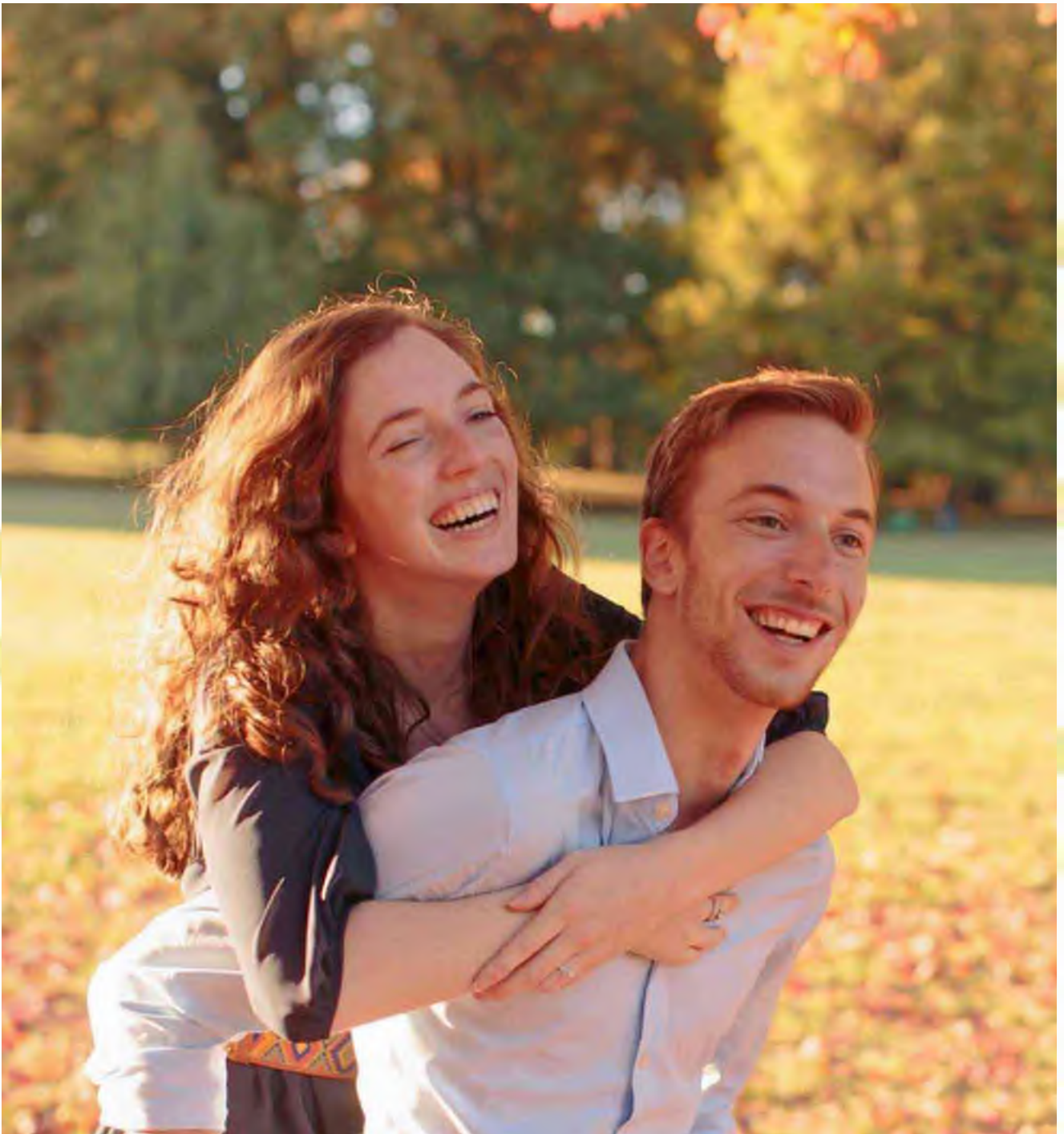


# Jacob and Makena



# ~Welcome~

We are excited for you to read through our book to get a quick glance into our lives. Sitting here writing, we look around this room and can picture playing with a baby on the big soft rug in our TV room with the Disney movies and Looney Tunes cartoons we grew up watching playing in the background.

As you read more of our book, hopefully something about our life and personalities connects to your hopes and dreams.





# Introduction

We think the best way to tell you about us is through the story of how we got our dog.

Jacob had his heart set on a pug, so for months Makena spent countless hours researching dogs on rescue websites. Finally, Makena found a photo of a little pug mix named Pixie, who had a big goofy grin on her face. Makena, laughing to herself, thought, "I think we found our dog". We went to the shelter just to meet the dog, but after about 20 minutes playing with Pixie the shelter worker asked if we wanted to take her home on a two week trial run. Jacob immediately said, "Yes"! Without hesitation, we got into the car and drove straight to the pet store so we could buy all the supplies we didn't realize we'd need that night.

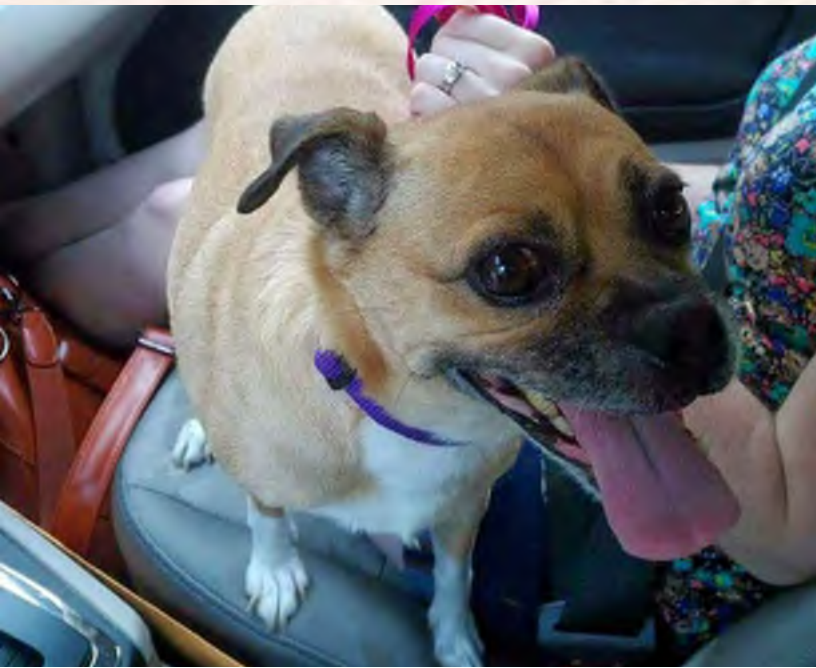
The whole way home Pixie had an abundance of energy and was jumping around the car barking excitedly and Makena thought to herself, "Oh no, I think we're in trouble with this one" but both of us knew in our hearts (and guts) that Pixie was our dog and she wasn't going back to the shelter.

Makena is a researcher who takes time to think through and consider everything before making a decision, Jacob is more self assured and makes quicker decisions. Together we find a balance to navigate through life's difficult decisions, and ultimately we trust our gut, because it hasn't let us down yet. We find ourselves in a place where we are trusting our gut again as we navigate this adoption journey.

We hope that you join us in this journey.



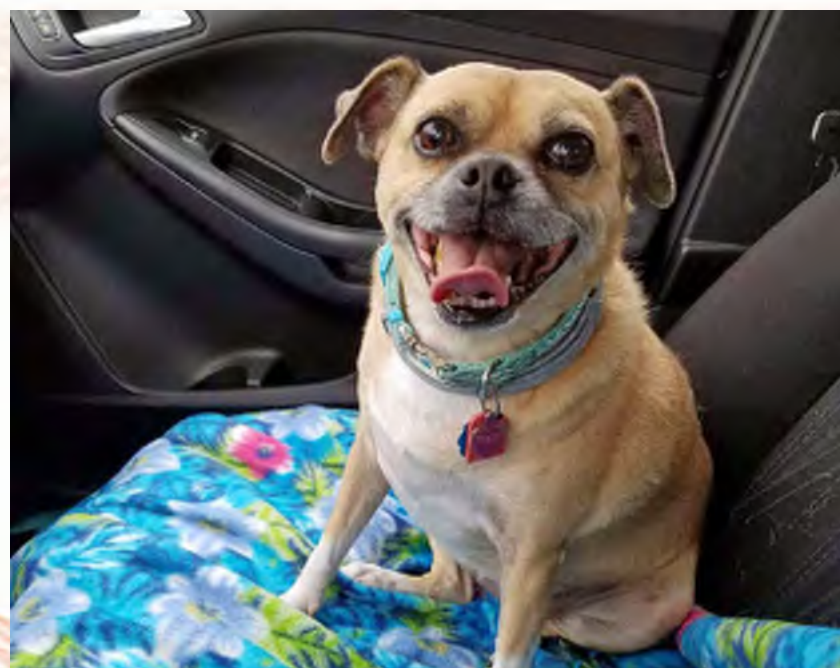
The Day We Got Pixie



Trying to Convince Jacob of Something




Helping Makena with Yoga




Pixie Loves Car Rides

# About Us

Our story goes all the way back to high school when two nerdy introverted teens found each other and fell in love - at least that's the simple version of our story. In high school we met through a group of friends, and we were drawn together like magnets. Then our friendship became romantic. We dated through high school and college (even though we went to different high schools and different colleges).



In 2016 we got married. We've now spent over a decade together growing, learning, and adapting as a couple facing life's ups and downs.



Jacob is always teaching himself new skills, and helps Makena to be more confident and self-assured. Makena is always trying to slow down and savor the moment, and helps Jacob do the same. We know how to make each other belly laugh until we cry, and we know how to hold each other through the rough times too.

Simply put, we are better together.



Junior Year Prom



Senior Year Prom



Jacob's College  
Graduation



Our Wedding



Makena's Master's  
Graduation



# Meet Jacob

My name is Jacob, and I'm best described as a quiet person (though I prefer good listener!) I love gardening. I dream of converting the land around our home into a butterfly garden, specifically for monarchs. When I'm not gardening, I like to cook and work on house projects.

I work as an architectural engineer. I have designed retail stores like Nike and allbirds as well as a handful of hospitals and medical spaces. The work I do is difficult, but there's nothing quite like walking into a building you've designed!

One of my favorite things to do is go to restaurants with friends (or just Makena and I). Rarely do I get the same dish twice, as life's too short and there's way too many delicious foods to try!

Several of my friends from high school and college are still my friends today, and we get together regularly to hang out and play games. My friends would describe me as smart and hardworking. Well one friend would describe me as a "mortal enemy", but that's just because I like to beat him at games.



Gardening in our New Yard



Cooking  
(While Pixie Supervises)



Redoing Our Bathroom



Jacob and his Sister



I've been described as being the "mom" of my friend group because I'm organized, I try to make sure everyone's needs are met, and I always have snacks in my purse.

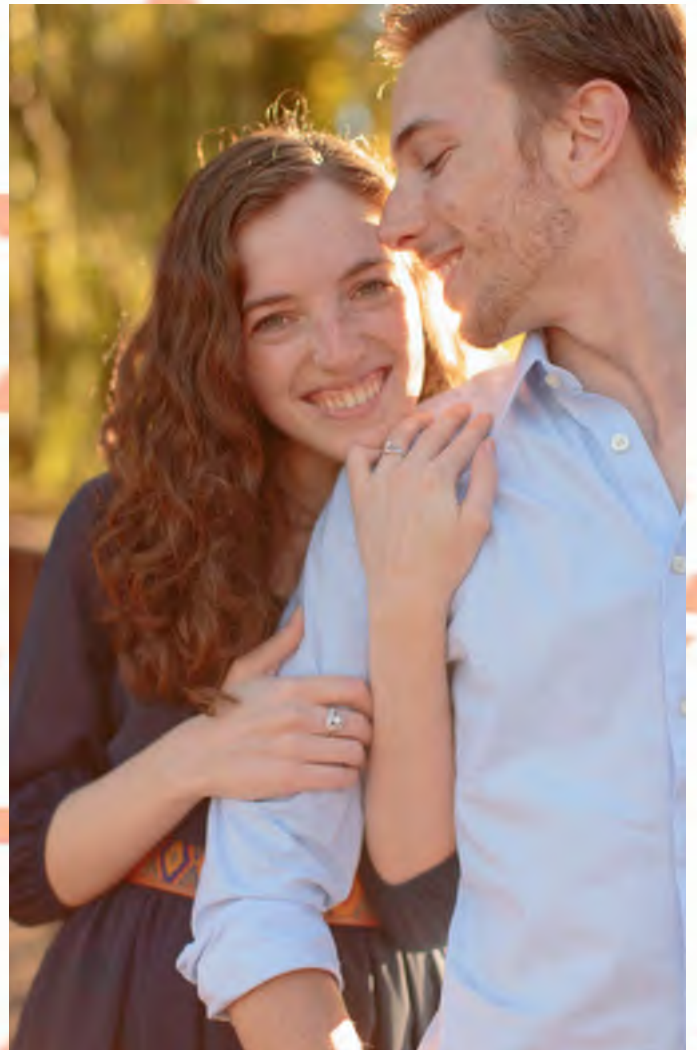
I love spending time with my people, talking, laughing, doing nothing in particular. I also spend time doing yoga, baking, and reading (especially old classic novels). Our living room is filled with books that I've read, and have yet to read.

My job is to counsel teens and adults struggling with anxiety, depression, trauma, and relational issues.

Family is very important to me, and I especially love spending time with our nieces and nephews. On a Friday night I love nothing more than having a night in watching movies on the couch with Jacob and Pixie. Spending quality time with my husband and family will always be my priority.

My friends would describe me as patient, a great baker, and thoughtful. I'm also known for making puns into jokes, Jacob says they are really bad, but I think I'm quite funny.

# Meet Makena





Babysitting  
Our Nephew



Practicing Yoga  
(While Pixie Supervises)



Makena and Her Siblings



Dancing with My Sister  
at her Wedding



# Our Adventures

We love exploring new places, whether that be in Kansas City, in a different state, or abroad. Some trips we've taken just the two of us, and some trips we've spent with family or friends. Here are a few pictures from some of our adventures.



The Cliffs of Dover



Boat Ride in Curacao



Garden in London



Downtown Denver



Ski Trip with Friends



# Our Home

Home is our happy place. We love old historic homes and have been saving to have one of our own for years now, and we recently fell in love with a 100 year old house in our hometown. After joking about buying it for a few days we realized we weren't joking and that both of our guts were telling us to buy the house, so we did! Immediately it felt like home to us, and Pixie enjoys the whole acre of land she gets to roam through too!

Our home is in a suburb of Kansas City that is in a great school district, sits close to several city parks, and is close to lots of family and friends. Our home has enough space inside and outside for children to run around and play, as well as space to spend time as a family eating dinner together, watching movies on the couch, or playing with toys on the floor (as Pixie supervises us).

Within 10 minutes of our home we can get to both sets of our parents, our siblings and their kids, several aunts, uncles, and cousins, and numerous friends. Our family and friends are a huge part of our lives. They're the reason we moved back to our hometown. We want our kids to grow up surrounded by the people who helped shape us into who we are today and to grow up with their cousins (like Makena did with her cousins). All of these people are excitedly waiting to help love, support, mold, and shape our future children too.



## Our Home





Annual Trip to  
the Pumpkin Patch



Babysitting  
Our Nephew



Makena's Siblings and Nephew  
at Thanksgiving



Good Friends at  
Christmas in the Park



Jacob's Best Friend at  
a Fundraising Event



Meeting Our Nephew

## Family & Friends



Babysitting Our Niece



Jacob's Sister at her  
Dance Performance



Jacob's Family at a  
Fundraising Event





"Faith is a place of mystery,  
where we find the courage to  
believe in what we cannot see,  
and the strength to let go of  
our fear of uncertainty."

Brene Brown



# Our Hope



Hopefully this snapshot of our lives gave you a good picture of what life with us feels like. We are a couple who works hard, spends quality time together, and are surrounded by loved ones. There has been a series of difficult decisions leading us to this point, and now we are using our faith and patience to wait for the baby we hope to raise. You are also facing difficult decisions, and we cannot imagine how difficult this is for you. We are here to support you and our hope is we can bring you peace of mind.

Jacob and Makena



