

Welcome to



our story...

# Hello!



## Meet Ritee

I am a dedicated single mom of some amazing girls! I have been a foster mom for many years now. You will see some of our extra loves have shapes covering their faces in our photos due to privacy for them since they have returned to their families. With this said, I would love the opportunity to finalize my family with one or multiple little ones forever! We have experience with many different special needs such as drug exposures, hard of hearing, medical diagnoses, developmental delays and more. Adoption is the definition of our family! Both open and closed adoptions. I hope we will have the opportunity to learn about each other more!

As you will be able to see in this book, I love Disney, animals and my kids, more than anything else in the world. It's my life in a nutshell! I am very lucky to be able to work as a software development manager at a financial firm. It allows me to make a good wage & still have flexibility to work remotely. This means that I am able to meet all of kids' needs. My career has allowed me to be financially secure and create the home of my dreams minus the last missing piece!



"Mama" wasn't my first name, but it will forever be my favorite name.

Mama Ritee



# About Us



We are a close family who has learned to work together to make each of our lives better. It is not to say perfect but collaborative. We spend a lot of our time supporting the needs and wants of each other. The kids have chores and also a great of things they like to do. My oldest daughter and her boyfriend live with us full time until they can buy their own place as well!

# Our Adoption Story

*Missing our last piece of the puzzle.*

All my girls have varied relationships with birth family from opened to very closed! Close was based on their safety due to their bio families abuse, not by choice. I would prefer open relationships as knowing their biological roots is very important to all of us! I truly love my family more than I can ever explain and would love to add the youngest to the tribe.



My oldest was a private adoption and very open. My next 5 girls were adopted from foster care as you see in the photos. I would love to adopt another infant or toddler or both! I have cared for many infants and toddlers thru foster care and each took a part of my heart when they were reunified with family. I would love to complete our family! We are open to all levels of special needs, drug exposure and openness in the relationship!

The youngest's adoption is also very open, but adoption finalization is pending later this year. We do visits, phone calls, text and definitely exchange photos.

I am open to most levels you are comfortable with. This is about kids!



# Meet Jasmine

Jasmine is my oldest! I was blessed to be there when she was born in 1998. She really is an amazing big sister! She loves the girls more than I can explain. Jasmine helps them with fashion, makeup, watches movie marathons and loves making "sister time" as she calls it. She is truly there for each and every one of them on a personal level. Jasmine's other favorite things to do are figure skating, dancing, hanging out with her friends and music. She is a beautiful singer! Jasmine has her own marketing business as well as works for another marketing firm.



She is gorgeous and a heart to match! She loves being a big sister and is very close to all of the girls!



They think it is so cute that she is named after a Disney princess and his nickname is AL. Must be meant to be!

# Meet Alejandro

Alejandro is my daughter's boyfriend. He has been in our lives for many years now. He was born in the Dominican Republic but also lived in Florida until 2 years ago. At that time he moved to Colorado with us. He is a valet manager at a high end hotel in the area. He also has dreams of modeling! Alejandro loves cars and is always tinkering with his "baby". He speaks fluent English and Spanish.



No matter what they become later in life, they have big hearts and amazing personalities. They both are vegan and chose that lifestyle. They work hard for what they have and are excelling at adulthood in their own ways!

# Meet Heaven

Heaven is the next oldest. She is senior level Girl Scouts, and enjoys volleyball and archery. Heaven swims on our summer team. Heaven also plays the clarinet in the high school concert and marching bands. She chose to do online high school for flexibility and is excelling in that environment. Heaven loves to cook and bake as well! She is getting really good at it. Her passion is One Direction at the moment! She loves babies and always points them out in public saying I wish we had one. She was born to be a big sister!



Growing up so fast! Look how red her face is from talking about how cute Harry Styles is!



She is one of the most responsible teen I know, but she does have sass so don't let that sweet face fool you!

# Meet Soraya

Soraya is our next in line. She is the most charismatic teen I have ever met. She is rany and wild but sweet, sassy and caring all in the same second. She works hard at school daily as it does not come easy! She is an artistic person who loves to dance, sing and color. Boy can she belt it out from the shower or when the vacuum is running! Soraya is on the year round swim team and swims long distance and butterfly. Two of the hardest events there are! She brings so much joy to our family!

# Meet Isabella

Isabella is a twin. The twins are definitely not identical but complete opposites. This teen is an artist, with a sensitive heart, and is a huge tomboy. She loves to swim and is super competitive. She is a sprinter and is fast! Isa is small but is a pure spitfire. She is loud and energetic! Isa loves animals and wants to be a vet at a zoo when she grows up. Right now she sets her own style of clothes and hates anything tight. She can tell you any pop culture fact you ask and probably studies pop culture more than school!



Isa is a obsessed with the Mandalorian. She never misses an episode and her clothes and room are covered in the child!



She also is never seen without a book in her hand! She hid it behind her back in this photo!

# Meet Aleana

The other half of the teen twin duo is Aleana. She is our girly girl. She loves dresses and is rarely seen in anything else. She is quiet and reserved until you push her frustration button. She likes cheer, reading, learning D & D. Aleana is also an avid Harry Potter fan! You can ask her anything and she will know the answer! Even though Aleana is a teen she still loves her American Girl Dolls making sure they are very well cared for. She is a brainiac and excels with top honors at school!

## Meet Emerson

As the current youngest, Emerson is eager to have the role of being a big sister. She desperately wants a little brother or sister to play with! Emerson is definitely a talker and a singer. She really never stops! Emerson loves to play little people, My Little Pony and dolls. If you mention Frozen or Descendants- her smile lights up the room! (to be honest, it does that either way). Emerson is now reading chapter books so Amelia Bedelia is a favorite!



Emerson has boundless energy and misses someone younger to play with!

## Meet Tiana

Tiana is the current baby of the family! She is an amazing sweet baby who has gone thru so much in her short little life. Tiana was born with a congenital heart defect, Goldenhar syndrome, scoliosis, hearing impairments and feeding issues. She was released from NICU at 2 months old. When she was 3 months old she underwent open heart surgery to repair 4 of the 5 holes in heart. Tiana is now catching up to other babies her age and continues to do so in size, developmental milestones and feeding. One day at a time! I am amazed by her strength and her amazing smile she always has for me! I could not imagine our family without her.



## Our Pets



Our house is very pet friendly. We have 4 dogs and 5 cats and a variety of small animals. Each of our pets are loved like my human children. Our dogs are Great Pyrenees, Newfoundland and St Bernard breeds. Our cats are Maine Coons. We also have a bearded dragon, parakeets, rats and fish.

# Our Home



We built our house 6 years ago and it has 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms and a great open family room.

We have a fenced backyard with climbing toys, sandbox, playhouse and flowers. We have turf so not worry about mud when we play in the sprinklers on a hot day!

We love to put up the outdoor inflatable movie screen, which happens to be Mickey Mouse. It is a great time to watch movies with the neighborhood friends!

Summer block parties are a great deal of fun with bike club, plunko, corn hole and more!

# Our Home



Our house is decorated with Disney in many spots. We are lucky to have space for two nurseries, which are completely set up. I also have all the baby needs like swings, high chairs, excersaucers and more clothes than any child could need!

We have toys in each room as well as all over my living room! There is not much a child can want for in our house, but yet I find ways to buy more!

We are very blessed with an amazing house to call home!



# Activities



Our family loves to do a variety of things and stay busy. My girls do many activities such as girls scouts, swim team/lessons, volleyball, figure skating, archery, diving, cookie, theater, band/choir, cheer and dance. We like to go to the mountain, picnic in the park, watch TV as activites as well.



We take annual trips (or more) to Disney as it is our happy place. It gives us time to just be kids together without the stress of the world. We also have family land and a cabin in a remote location of the mountains that allows us to get away from the city life and do zip lining, 4 wheeling and hiking!



# Our Community



We live in one of the most beautiful states there is to live. We live in Colorado just outside of the Denver metro, in a town that has been named one of the best places to live multiple times recently.



Our metro community offers so much for our family to do. From the mountains, zoo, amusement park, downtown, red rocks, and just being in our neighborhood.



Our local neighborhood is even more amazing! We have many large families in our neighborhood and the kids all play often.



Our neighborhood also has 3 parks, 2 pools, and an activity center which are all walking distances and part of the HOA. indoor pool/playground, sports leagues and teams.

# Our Community



Indoor Pool for year around swimming and those are my kids doing laps!



We have lots of retail, great schools that are walking distance and much more. In addition, the town has a recreation center for trampolines.



Our pre-k thru middle school which has an amazing special education program and is walking distance from our house.



Our local high schools each offer wonderful special education programs and the flexibility to learn in small classrooms or an online setting.

# Our Family & Friends



While I have a big family and I am just one person, please know it is not as tough as it sounds. I do not do this alone - it takes a Village for sure.



Family includes both biological and adopted family. We have 4 sets of grandparents, 6 uncles, 4 aunts, and 14 cousins that we spend a great deal of time around during the year.



There are 4 sets of twins in our family! We also have many close in age kids. We are experienced with multiple special needs as well.



Friends, caseworkers and biological families have become a part of our extended family as well. Each of these people mean a great deal to us as well!



Our local family is amazing! My sister Anita, is a stay at home mom of high schoolers. She throws the most amazing holiday/birthday parties around!



Memaw & Pop Pop with my sister and her boys. These are the most amazing parents to set the best example how to raise kids!



My brother and his wife who are in the military and travel often! She runs non profit for homeless pets and they are currently overseas.



More Grandparents to care for the kids with love! This is just some of my amazing village! We have an amazing village of family and friends.

# Our Traditions



Our family has many traditions and we continue to set new ones each year as our family grows. New Year's is always a great start!



Valentines & St. Patrick's day celebrations with matching shirts. Sweets for your Valentine and Leprechaun shenanigans for St. Patty's day.



Spring always brings the biggest Easter egg hunt you have ever seen at my sister's house. Of course the Easter bunny comes to the house!



Summer brings swim team, bike riding outside play and water parks, 4th of July glow party! We can see the fireworks from our house so always a great night!



School year begins! The kids always have to take the first day of school photos with the Disney about me chalkboard!



Fall brings pumpkin patches, horseback riding, pumpkin carving and costumes with tons of candy. Really too much candy!



Winter would not be complete without Thanksgiving and Christmas events. Matching Disney Pjs and baking Santa cookies on X-mas Eve are a few traditions!



Our annual trip to Disney, the hotel stays for the parade of lights and much more. We can't wait to share these experiences with another person!

# Down Syndrome

*My first experience with someone with Down syndrome happened when I was a teenager. My high school sweetheart's sister has Down syndrome. Early, I had no idea what to do or how to act. I quickly learned to love her and how to have a great time with her. She became one of my best friends. She was so amazing with her smile and her open heart! I was one year older than Kim. When she graduated eighth grade, I was lucky to be the person who got to help her shop and prepare for the ceremony! She did great things in high school as well. We were in choir and many theater plays together. We spent a ton of time working on our lines and songs together! She taught me how to be able to put myself out there. I learned so fast that this girl was going to be able to steal the show. As the years went on, she continued to show me how to work hard as she graduated and started her first job. She and I stayed in touch as adults even after her brother and I broke up. Unfortunately, her heart was not physically strong enough to ensure her a longer life, but she touched mine forever!*

*The second time I was touched by a person with Down syndrome, was as a parent. My oldest daughter is a figure skater. We both had the opportunity to help with some Special Olympic events in the area. I started remembering how important Kim was to me and jumped at the chance to be involved. I pushed my oldest to also help! We both spent a lot of time working with the participants. Jasmine is forever grateful to have had this opportunity! She now coaches part time and have multiple participants in this event. It is so refreshing to help people learn new skills thru the ups and downs of figure skating. Since I have so many fewer coaching skills, I continue to help the local*

*Special Olympics organization thru set up, paperwork and parent support. Competition is nerve racking for competitors but also for parents! In this role I have been able to work with kids, adults and parents so I have learned from all sides of Down syndrome. Since my other girls have started to get older, we have enlisted their help in many ways as well. It is now a family event that is one of the highlights of our year!*

*Why do I want to adopt a child with Down syndrome? I am not sure how to answer this exactly. It is more of a feeling than words! It is like when people ask why do you want more kids? I just know in my heart that I can be a great parent to a child who has Down syndrome. I have fostered kids for many years and have encountered all kinds of medical diagnosis, drug exposure, trauma and emotional needs. During this time has taught me to be a great advocate for them! Kids tell you thru behavior what is going on with them. You need to listen and not just look at the surface. By doing this and advocating strongly in all areas, I have seen so many kids excel and exceed at what they do! I have strong relationships with many specialists at our local Children's Hospital and our pediatrician who we have seen for over 20 years. In home therapists to cover occupational, speech, mental health and physical therapy needs are all within our network of professionals. When I put my love for kids, my special needs exposure, and my unwavering passion to make paths for kids to be the best they can - I think that a child who joins our family be amazing! Kids do not need to live by labels, diagnosis or any other social norms society imposes. I have never met a child who does not thrive with the right support and love and this is what I want to provide!*

# My Promise



## Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!

It seems so small to say thank you for reading all the way thru this, but I cannot thank you enough! I hope you find my family as special as I do. I would love to take the time to get to know you and your precious little one(s). If you feel a connection with anything I have said or shown you, please reach out. I promise you that I will love this child as much as I love any child for all of my life!

Love Always, Rites!

Thank You!

