

John *and* Elizabeth



thanks
for opening our book





hello

so nice to meet you

Thank you for taking the time to consider including our family in your adoption journey. We are both humbled and honored to share this space with you. We realize that this is an incredibly difficult decision that takes courage and love for yourself and your child. We cannot imagine how challenging and overwhelming this must feel, and we wish you strength and peace in whatever choice you make.

Early in our relationship we decided that we wanted to build our family with both biological and adopted children. We have one biological son, Theo (5), and while we would love to have more biological children that simply is not possible for us. **Since adoption was something we always desired, pursuing adoption feels like a natural next step on our family's journey. While we do not know where this path will lead, we are excited and humbled at the prospect of being parents to another child.**





WE ARE COMMITTED TO OUR
FAMILY AND TO BEING THE BEST
OF OURSELVES AS A COUPLE
AND AS PARENTS.



We have been married for seven years and live in Chicago, Illinois. We are fortunate to be part of an amazing community of family and friends. We are an active family and we love to travel. We love to explore and experience new things. On the weekends, we can often be found at a local park or taking in a street festival. We also love spending time at home, baking chocolate chip cookies and playing games.

As you take a peek into our lives, we want you to know that we are not perfect, but we are committed to our family and to being our best selves as a couple and as parents. We believe in creating an environment in which our children will feel secure and loved just as they are. We love hard and laugh a lot and are focused on raising our children to be generous, kind, goofy and loving people.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW US.
WE WISH YOU STRENGTH AND COURAGE AS YOU MAKE THE
BEST DECISION FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD.

John & Elizabeth



Shortly after graduating from college, we relocated to Chicago to pursue job opportunities. On one fateful night, we were introduced at a party by mutual friends. After attending a football game with friends, we spontaneously went out to dinner, where we laughed and discussed life over fried chicken and macaroni and cheese. We had an undeniable connection. I (Elizabeth) felt drawn to John's kindness and warm personality. I (John) immediately felt attracted to Elizabeth's sense of humor and energetic nature. **We both quickly knew that we were going to be partners for life.**

We are travelers and explorers. We enjoy experiencing new cultures and foods. We love spending time together as a family, whether it be touring the countryside of Iceland, hiking the mountains of Colorado, road-tripping to California, or building sandcastles on a beach in Miami. When we aren't traveling, we love to explore our hometown, Chicago, and soak up every moment with our son. We love going to local parks, taking long walks along the river walk, exploring neighborhood festivals, and spending time with our extended family and friends.



WE ARE
COMMITTED
TO EACH OTHER
& THE FAMILY
WE HAVE
CREATED

We are constantly striving to be the best versions of ourselves. We like to laugh and not take life or ourselves too seriously. We are committed to each other and the family we have created. While we have been fortunate in life, we have also experienced difficult times. **We tackle life as a couple and find strength and optimism in each other and our family. We are genuine, warm, and loving to those around us and we always seek to find joy in life.**



our parenting approach

Though we share much in common, we believe our differences complement one another, and we act as a team. We may approach situations differently, but we feel that this allows us to understand different perspectives and leads us to the best outcomes. **We put everything into our family, and we are committed to providing our children with a safe and secure environment where they can be themselves and unconditionally loved.** While we will strive to give our children every possible opportunity, we also see the value in fostering an environment with unstructured playtime to cultivate creativity, curiosity, and imagination.

WE ARE PROUD OF THE FAMILY WE ARE BUILDING & ARE THRILLED TO BE GROWING OUR FAMILY THROUGH ADOPTION.



milestones

WE MET

WE GOT ENGAGED

WE GOT MARRIED

OUR SON THEO WAS BORN

2005

2013

2014

2016

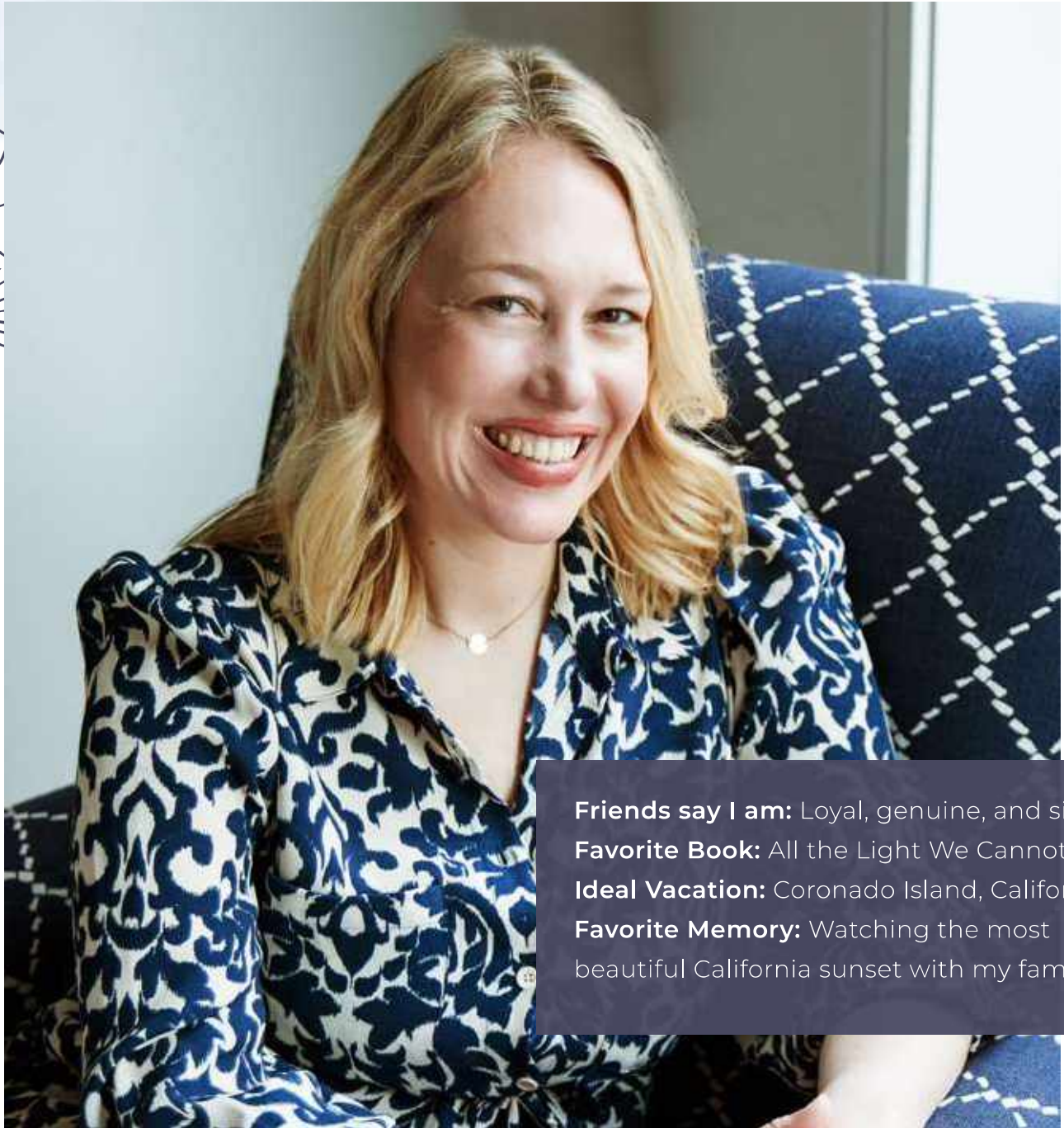


why we are adopting



We have always pictured ourselves having a large family similar to how we grew up. Early in our relationship, we discussed our desire to have kids biologically and through adoption. After having our son, Theo, we planned on having another biological child before adopting. Unfortunately, we struggled with infertility and were not able to conceive. While this was incredibly difficult, it allowed us to grow as individuals and as a couple. We have grown in strength and resilience and have developed an even greater appreciation for our family and for our role as parents. **We are excited and cannot wait to be parents to another bundle of joy, and our son is thrilled at the prospect of becoming a big brother!**

We have created a nurturing and supportive home for our children where they can feel secure and loved. We want to provide our children with many opportunities, but we also want to help raise them to have confidence in their unique paths. We understand the child's relationship with their birth family is very valuable. You will always be honored in their life and in our home.



Friends say I am: Loyal, genuine, and silly
Favorite Book: All the Light We Cannot See
Ideal Vacation: Coronado Island, California
Favorite Memory: Watching the most beautiful California sunset with my family

meet Elizabeth

I grew up with three sisters and supportive parents in Naperville, Illinois. Some of my hobbies include baking, reading, and finding activities for our family to explore on the weekends. I love to travel and I am most content when I am near a body of water. It doesn't matter if it is a river, ocean, lake, or pond; I can sit there for hours.



5 things Elizabeth loves

Traveling and exploring a new city through food

Reading a good book

Spending time with friends and family


Baking with my son

Being active, especially taking long walks early in the morning



For the last 15+ years, I have worked in Human Resources. I recently decided to leave the workforce to focus on my passion for real estate investing, which provides me with a flexible schedule and the ability to be more present with my family. It makes me happy to know that I will be available for our newest addition as they transition into our family and beyond. I love being a mom to our son, Theo, and having the time to conduct at-home science experiments, play games, and bake our world-famous chocolate chip cookies.

Becoming a mother has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. I love playing and being goofy with our son Theo and experiencing new things through his eyes. There is such pureness in his joy. Becoming a mother has also been challenging. It has taught me the importance of patience, to slow down and enjoy the simple moments, and not be afraid to ask for help. I have learned that I need to take care of myself so that I can truly take care of others. I am fortunate to have such an amazing husband, family, and support system. I cannot wait for the joy that a new baby will bring to our family.

A portrait of a man with dark hair and a light blue sweater, smiling slightly. The background is a dark green wall. The text 'meet John' is overlaid on the top left of the image. 'meet' is in a cursive font, and 'John' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. There are decorative elements: gold speckles on the left and a leafy branch on the right.

meet
John

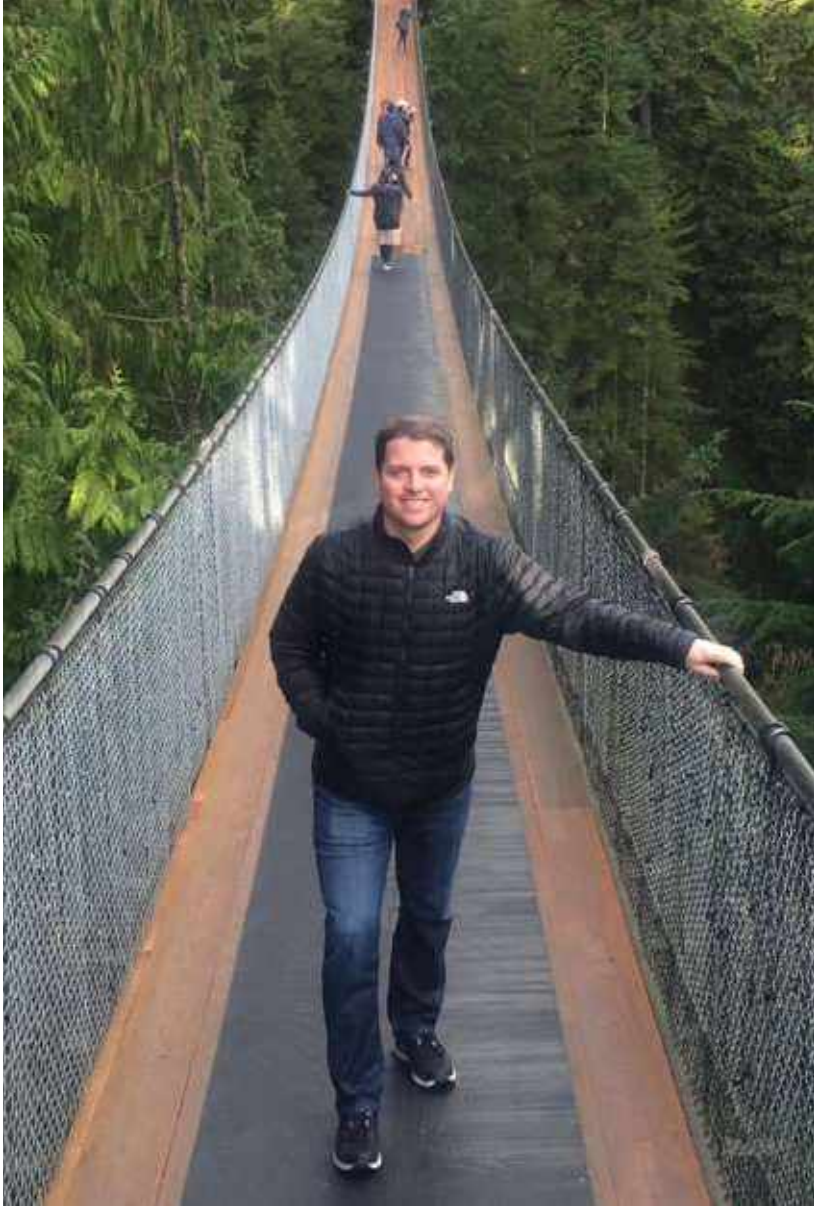
Friends say I am: Loyal, kind, and fun

Favorite Movie: Home Alone

Favorite Memory: Sunset walks with my family by the beach in Marina Del Rey during our month-long road trip to California

My Inspiration: Watching people run marathons

I grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in a vibrant community-oriented neighborhood. I was always somewhere playing with friends, and I loved it. Through these experiences, I developed a value for community and an appreciation for how it shapes us. Many of the relationships I formed in my youth have become life-long friends. I moved to Chicago after I graduated from college, and it has become a home-away-from-home. It is where I started my first job, where I met Elizabeth, and where we started our family.



5 Things John loves

Travel

Exercise, especially cycling

Watching or playing sports

Grilling

Attending comedy shows and concerts

I work in Commercial Real Estate. I find the real estate industry meaningful because it shapes how people live, work, and interact with their community. In my free time, I love entertaining family and friends. There is nothing better than hosting a cook-out on a nice day. My ideal day starts with a quiet, early morning run and ends with a good movie and quality time with my family.



Becoming a parent has changed my life in the best way. **I have learned the importance of taking care of myself to be a present father, slowing down to appreciate the small moments, and having patience.** Being a father has taught me to be fun, silly, and joyful in a whole new way. My son is always enlisting me for some new role (superhero, waiter, pet shop owner) in his creative play. I put my son to bed every night. My father did this with me and I have fond memories of it. I treasure that time together, and I can't wait to read my favorite bedtime books with another child.



Elizabeth

in John's words

"Elizabeth is the most passionate and caring person I know. She is our biggest champion and is the person we turn to for comfort. Everyone turns to Elizabeth for advice, encouragement, and support. Elizabeth is fun, has a great sense of humor, and finds joy in every moment. She is an incredible mother. She meets Theo where he is and knows when he needs a gentle push, a hug, or a simple word of encouragement, and when he needs time to be a kid. Her presence creates a warm and loving home."- John



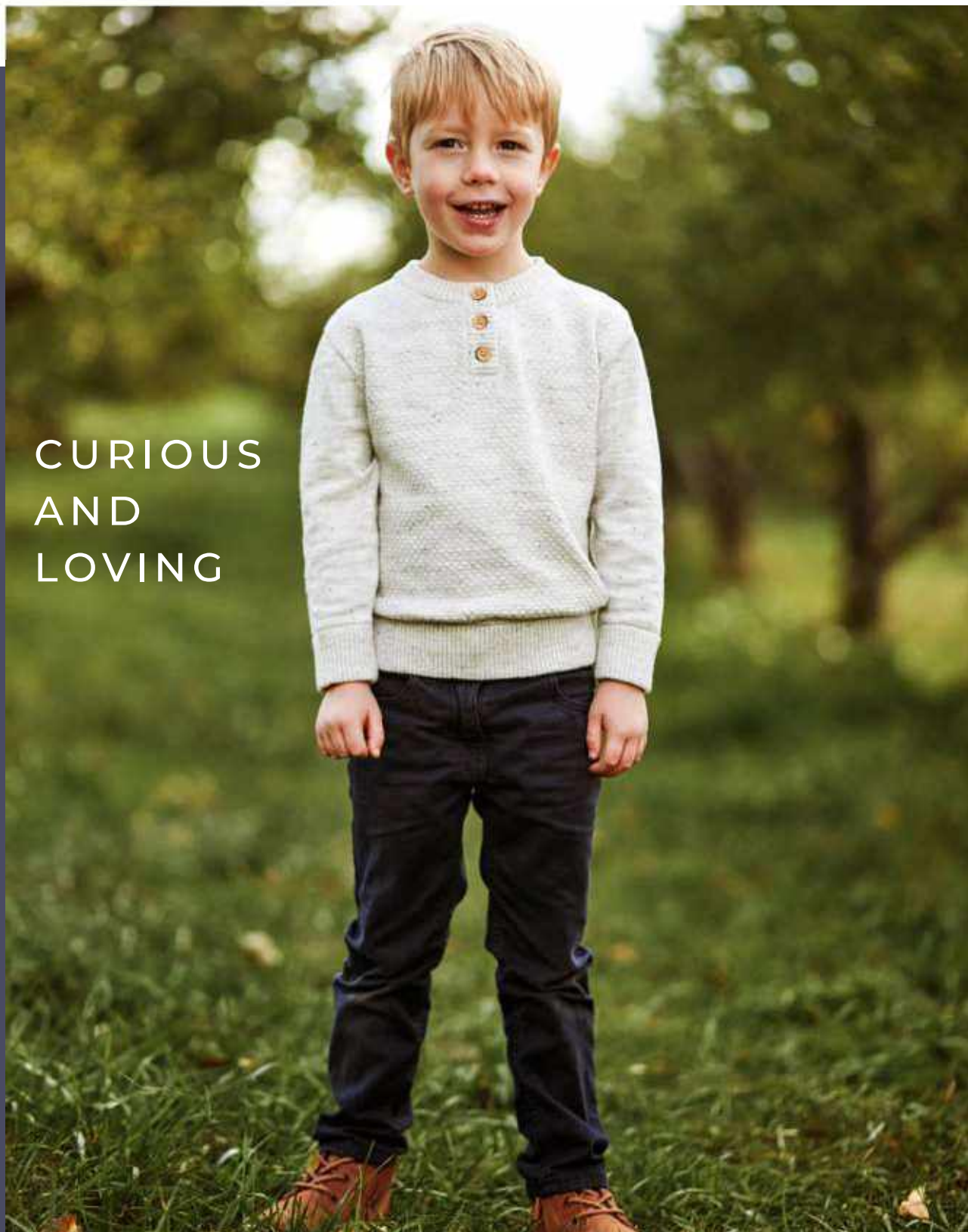
John

in Elizabeth's words

"John has an uncanny ability to find a mutual connection with anyone, making strangers quickly feel like friends. He has a calming presence and an ability to find the positive in every situation. John is incredibly loyal, caring, and compassionate, which makes him a wonderful partner, father, and friend. He is present and dedicated to his family and never misses a soccer game or school concert."- Elizabeth

meet Theo

CURIOUS
AND
LOVING





Theo is five years old and currently in Pre-K. He is an active boy that loves playing at the park, riding his bike, and being goofy! He recently developed an interest in sports and is playing soccer and tee-ball. He loves playing board games, performing at-home science experiments, and entertaining our family with his latest knock-knock joke. We love his curiosity, humor, and creative imagination.

Theo is sociable and loving. He loves playing with his cousins and is excited to be a big brother.

He has already started to prepare for a new baby by finding toys he thinks the baby will want to play with!



in our family...

WE REALIZE LIFE IS SHORT, SO WE DO NOT
TAKE OURSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY OR CRY
OVER SPILLED MILK!

WE LOVE AN IMPROMPTU DANCE PARTY!

WE TREAT OTHERS THE WAY
WE WANT TO BE TREATED.

WE ENSURE OUR CHILDREN KNOW THAT
THEY ARE ENOUGH AND WE WILL ALWAYS
LOVE THEM NO MATTER WHAT!

WE CELEBRATE DIVERSITY.







our home

We live in a three-bedroom and two-bathroom condo with a beautiful view of the Chicago Skyline. It feels very light and spacious. **One of our favorite things about living in a condo is being close to the community. It is diverse with several young families, and it is the type of place where you can knock on a neighbor's door and ask to borrow an egg or a cup of flour.**

Outside we have a terrace where we like to grill and eat dinners as a family. We live by several kid-friendly parks where we have formed many relationships with local families, and Theo always has a friend to play with. We regularly get together with these families for parties and events for the community, like park clean-up days.

We are grateful to be near so many places for our kids to learn and explore. We have a membership to a local children's museum and the zoo, which we frequently visit on weekends. Our son attends a private school five minutes away from our home, which we selected because it values diversity and inclusion. We love that his school is a true reflection of our community.







our families

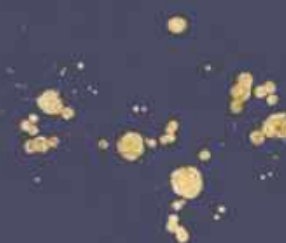
ELIZABETH'S FAMILY: Most of my family has remained in the Chicago area and regularly spends time together. I have two sisters and a cousin who live nearby with their families. My other sister is engaged and lives in Los Angeles. My parents live within a mile from us. They are retired and love to babysit their grandkids. They are both active and often invite their grandkids over for cousin sleepovers where they take the kids to the park or pool, on scooter rides, or to a local ice cream shop (a fan favorite of the grandkids!). My family enjoys spending time together and will frequently get together. They are supportive of our decision to adopt and cannot wait to be very involved in the baby's life!





JOHN'S FAMILY: My mom lives in my childhood home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and frequently comes for visits to Chicago. She is an amazing grandparent to our son Theo and cannot wait for a new grandbaby to shower with love and attention. My sister lives in Chicago and we enjoy spending time together. My brother lives in northern Virginia with his family. Since my family is spread out geographically, we have started to take an annual vacation in early December so that we can all come together to celebrate the holiday season.

My father passed away 20 years ago and was a significant influence in my life. He provided my family with a great sense of safety and security. How I parent my children is greatly influenced by how he made me feel. I can only hope my children feel as safe and cherished as I did.





In our Family

We appreciate differences and celebrate everyone's uniqueness.



In our Family
There is a lot of laughter, silliness and dance parties.



before you go

We want you to know



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We hope you got a glimpse into our world, and you were able to see that we are a loving family that likes to be silly and enjoys spending time together. We respect the difficult decision you are faced with, and we wish you peace and comfort as you consider what is best for you and your child. If you select adoption, we acknowledge how difficult it can be to choose a family without really knowing them. We have created the following list of commitments to help you as you search for the family that you best connect with. If you chose us, we commit to:

Raising our child to know who they are and where they came from. We will have open and frequent communications and we will honor and celebrate their culture/heritage. We will respect your relationship with the child, and we promise to partner with you to find the right level of communication, if you so choose.

Ensuring your child has a home where they feel secure and accepted just as they are. Life can be difficult and challenging, but we promise to make sure the child always knows that our home is a safe space and that their family is always on their team.

Teaching the child to be silly and laugh often. We will teach the importance of not sweating the small stuff!

Fostering a strong sibling relationship. We recognize that bonds are not only formed by sharing DNA, but also by shared experiences. We promise to nurture a strong relationship between our children and make sure they all feel heard and seen.

Providing them with an incredibly strong support system of grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins and friends that are eager and excited to love your child. They will be spoiled by grandparents, adored by aunts and uncles, and immediately part of the crazy cousin group that ensures they have plenty of movie nights and sleepovers!

We know you are facing a very difficult decision, but we want you to know that we support you in whatever choice you make. We hope you find comfort, love and support in your decision.

John & Elizabeth