



*Melissa & Anthony*



# Why Adoption?



We each have rich traditions and legacies that we cannot wait to share and pass along to our children. Thanksgiving with Anthony's family means at least a dozen different kinds of pies. Melissa's family has a Christmas Treasure Hunt tradition where riddles lead you from clue to clue, you find your final gift. We also can't wait to share special family recipes with our future forever children - goodies like Swedish Buttercream Cookies and Country Coffee Cake. We have had a wonderful experience with adopting William. We are ready to grow our family again and can't wait to welcome you and your baby into our lives.





We dated for three years before Anthony proposed on Christmas Day. He asked Melissa to be his forever underneath her favorite oak tree. We said 'I do' under oak trees and in front of our loved ones. Our friends describe us as an adorable, adventurous, perfect fit - always smiling. We believe in hugs and high-fives. Melissa tries to act out the songs while Anthony breaks into his robot dance. Melissa is the planner and Anthony is more spur of the moment. She helps keep him on track while he reminds her to stop and smell the daisies!





# Melissa



My friends say that I am enthusiastic, joyful and genuine. I grew up in a small, farming community climbing trees and caring for animals. Having sheep, cows, chickens, dogs and cats on the ranch, I've been an animal lover since day one. Today, I own and run a studio gym. Each day I get to show women how physically and mentally strong they truly are. I am incredibly grateful for the flexibility that comes from running my own business. I can run errands with my mom, help my dad out on the ranch, meet Anthony for lunch, and much more. This flexibility is a blessing for growing our family. I get to be there for the first smile, the first roll over, and the many inevitable diaper blowouts!





I grew up across the river from Melissa, in an even smaller town. As a boy, I played along the lake behind my house. Those closest to me describe me as compassionate, generous and determined. I joined the US Army after graduating from high school. I served in the Cavalry, with an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment in Afghanistan. When I returned from overseas, I finished college with a Business degree. But after being deployed, I cared more about staying close to my family and keeping our farming legacy. My dad taught me a lot about farming and I can't wait to share those same moments with our kids. Like taking them for tractor rides and sliding through the mud. I work for my family's farming operation where I manage a variety of crops like wheat, tomatoes and beans.

A close-up photograph of a baby with light hair and a joyful expression, showing small teeth. The baby is wrapped in a vibrant red blanket and is wearing a yellow and white striped shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

# William

I love to laugh, sing, play, and read. I have a big backyard where I like to pretend to be a fireman with the garden hose and dig in the dirt with my toy backhoe. I have cousins that live nearby, and they are so much fun to play with. Being barefooted is the best. Sometimes I wear suspenders like my grandpa, who just got a new puppy! I get to spend a lot of time with both sets of grandparents. A few days a week I go to the gym with my mom and help her train clients. Once a week, I see my friends at daycare. We play outside and make fun crafts. The woman in charge tells my mom that I am very sweet, kind and smart. I know baby sign language, but now use lots of words to tell stories. I can't wait to be a big brother!









There are approximately 2500 people that live in our town. We have tons of events that are free and fun. Our fire department just celebrated their 100th year anniversary and held a giant parade through town. At least a hundred fire trucks from all over the area drove down our main street. The last Sunday in October hundreds of classic cars line our downtown streets for the annual car show. And the little kids even get to parade through in their Halloween costumes! The local golf course, next door to Melissa's parents, has an Easter egg hunt. Santa arrives to visit with children on the back of an antique fire truck. Every spring we host a big, fun and competitive carnitas festival! You get to visit each competitor and try their recipes. Our Parks and Recreation Department has basketball and baseball programs for kids of all ages. During the summer, there are family movies shown weekly in the park.







Melissa's Side



Nephew



William with  
Aunt Dianne



Joy, the cat



Niece & Nephews



Anthony's Portuguese Side





Scotland



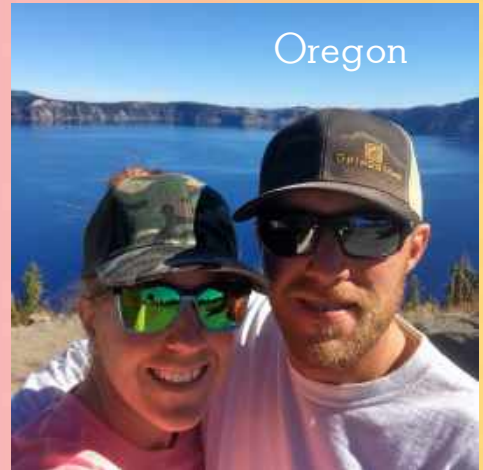
Utah



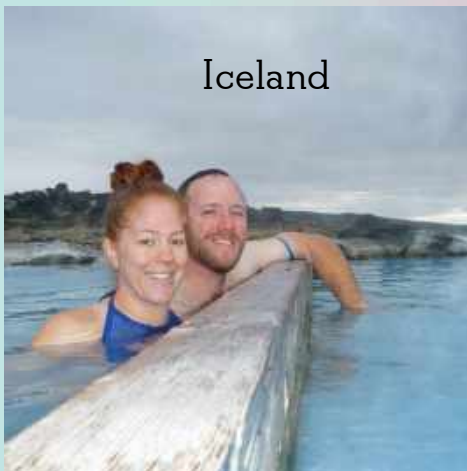
Ireland



Ireland



Oregon



Iceland



Iceland



Colorado





Growing up in the country, it is no surprise that we love being outdoors. We're perfectly located between the Sierra Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. So any given weekend, we can visit either one! We've hiked along the ocean, through the snow, and to the top of waterfalls in Yosemite. Last year we took four camping trips to all new lakes. Half of the fun is finding somewhere new. We pitch our tent, hang our hammocks and start up a campfire. S'mores are a MUST! We always camp near water so we can take our kayak and paddle board out for a spin. Anthony loves to fly fish, so we often hike or camp where he can cast his line out.



# Our Promises

1. Gaze at constellations in the night sky
2. Try every s'mores recipe we can dream up
3. Teach you how to balance a checkbook
4. Teach you how to drive a stick shift
5. Slide across the wood floors in our socks
6. Teach you how to sew
7. Read you all the Harry Potter books
8. Take you out for tractor drives
9. Let you snuggle all the baby sheep and cows you can catch
10. Teach you how to grow your own food
11. Teach you the difference between right and wrong and love you no matter what
12. Have regular kitchen dance parties
13. Help you climb trees and run around barefoot
14. Watch all the sports with you – even if you choose not to be a 49ers or Packers fan!
15. To watch the good cartoons in our pj's
16. To cook and eat lots of bacon!