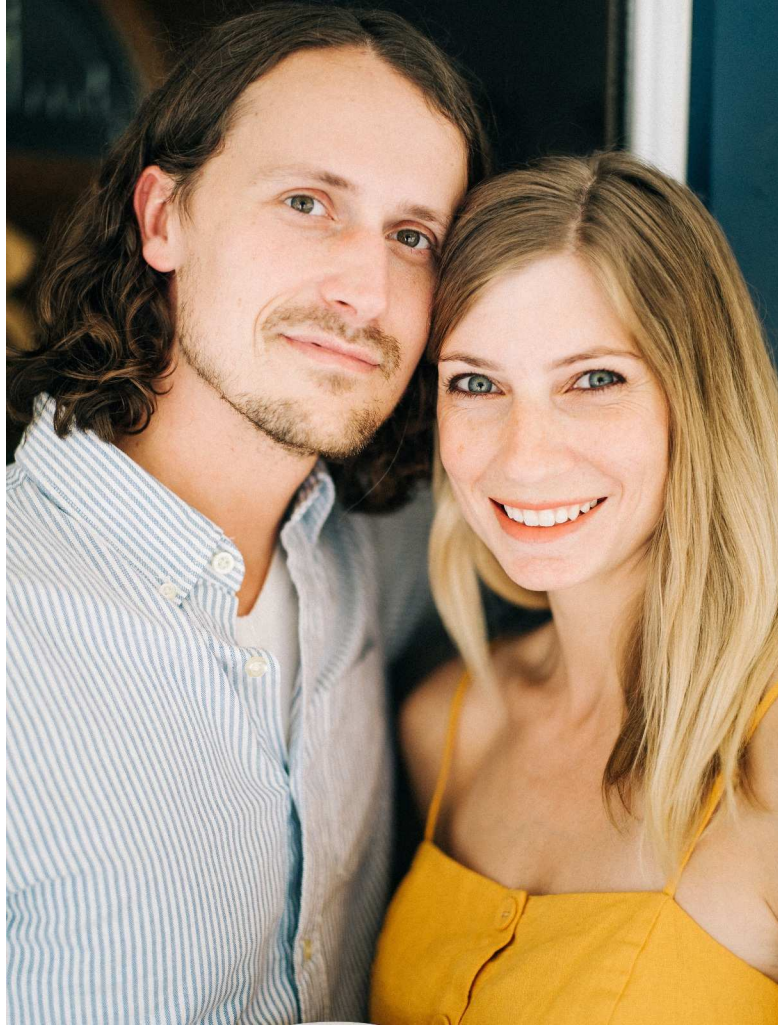


Joseph + Erica





Hello!

We are Joe and Erica. We have been together for 11 years and married for 3. We both grew up in small towns in Michigan and moved to bigger cities for college.

Now we live in Erica's hometown nestled in between Lansing and Flint. We purchased our first house and have been settling down here with our beloved cat. We are so grateful to be surrounded by a loving community of family and friends.

We are first time parents and parenting has always meant so much to us. We believe that it can be the opportunity of a lifetime to raise another human being.

We know this is the right time and place to grow our family.



Choosing Adoption

For many years we've discussed adoption as an option for our family. Our hope is to have the opportunity to parent two or three children. Ten months after we were married Erica was diagnosed with some infertility complications. This was before we had the chance to decide to grow our family. Despite the unexpected infertility diagnosis, parenting remained one of the most important goals for our future. That is when we discussed adoption further and came to the conclusion that adoption is the right choice for our family. We never pursued fertility treatments and Erica has never experienced a pregnancy.

We look forward to experiencing those first anticipations of becoming parents through adoption. We believe that an adoption can be a beautiful relationship between two families. Our hope is that we can experience the impactful moments of adoption with the birth family of our child and build a lifelong relationship that makes us all feel proud of what we have accomplished together.



Erica

Intelligent | Passionate | Tenacious

"Erica is a natural leader; a balanced and beautiful person. In our earliest years together I felt the sense of home she can bring to any environment. She is continuously looked to for emotional support from those around her as she has a skill to look at things from a rational angle. She is strong and not afraid to take a challenge head on. She is a gift to any individual lucky enough to spend time with her." - Joe



Joe

Outgoing | Compassionate | Loyal

“Joe has a way of making you feel like you’re the most special person in a crowded room and that you have known each other your whole life. He genuinely wants to learn what makes you smile and what he can do to make you feel cared for. He dedicates his life to supporting those around him and has a level of compassion that makes him a rare personality to come across. He can make a room feel full of joy with his bright personality and humor.” - Erica



Our Story

We met through a mutual friend 11 years ago. Before we even had the chance to meet, this friend told Erica "I think Joe will be your future husband." Little did we know that he would be right! Our relationship continued on for 7 years until we were engaged. We were there for each other during college, multiple degrees and relocating to a few different cities. Today, we own our own photography business and love the opportunity to be able to work together doing what we love.



Our Wedding

We married 3 years ago at a small bed and breakfast in Michigan surrounded by our closest family and friends. Our wedding was small and intimate and every detail of it was a perfect reflection of who we are individually and together as a couple.

What We Love





Our neighborhood is perfect for evening bicycle rides.



From snow storms to beaches, we love to soak up the different Michigan seasons.



We set a goal to take at least two vacations each year. Here we are on our last vacation in the desert of west Texas for our friend's wedding.



We share a lot of hobbies but it's important for us to spend time enjoying our own interest as well.



Cuddling our cat Bella should be considered one of our hobbies too.

Meet Bella



Our cat Bella was a stray kitten that we had rescued. We've had her since she was a few months old and now she is 7 years old. She is affectionate and friendly. Her favorite things are sleeping, cuddling and canned cat food. She's really quiet until she hears a can of her food open. She loves to greet all of our guests and will fall to the floor by their feet for some attention. She loves kids and we think she actually prefers to have kids over kittens visiting our home.

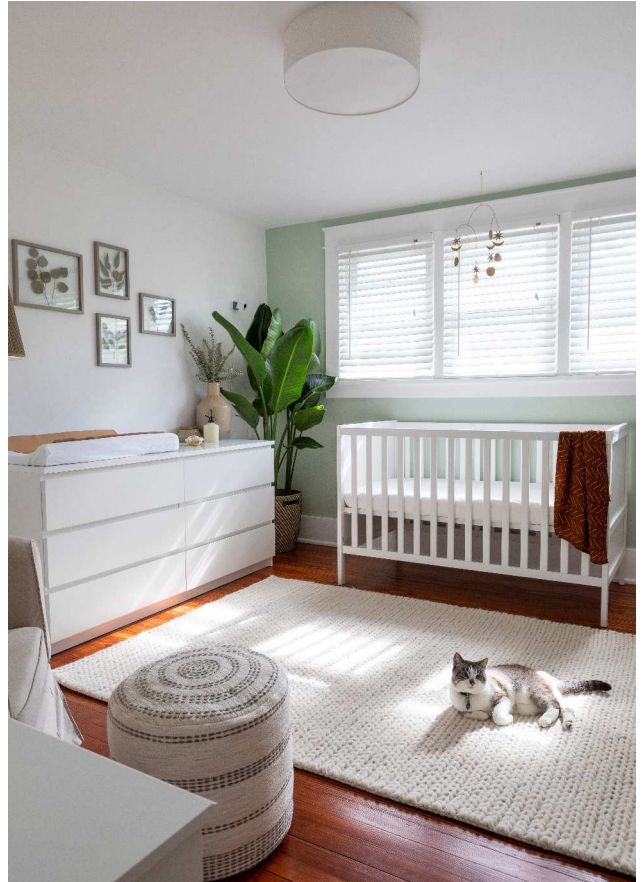
We grew to love Bella so much, that we felt the desire to be able to help other cats find their forever homes. So we took the opportunity to foster kittens and cats to provide a temporary home to them before they are adopted. We hope to continue to foster cats for many more years.



Home Sweet Home

We purchased our house four years ago and we are even more in love with our home today than we were when we first walked through it. We live in the city limits and are within walking distance to our downtown. Our home is located in a historical part of town and is nearly 100 years old with some beautiful original features. We have spent countless hours updating and renovating every room of our home. Our newest update has been our nursery. We love the nursery so much and look forward to the moments that we will spend with our baby in there.

We live in a city where the term "community" is truly reflected in the downtown businesses, events and organizations. We love attending our city's events and running into familiar faces that we can spend time catching up with. Since deciding that this city was going to be where we settle down, it's been important to us that we play a part in the city's growth and development by volunteering and participating in community events as often as we can.





Our Family

Our family is very important to us. We cherish the relationships that we have with our family members and the memories that we get to create with them. Being around our family makes us feel secure and supported. They are a combination of caring, intelligent and funny people.

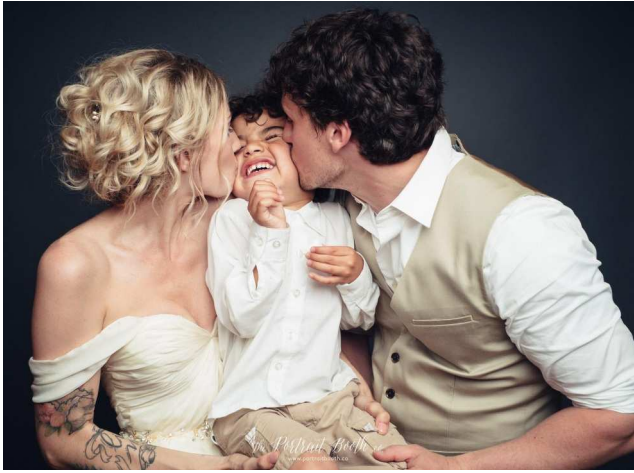
Joe's immediate family consist of his mother, adoptive father and four younger siblings. He has one full brother, one half brother, one half sister and one sister in law. They all have a very close and unique bond. They are all bonded together through their creative talents and they support each other unconditionally. His mother married his stepfather when he was young and his step-father adopted both Joe and his younger brother as his own. Together his mother and adoptive father had two other children.

Erica's immediate family consist of her mother, father, step-father, one older full sister, two older step-sisters, two nieces and one nephew. Erica's mother and father divorced when she was 14 years old. Her mother remarried her step-father when she was 19 years old. She has a close relationship with all three of her parents. Her relationship with her youngest niece and nephew is very loving and supportive.

Our Friends

We truly consider our close friends our family. They all have big hearts, open minds and a compassion for others. Whether they realize it or not, our friends inspire us each day to be better people. They are some of the hardest working, driven people we have ever had the honor to know. We have built friendships with the people that share an interest in the growth of our city. We have a feeling these friendships will continue to grow and last us for many more years.







Our Promise

We are committed to the following promises to you:

- We promise to support our child unconditionally
- We promise to allow our child the freedom to explore any interest and loves
- We promise to provide a family for our child that is full of love and comfort
- We promise to teach them compassion and understanding towards others
- We promise to teach them how to have an open-mind
- We promise that our child will always know the importance of their adoption
- We promise to maintain a lifelong relationship with you
- We promise that our child will forever know who you are

joseph + erica

"Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable"

- Mary Oliver

