



Erin

& JOSÉ

Hi!

Thanks so much for allowing us to share our story. We're so grateful that you have chosen adoption for your child, and we hope to learn more about you as we all continue this journey together.

We are both very excited to grow our family in this loving home, and we promise to provide unconditional love and care. We have created a very nurturing environment for a child, and we hope to provide many lifelong opportunities, a safe and stable home, and a great education.

Thank you for considering us as adoptive parents!

Sincerely,

*Erin & José*



# About Us



Erin and José met in Brooklyn, New York. Our first date was a cup of tea and a walk through Prospect Park, and we quickly planned to have our second date a few days later!

Erin was born in Michigan and grew up in Brooklyn, while José was born in Philadelphia and grew up in New Jersey. A year before we met, we were both at the same screening of "The Nightmare Before Christmas!"

After three recurrent pregnancy losses, and a diagnosis of unexplained infertility, we are very excited to grow our family through adoption.

We moved to Connecticut in 2020, and we're happy for the outdoor space for hiking, biking, kayaking, bonfires, and long walks. We love our home! We enjoy cooking, raising chickens for eggs, and Erin has recently started teaching José how to can and preserve produce!



*Enjoying the beginning of fall (our favorite season) in Brooklyn's Industry City*



*Having espresso, one of our many coffee and tea dates, while visiting José's mother in Atlantic City*

# ERIN

# JOSÉ



Erin is a social worker who owns her own practice based out of New York City. She enjoys reading, traveling, knitting, cooking, playing the harp, and Broadway shows.

Erin has taken several trips around Europe, Asia, and Africa, including visiting the Pyramids of Giza, hiking the Grand Canyon rim to rim, and climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro!



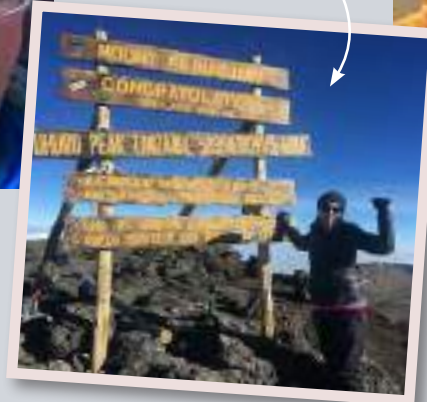
José is a video editor and producer at a software company. He also teaches a beginner's video editing course every summer. He enjoys video games, board games, soccer, and cycling.

José has an affinity for Spanish culture, having been to Spain three times, including a semester abroad in college.



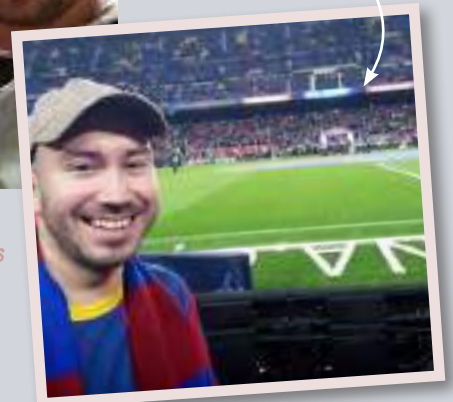
*Erin hiking the Grand Canyon*

*Erin at the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa*



*José with Fozzy Bear at a Muppets exhibit in LA*

*José at Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain, home of his favorite soccer team F.C. Barcelona*





# OUR HOME

We've done a lot of work on our 1971 Connecticut home since we moved in 2020. We've already remodeled the kitchen and deck, and we've been composting, stripping old carpeting, using eco-friendly paint, and we'll be installing solar power soon.

Our home is 10 minutes from the beach and several parks, a short drive to the aquarium, and less than two hours from both Boston and New York!



*Erin playing harp as her stepfather Don follows along on the flute*



# OUR FURRY AND FEATHERED FRIENDS

Remy is our 2-year old French bulldog, and the first pet that we got together! He loves going on hikes, eating peanut butter, and playing with any person or animal that comes his way.



*Our four chickens are of varying ages! The two oldest are Dolly and Aunt T (named after our Aunt Terri), and the babies are Madge and Blue.*

Holly is our house cat, going strong at 13 years old! She mostly hides in José's closet, but when she does emerge, she's always warm and playful.





*Our Family*

Family has been very important to both of us. We had a small wedding with only 25 guests, mostly family, and we're a couple hours from all our parents except Jose's dad, Bo, who lives in South America. We often take trips to visit our extended families in Michigan and New Jersey. Erin was very close with her aunt and grandmother who have both passed away in recent years.



*Hiking in upstate New York with Erin's dad Chuck and her stepmom Deb*



*Walking through Brooklyn with Jose's dad Bo, who moved to his home country of Paraguay in 2019*



*Erin at her mother Kat and stepfather Don's city hall wedding, with her brother Matthew and cousin Ashley (who passed away in 2017)*



*Spending the holidays with Jose's brother David, sister in law Chelsey, his mom Karen, and his niece Brynn and nephew Maximus*

# OUR FAMILY TRADITIONS

We love celebrating Halloween and Christmas! We always try to get creative with our costumes, and we enjoy celebrating old and new holiday traditions together!



*Erin and her mom Kat as Rosie the Riveter and Mount Rushmore for Halloween*



*Erin celebrating the holidays with her cousin Reelika, who Aunt Terri had adopted at age 6*



*Erin picking apples with José's mom Karen*



*Erin's family has passed down their potica (pa-tee-za) recipe for generations. Her great-great grandmother immigrated to the US in the early 1900's with this traditional Slovenian bread, which can be filled with sweet filling or even bacon!*



*Jose and his dad Bo enjoy dressing up to watch FC. Barcelona soccer games*



*Remy's first Halloween meant his own outfit for our "Royal Tenenbaums" family costume!*



*Erin's family has a tradition of new matching Christmas pajamas every year!*





Erin with Aunt Gina, right, and cousin Rebekah, left. Aunt Gina adopted Rebekah 45 years ago



José celebrating our wedding with Aunt Terri, our marriage officiant.

## Adoption in the Family

Adoption is warmly embraced in our family. Erin's Aunt Terri and her great Aunt Gina both have adopted daughters. Our aunts have helped us greatly, sharing their unique perspectives over the years. Also, our adopted cousins Reelika and Rebekah, now both adults, have been especially inspirational over the past several months.

José, Erin, and Erin's stepdad Don, at an axe-throwing with Reelika, who Aunt Terri adopted nearly 20 years ago



José and Erin hosting our weekly family Zoom chat in 2020



# Our Destinations

While we've taken many trips separately, we've also very much enjoyed our vacations together. Whether it's trekking through Texas, enjoying New England, or crusading through Canada, we have found some of the best trails and eats around!



NANTUCKET, MA



CEDAR LAKE, CT



GRAND CANYON



CAVENDISH, PEI



CHATFIELD HOLLOW, CT



NIAGRA FALLS



THUNDER COVE, PEI



BOSTON, MA



DALVAY-BY-THE-SEA



# Our Destinations: LAKE MICHIGAN

Erin's grandparents were renting homes on Lake Michigan before she was born. Manistee and Onekama were common destinations, and eventually Erin's mom Kat built a house in Manistee, right on the lake. We've spent a lot of vacation time here, especially during the pandemic. It's a relaxing second home that we'll always come back to.



Erin and her mom Kat cooking up a great dinner.



Dominoes are a mainstay at the house, with Erin's mom Kat and stepdad Don



We always have a nice lookout from the sunset deck.



Paddleboarding on the lake.



SO HAPPY TOGETHER





THANK YOU!

