



Hello We Are...



Michael & Adrienne

Graceful 
Adoptions™



Our Hopes & Dreams

We have simple hopes and dreams. We want to live in peace, be an asset to our community, and nurture tight bonds with our friends and family. We value hard work, but love playing together and being downright silly. Deep down, it's not so much what we do that matters as much as who we do it with.

Our relationships with our family and friends provide us with purpose, support, and happiness. We fell in love at a young age, and we built that love on a foundation of friendship. Since then, we've truly shared a life. Our parents, our siblings, our friends – each of these relationships has been enriched by our shared experiences as a couple. We've had to lean on each other many times over the years. Our greatest joys and darkest defeats have been side by side, with each other, each other's families, and the chosen family of close friends we've built along the way.

In our family, it is important to do activities together. We play sports together, board games, read, go on vacation, cook, and talk. But we also think it is important to do things in pairs to create special bonds with each other. Sometimes it's daddy / daughter time and we play basketball in the driveway. Other times it's mommy / daughter time and we make a plaster volcano. Sometimes it's mommy / daddy time and we enjoy a game of cards on the back patio while our daughter plays with her toy cars. At bedtime, we take turns so that each of us has a chance to read a bedtime story and listen to our daughter's reflection of her day.

We love watching a child grow, learn, and flourish. For our new child, they will have the same experiences with the whole family. They will know that they are a part of our whole and have a role to play. But we'll also be careful to carve out time so that they can form a special bond with dad, another with mom, and yet another with their big sister. I think the thing we most look forward to is the moment they realize they are with people who love them no matter what. Once they get there, they can really start to become their best self.

For you, we wish nothing but happiness and fulfillment. We hope that you will feel neither shame nor regret for this extremely difficult choice you are making for the well-being of your child. To that end, we wish to honor your choice by being the best possible fit for your child. Every child is different, but one thing we can say for sure is that we've been through a toddler adoption before. As prepared as we were to become parents for the first time, there's really no substitute for living it. All adoptions are challenging for the child, but we know that if we stick to our methods of patience and love, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We only hope that by reading about us, you see that we are earnest, thoughtful, and loving people. We would forever be grateful to you if you chose us and would do our best to honor that choice by giving our child a life full of love, joy, and opportunity. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Michael & Adrienne

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

DIVERSITY - Everyone in our family has a unique cultural background. We live day in and day out recognizing that our differences make us stronger, and a good deal more interesting. We have been blessed to make many lifelong friends. They are gay, straight, Jewish, Catholic, atheist, black, brown, white, young, old, working class, middle class, and wealthy. If we had been more closed minded, our network of love and support would be so tragically small, and we would have missed out on so much. Our child will represent further diversity within our family. They will be accepted and celebrated for who they are. They will never be alone because whatever they will come to experience, either we have experienced it ourselves or we know someone trustworthy who has experienced it too.



GRIT - We believe that things worthwhile take effort. When we lived in New York City, we were fish-out-of-water, and minorities in our respective areas. Michael was a white teacher in a school without any white students, and Adrienne was a black, female scientist at an Ivy league school. While we worked very hard during this time, there were people who helped guide us too: fellow teachers, advisors, family, and friends. Grit is about making the most of what you have and getting help when you need it. Maybe that means we're there to put the training wheels on our child's bike, and then later take them off. Or celebrating their effort when their soccer team loses a game. Maybe it means patiently repositioning their fingers on the strings of a guitar until they master the C chord. We will be parents who help our child along the way, but ultimately let them "do it for themselves" when they're ready.



EDUCATION - We are life-long learners. We worked hard in school and found satisfaction in rising to the challenges. But if we have learned anything, it is that there is so much more to learn! We like to think of education as the ultimate bet on ourselves. If we invest in education, then no matter what happens, we'll always land on our feet. It is safe to say that our children will receive a lot of encouragement from us. Some things will be non-negotiable, such as reading and keeping up good grades in school. But we'll be there to help them when needed and always offer guidance.



HEALTH - We cannot be happy if we are not healthy. We are very thoughtful about the food we eat, making sure that it is both nurturing and delicious. Most meals we cook at home together and eat at the dinner table. We love going outdoors to walk, swim, play sports, or hike. Our child will be given the best healthcare we can possibly provide. They will have routine checkups and dental visits and get glasses if needed. While we will all enjoy the occasional movie, video game, show, or sporting event, we make sure to place thoughtful limits on screen-time activities.

KINDNESS - Kindness takes on many meanings for us. Sometimes it involves listening to others or sharing what you have. It mostly boils down to realizing that other people also have needs and that we can do something to help. If we can do something, then we should. We both enjoy loving relationships with our parents. We did not grow up in wealthy families, and while we did not always receive the material things we wanted, our parents showered us with love, support, and attention. We feel blessed to be able to offer the best of both worlds now.

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Our Home

Growing up, we never thought we'd ever live in a house as nice as this, with neighbors as kind as they are, and within a diverse community that has so much to offer. We lucked out in so many ways, but we also worked hard to put ourselves in a position to receive that luck. We look back on everything we've done since moving here and the life we've built, and we feel such happiness.

We try to get outside every day. There are concerts, weekly farmer's markets, outdoor movie nights, and holiday events like Easter egg hunts. We have two community swimming pools, tennis courts, a gym, and many walkways shaded by trees and flowering bushes. There are numerous playgrounds and a sports complex with volleyball courts, baseball diamonds, and soccer fields. The community pools and sports complex are where we spend most of our time outdoors. There are so many youth sports teams and clubs around here, the kids tend to make friends in these groups as well as at the local elementary school that is within walking distance.

Our home is comfortable with a lot of space. It wasn't our intention to buy a big house, but we sort of lucked into ours and got a good deal. It's nice, but not so nice that you'd be afraid to touch anything. You can keep your shoes on if you want to. We have some clutter sometimes between the desk in my office, our daughter's toys, and the kitchen always being in use one way or another. The couch and chairs are cushy with many pillows. The tables have room for dinner, board games, or projects. We want everyone to feel at home. Most of our gatherings involve games of some kind. Usually, we host a couple of gatherings during football season; we're big Buckeye fans and college football fans in general. We usually cook for our gathering, like nachos with elaborate toppings or other gameday fare. We have a pool table that overlooks the TV, so sometimes we play pool while the game is on.

We are an active family who enjoy spending time together. We both work from home during the day so we enjoy taking breaks to eat lunch together or to walk the dog and chat. Adrienne works out in the morning, and Sneha and Michael usually ride bikes to school. Sneha participates in an after-school karate program every day. When we pick her up, she always greets us with a big enthusiastic hug and she can't wait to tell us about her day. When we get home, we enjoy an energetic, play-filled hour or two before we separate again so she can read, and Adrienne and I can get dinner started. We eat dinner together every night, compliment the chef, and state one thing we are grateful for from that day. After dinner it's time to relax until we start the bedtime routines of brushing teeth, story-time, and then the lights go out.

When we add another child, we both will take significant time away from our work. We know how important it is to be present. Job #1 will be to help our new child feel safe in a new environment. That's going to involve eating a lot of meals together, playing together, and letting our child explore their new space. When Sneha gets home from school, we'll also be thoughtful about the siblings spending quality time together, sharing toys, and building a bond they'll have for life. We look forward to everything that is still to come!

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Bicycling, yoga, reading, traveling, hiking, camping, cooking, caring for pets, spending time with friends and family

Adoptive Father: Creative writing, reading, podcasting, playing video games, playing guitar, playing and watching basketball, spending time with family and friends

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Analytics

Adoptive Father: Curriculum Creator & Writer

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Doctoral Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree

PLUS:

- One dog, a cat
- Both non-smokers

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Our Family

We met in high school when we were both cast in a play. Adrienne was attracted to Michael's confidence and sense of humor. Michael really enjoyed Adrienne's whimsical personality and was awed by her intelligence. As we continued to get to know each other, we found we had similar goals and interests. We dated for 6 years. It was a long time, but we started our relationship young and didn't feel the need to rush anything. We still had some room to grow into our identities. Along the way we were also college students and had plenty of work to do. It wasn't until Michael graduated and followed Adrienne to New York City that we knew our relationship had endured enough tests to stand firm.

We have one adopted daughter, Sneha. We kept her birth name which in Hindi, means "love" and "affection". When we adopted her from India at the age of 3, she had no words in any language and expressed her thoughts through her actions. While the women at the orphanage gave her as much care and attention as they could, she was sensory deprived, had a tapeworm, head lice, and a lazy eye that would lead to blindness if not soon treated. She had a pleasant and curious disposition most of the time, but if she fell into a tantrum it lasted for hours.

So much has changed. Today, Sneha is a non-stop talker with a big sense of humor. She is a very active child who always wants to play sports, ride bikes, and swim. She has been enrolled in the gifted student program at school, asks very insightful questions, and has so much more control of her emotions. Now we sit down and talk about our feelings, find a solution, and hug it out. We are eternally grateful for the joy of raising her. We do not know and may never be able to find Sneha's birth mother, but we tell Sneha that her birth mother is our favorite person in the world that we've never met. We honor her mother by making sure Sneha has the best possible chance of happiness for the rest of her life.

We think it's important to celebrate milestones that reflect our lives and put a big emphasis on these personal holidays. Martin Luther King Jr. is a personal hero for us, so we usually spend some time that day learning about him and his non-violent campaign for equality by reading, watching documentaries, and listening to his speeches. January 18th was the day we all came home from India, so it is celebrated as a homecoming day. The Fourth of July is another big one; we have a kid-centered gathering with 20+ friends we've known for more than 20 years. Christmas season is special for us, but for slightly different reasons. Christmas Day in 2018 was the first day we met Sneha at the orphanage. We'd waited 3 years to meet Sneha and it just so happened to be on that day. Also, our wedding anniversary is December 27th. The whole week is filled with celebration, gift giving, and reflection. Perhaps to symbolize the lives we've built together, one of the things we do is assemble a big Lego set.

Life will keep on adding important dates to the calendar. As we adopt our next child, the day they come home will be celebrated just as it is with Sneha's day. We'll look to add meaningful traditions that highlight our new child's milestones and experiences. We'll also look forward to maintaining any important traditions already in place from his or her birth family. We want our next child to feel welcome, celebrated, and safe here. We are open to building traditions around our new child visiting their birth family. These events and milestones, together with the day-to-day love and affection are the core of who we are as a family.



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