conveniently located to a wonderful nature preserve.

Our living room resembles a cabin lodge and it's especially inviting around the holidays because we'll use our stone wood-burning fireplace. There's usually something baking in the oven, so the homemade aromas add to the warm and cozy atmosphere. In the springtime, our house feels very breezy and light; we often open the French doors to our backyard where we have a firepit that's perfect for roasting marshmallows. During this time of the year, we are outside as often as possible. We like to work in our flower and vegetable gardens, read in our hammock, and a few times a week we walk our dog, Alice, around the ballpark where the kids play.

Gina is the chef of utility and ease, while Matthew likes to experiment and play music that directly relates to the cultural cuisine he's preparing. Dinners can range from one-pot meals to elaborate multicultural events. We also enjoy making homemade pasta and red sauce from scratch. We use Gina's grandfather's sauce recipe. Growing up, Gina had Pasta Sundays every week, we thoroughly enjoy carrying on that tradition.

Our favorite time of day is after dinner when we can get in bed, catch up on the events of the day, read and watch "funnies." Matthew saves funny memes and YouTube videos throughout the day so we always end our day with a laugh. That's our philosophy-- never go to bed angry or upset, but always end the day with a smile.

When we have a child in our home, our daily routine will start with snuggles and breakfast in the morning and end with family dinners and story time in the evening. As a stay-at-home mom, Gina will have plenty of time to treat the baby to strolls around the neighborhood in the afternoon. We look forward to the silly antics that a young child will bring to the house. We can't wait to make goofy faces to encourage our child to eat and laughing about the funny things they will eventually say. We imagine a lot of snuggles, reading a lot of books, and filling the house with child-made artwork. We just can't wait to have the opportunity to turn everyday activities into memorable moments -- creating silly songs for bath time and retelling our child's adoption story at bedtime.

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Acting in community theatre productions, creative writing, reading, teaching and practicing yoga, watching Disney movies, caring for animals, scrapbooking, and going to Broadway musicals

**Adoptive Father:** Composing, writing fiction and poetry, reading, fishing, camping, hiking, going to the beach, playing piano and guitar, cooking, going to art museums, and collecting antique books

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Work-From-Home Corporate Recruiter

**Adoptive Father:** Sommelier

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Master's Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Doctoral Degree

## PLUS:

- Family dog
- Both non-smokers



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# Our Family

Sometimes, great love stories start on a dating app. When we first matched and started talking, we were thirteen hours apart. After a marathon phone call, Matthew cut his vacation short and drove back home to meet his one-day wife. From the start, we knew that we shared something special and suddenly began to use the phrase, "when you know, you know."

If we were to describe our marriage in one word, it would be "indestructible." We joke about how we've seen each other through obstacles that some couples will never experience even after 50 years of marriage, but it is absolutely true. Our steadfast commitment for each other comes from the example set by our parents – both sets of hopeful grandparents have been married for more than 30 years.

Gina is empathetic and an artist to the core. Those around her are always taken care of, even their deepest needs. She makes our relationship the top priority, and nurtures our marriage in many ways. Gina will show our child what it really means to love other people well. Matthew is a fierce protector and a real renaissance man. What drew Gina to him is his steadiness; he's the same man no matter who he is around or what situation he's in. He is equally the reliable shoulder to cry on and the goofball that keeps you on your toes. Most importantly, I know Matthew's ability to genuinely listen will make him the dad that our child will want to go to for advice and comfort. While we enjoy a seemingly endless list of common interests, we have come to recognize that our differences make us stronger as a team. Together, we are dreamers who strive to make meaningful connections and appreciate the beauty around us.

Even though we lived in the same city, we sent each other love letters weekly while we were dating. To propose, Matthew handmade and bound a book of all the love letters we wrote and presented it to me on the beach. We display this book on our coffee table and hope it will become a family heirloom. It will be a great memory to share with our child one day.

Cutting down a live Christmas tree, visiting the pumpkin patch in October, and Pasta Sundays are just a few other things that we can't wait to share with a child. We also hope to take our child to Disney World as often as possible. We believe imagination and the magic of make-believe should be encouraged throughout childhood and hope to promote whimsical activities and adventures.

Gina's parents live on the beach just a short drive from our home and we see them all the time.

This will be the first grandchild of the family, so everyone is over-the-moon. Both sets of grandparents have been gifted books about the adoption journey, so they are educated on what parenting an adoptive child might look like. Both sides of the family are more than eager to meet their future grandbaby. In fact, both grandmothers have already started buying and making toys and clothes.



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