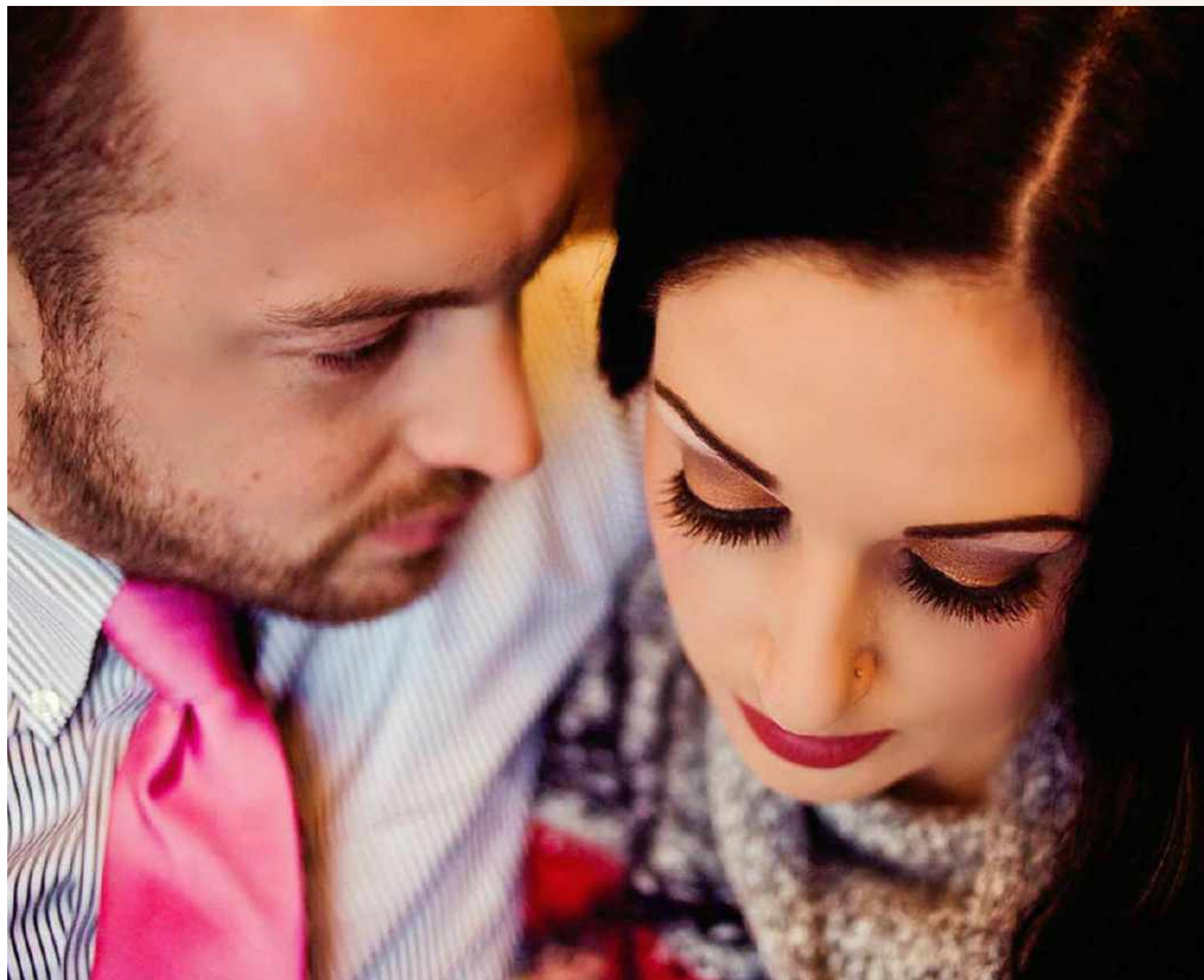




MARK & KELLY





# OUR STORY

When Mark sat down at the restaurant that I (Kelly) worked at, I was instantly drawn to Mark's sense of humor and kind nature. I (Mark) came in with a mutual friend and was drawn to Kelly's beauty, quickly realizing how caring and sweet she was as well. We were engaged in 2011 and got married in 2012 in Hawaii. Travel is a big part of our relationship! Until COVID, we went on several trips each year. The time we spend together is so much fun, even 14 years into our relationship. Mark makes me (Kelly) laugh, and I feel truly lucky to have married my best friend.

We both value good morals and strong work ethic, but we also try to stay humble and grounded. It's important to us to teach our kids to be positive members of our community. Parenting our three-year-old, Hendrik, has taught us lots of patience and to not judge other parents in the struggles that they may be dealing with. As a couple, we value our time together and try to go on a date once a month. We're still adventurous at heart and try to find new activities and restaurants to experience. As a family, we love going to the park and exploring our community.





*a little about*

## MARK

I grew up in Washington state and still live in the Pacific Northwest. Growing up, I had a close relationship with my grandfather, who was a hardworking man. He created a successful, happy life out of nothing. He was very funny, willing to talk and joke with anyone. These are traits he passed down to me. I think it's important to work hard and have fun!

I'm passionate about my family, making loved ones laugh, and being a good dad and husband. In my free time, I enjoy being outside, traveling with my wife and son, playing golf, and cooking for my family. I'm most proud of being a dad. I love joking around with our son, making him giggle, and helping him to learn things. It's meaningful for me to just be there for him to ask questions and seek help. I am excited to share my love of sports, music, and cooking with our son and new child. I picked up a love for sports from my dad, and my mom taught me how to cook. I still love talking sports with my dad and swapping recipes with my mom. Both of my parents love music, and it's great to hear stories about concerts they went to during a certain time in music history. I hope these traditions of sports, music, and cooking continue with my children as well as anything else they find an interest in.



*a little about*

# KELLY

I was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest but have spent some time in California and Texas. I'm inspired by my Aunt Bonnie who has such a beautiful soul. Her love and willingness to help others has made a huge impact on our family and friends. Compassion is a trait she and I share, and I chose my career because I wanted to help people. I have been a registered nurse for 12 years, and feel it's been a great honor and accomplishment in my life. I currently work in a local emergency room. In my free time, I love being with my family and friends. Traveling and exploring are incredibly important to me and I'm glad I married someone who also loves adventure! I love to read, particularly fictional stories, fantasy and mystery. I enjoy how books can transport you to another world entirely. During the spring and summer, I like to SUP and often take Hendrik out with me. We have many wonderful destinations to explore. I also like to do makeup and moulage (the art of applying mock injuries for training). There are two organizations locally that work with first responders and military to provide training for incident response. I volunteer at these events and love getting to be creative while supporting military and other medical professionals. I love watching my son grow and seeing him become an amazing, unique individual. I'm excited to take Hendrik and our future child to the park and on hikes. Our time at Disneyland, outdoor concerts, musicals and baseball games will only get better with them in our family. I also enjoy seasonal activities and look forward to time spent dyeing Easter eggs, wearing family costumes for Halloween and baking cookies at Christmas,



*a little about*

# HENDRIK

Our son Hendrik is three years old. He is incredibly bright and full of energy. He loves cars and monster trucks. Additionally, he likes to read and play outside. He also loves to travel with us and enjoys all of our adventures together. He is sweet-natured, creative, and compassionate. Whenever he sees someone upset or hurt, he's there to offer support. Hendrik likes to pretend his toys are his "babies he takes care of. He often asks where our baby is and overall is very excited to become a big brother.





# OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD



We just moved into our freshly built home! Now we are working on making it uniquely us. It has five bedrooms, a bonus room, and kids' playroom. The kitchen has several windows looking out onto our backyard where we plan on building a swing set. My favorite part about our new home is the reading nook under the staircase (Kelly). I look forward to reading many stories there for our children. We moved to our city because of its community and school system. Our home is in a lovely neighborhood with a trail system. Many of our neighbors have young children and there are several parks within a 10 minutes drive.





# Adventures

We LOVE to travel! We take several weekend getaways each year (Seattle, Hood River, Cannon Beach, and more). On our trips we enjoy exploring the surrounding area and trying local recommendations. When we're home, we like to curl up together and watch a movie or do arts and crafts activities. We are excited to welcome a new baby into our family and experience how their unique personality contributes to our adventures.









MARK'S  
EXTENDED  
*family*



My parents live within 30 minutes of us, and we see them a few times each month. They often help with childcare when needed. Nana and Papa love to play with Hendrik. They often can be found playing tickle monster or pretending to be super heroes. My sister, her husband and two children live in Ohio and visit often throughout the year. We spend a good amount of time with each other during those visits. Our kids are within two years of each other, and we are happy that they can grow up being close.





My mom and dad also built a new home one block over, so they are literally right around the corner! Currently, we see each other several times each week. Hendrik loves his Mimi and PopPop. My brother, his wife and two sons live in Connecticut and visit several times a year. He would love to move back to the Pacific Northwest and be close to all of us again. My mom's side of the family is quite large (eight siblings), so I have many cousins. My family will be very involved in our new baby's life.



# BEFORE YOU GO

Thank you for taking the time to review our profile book. We hope you were able to get a glimpse into our lives. We appreciate you considering our family.

If you should choose us, here are five things we commit to you and your child.

-Loving your child unconditionally.

-Providing a safe, nurturing environment for your child to grow. We will encourage them to be the unique individual they are and help their imagination soar. Ultimately, we would like to give them "roots and wings" (a solid base in life with enough independence to thrive).

-Providing your child with a solid educational foundation. We will encourage independent thinking and help them to find their true passion in life.

-We promise to let their voice be heard.

-We promise to let our actions speak louder than our words and set a good example for your child.

Whether you prefer closed, semi open, or open adoption, you will always be a part of your child's story. We promise to share that with them. We are receptive to whichever level of communication and involvement you choose. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We're always here for you.

This is my wish for you: Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth, Love to complete your life." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mark, Kelly, and Hendrik

