

# HELLO

We are honored that you are taking the opportunity to get to know us. I'm sure you never imagined being in this situation, to be honest I'm not sure we did either. We have always dreamed of having a big family. When we found out we were unable to conceive, adoption was our first choice for growing our family. We have been blessed by Adoption twice with our son Calvin and son Leo when their amazing birth moms chose us to be their parents. We pray that you find peace in your decision and find a family that is a perfect fit for you and your child.

# HOW IT ALL STARTED



**WE MET AT A MUTUAL FRIENDS PARTY IN COLLEGE. MARY BURNED A BAG OF POPCORN, ASKED BRIAN IF HE WANTED SOME, AND WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE**

We moved to Chicago together after college to start our careers. After nearly eight years of dating, Brian finally popped the question. We had an amazing wedding and have enjoyed (nearly) every minute of building our family and our home together.

We love doing new things together, whether its a trip to the Grand Canyon, tearing out carpet, or learning to ballroom dance, we make a great team. Mary is always coming up with some crazy idea, and Brian works on a plan to get it done. From renovating a bathroom to barbequing the perfect brisket- we always love to tackle a challenge together.

Our family means the world to us. We are so blessed with our two boys and feel so fortunate to have them and their birth families in our lives.

Adoption has grown our family , filled our hearts and our home and



# *a little about* MARY



*"Mary is strong kind and deeply devoted to her family and friends. She knows what she wants, figures out how to accomplish it, and keeps us on track to get it done.; and of course, she's the most beautiful girl I've ever met, and I still can't believe she loves me."*

*– Brian*

I have dreamed of being a mom since I was a little girl. I am so blessed that I get to stay at home with my kids. Everyday with them is an adventure and it is the most fun and fulfilling job I have ever had. I love watching them grow and learn new things.

I enjoy exercising daily, and love that we have a class at the park that includes the kids, its one of our favorite things to do. We love going to the library, music classes, museums and being outdoors. The boys and I are learning Spanish together through classes, books and music and having so much fun.

Before having kids, I worked full time as a Registered Dietitian in a Nursing Home. I really enjoy helping people and being a part of their daily routine. I continue to work a few days a month when needed. I am also very involved in our church, and volunteer to help couples who are preparing for marriage. I hope to return to work in the future and work in children's nutrition.



# *a little about* BRIAN



*If you had to make a cross country road trip.... Brian would be the guy you want to take with you. Outside of his ability to quickly tell you the distance between any two cities in the US and the amount of time it may take you to get from one to another.... He will also have some crazy story to share.. How a mountain formation came to be, why a river flows a certain way... he knows it all. He will also ask stop for pizza... more then once.*

*-Mary*

I love being a dad. The most fun I've ever had is sitting on the floor of our playroom, helping the kids build train tracks, and diving into their imagination for the afternoon. It's so rewarding watching them grow, learn, and reflecting things back at me that I taught them.

I'm kind of a jack-of-all-trades, and really enjoy learning new hobbies.

Over the years, I've picked up many hobbies, some of the best being skateboarding, cycling, cooking, crochet, furniture building, golf, tennis, swimming, photography and gardening. It's thrilling to learn new things, and I love sharing this with the children, and watching them learn to love a hobby too.

I've been in the freight industry for ten years, and have a job where I can work from home. It's the best being able to be home all day with the kids, plus seeing them before & after work.





# CALVIN & LEO

Calvin is three and a half years old.

He enjoys playing pretend by himself and with his brother.

Calvin loves Firetrucks, Police Cars, Trains and Dinosaurs.

He will build a whole city of tracks in the playroom, and every vehicle has its own spot to park in.

Calvin loves to go on "adventures" in the wooded trails near our house.

His favorite foods are Sushi and Cucumbers. Calvin's birth family is Mexican, we have a semi-open adoption and enjoy sharing all of his exciting milestones with them.

Leo is two years old.. He is very mischievous, he is always getting into something, and then shoots a devilish grin in our direction. He loves to ride his scooter, the slide, and play in the sandbox.

Leo is always at the kitchen counter helping Brian make breakfast on Sunday mornings and the first one to jump into the bathtub at night.

Leo's birth mom is Honduran, and we have an open relationship with her. We enjoy having her be part of our family, exchanging pictures and messages.





In the Three Little Pigs, the strongest house was built of bricks. In reality, we know that the strongest homes are the ones built of love. These strong houses are where children can dream, imagine and flourish, safe from the huffing and puffing of the big, bad wolves.





# O U R F A M I L Y



*We love cooking together, walks through the park, and family bike rides. We enjoy having friends over to grill in the backyard and try a new recipe while the kids play in the sandbox. Over the years, our friends have become extended family. They are a huge part of our lives, and bring so much joy to our family.*

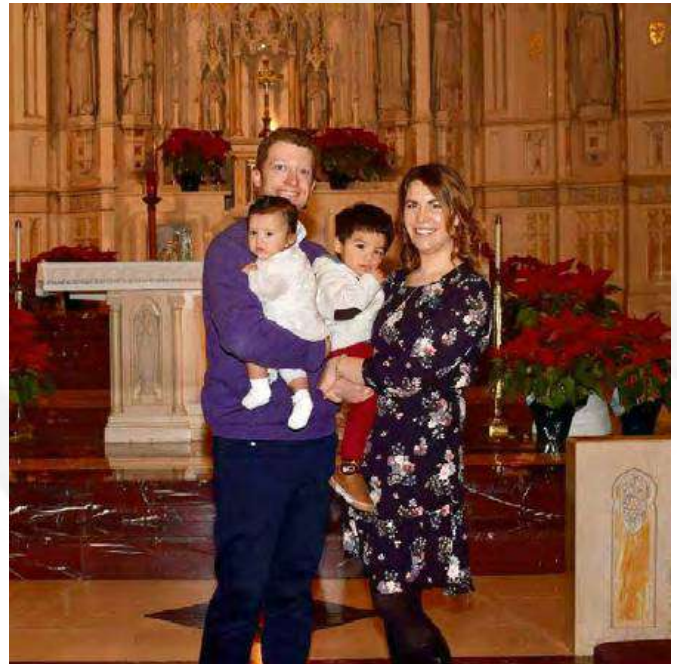
On a daily basis, our family has a whole lot of fun! Our house is a little crazy at times, but there is so much love inside of these walls. We value our faith, family values, and strong morals, but also find joy in letting the boys stay up a little past bedtime in the summer or stopping for ice cream whenever we can. We are not “perfect” parents by any means, but strive to provide our children with a framework to make good decisions, communicate well and engage with people of different backgrounds and perspectives.

We love Holidays, carving pumpkins, cutout cookies, Thanksgiving dinner and getting a real Christmas tree every year. Hosting our families for a big Turkey dinner and having everyone together under one roof watching Football and eating until we can’t move is simply the best. When the weekend comes, we head to the tree lot and buy the biggest tree we can fit into our house. Spend the weekend listening to Christmas music, watch Elf and decorate the tree. in matching pajamas





WE LOVE TO CELEBRATE  
BIRTHDAYS!  
PICK YOUR FAVORITE MEAL AND  
FLAVOR OF CAKE



THIS BAPTISM GOWN HAS BEEN  
PASSED DOWN IN MARY'S FAMILY  
FOR OVER 100 YEARS



CELEBRATING OUR  
ANNIVERSARY



4TH OF JULY AT THE BEACH



TRICK OR TREAT



# OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD

We moved to Michigan last year after spending ten years in Chicago. We absolutely love our home, and our neighborhood. Most importantly we are now very close to our parents and siblings.

We live in a Northern Suburb of Detroit. Directly across the street from a big park, it has a creek, three playgrounds and a beautiful walking trail. The trails lead into several other paths that we frequently walk, to look for ducks and deer. We are also walking distance to the Library and the downtown area filled with shops and restaurants. Our Home has plenty of space for more children. We have a large backyard, with a big sand pit and swing set the Brian built. Brian enjoys gardening and growing vegetables, and Mary loves hosting playdates with other kids in the neighborhood.

The boys have an amazing play room where they spend most of their time, and the kitchen is perfect for hosting everyone for Thanksgiving! Our home, neighborhood and schools are the perfect fit to raise our family.





## *Fun Facts*

The shops downtown put up 1.2 million Christmas lights every year.

Our school district is ranked in the top 200 districts in the country

## *Our Neighborhood*

We live very close to the Police and Fire Station., and often visit to see the trucks

We live two blocks away from a hospital

Our church has Spanish mass every

Sunday night and a large Hispanic community. We have enjoyed welcoming many new cultural traditions into our family.





# EXTENDED FAMILY



## Mary

I have one older sister who lives a few miles down the street. She is getting married this year and hopes to start a family of her own soon. She loves spending time with the boys for movie and game nights. My Dad passed away of cancer 15 years ago. My mom is a retired nurse and loves spending time at our house. She comes over once a week to spend the day with us and frequently takes the boys to her house for sleepovers.

WE LIVE WITHIN 15 MILES OF OUR PARENTS AND SIBLINGS. WE LOVE HOSTING FAMILY DINNER AT OUR HOUSE, AND MOST DAYS SOMEONE DROPS BY TO HAVE AN AFTERNOON COFFEE, OR PLAY WITH THE BOYS. CALVIN AND LEO LOVE HAVING SLEEPOVERS WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

## Brian

I have one younger brother, who lives nearby. He has worked in the restaurant industry for a long time and is an incredible chef. My dad recently retired, and enjoys playing golf. My mom is the CEO of a non profit organization. The boys love going to their house to play trains with Papa, and bake with their Grandma







HISTORIC FORD HOUSE



PICKING STRAWBERRIES



DETROIT ZOO LIGHTS



MEXICANTOWN DETROIT