

Dee Dee  
&  
Cristian



# From our Family

Beginnings are always hard.

Deciding how to introduce ourselves to you has been one of the more difficult things we've done as a family. What is the right thing to say to someone facing such an important decision? Will we make the right impression? Will you understand the depth of our commitment to loving your child as much as you do? How do we begin what we pray will be the start of a new family and relationships with you and your baby? These are all questions we struggle with...

But one thing we can say for sure: we will love and cherish this precious child unconditionally, and give them every opportunity that you are dreaming for them, and more.

It is our promise to you.



# Fast Facts



We are dual-income with a stay-at-home-parent



We love to travel and explore



We love animals and have pets



We value education and curiosity


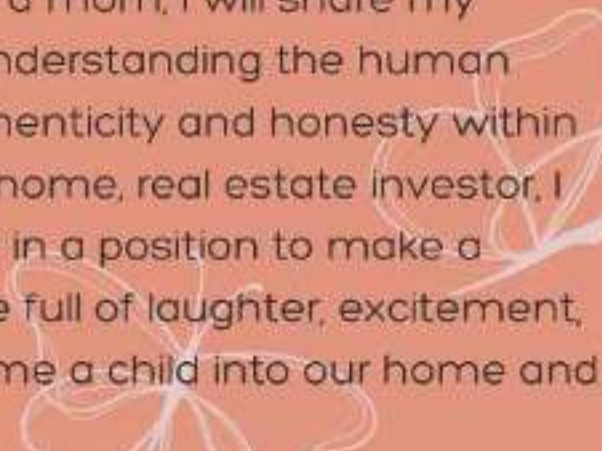


We love making each other laugh



# Meet Dee Dee

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a mom. When I was a teenager, I found out I was pregnant (unexpectedly), and my daughter was born - it wasn't easy as a single mom, because I didn't have the resources I have today. My intention was always to enrich both our lives and be able to have another child... someday, when my life and financial situation would allow. As the years went on, I faced multiple setbacks that made it impossible to grow my family the way I'd always dreamed. But for all those years, I carried a space in my heart for another little one. It took a lot longer than I had planned, but life sometimes works out that way. With a lot of time, trial-and-error, and sheer luck, I was finally able to get on my feet, go to school and get two degrees (one in music and one in psychology), become financially independent, travel the world, and meet my amazing husband. Our life today is truly better than anything I ever imagined! As a mom, I will share my passions for making music and understanding the human condition, and instill creativity, authenticity and honesty within my family. Because I'm a stay-at-home, real estate investor, I am so grateful and honored to be in a position to make a beautiful, family-oriented life - one full of laughter, excitement, and comfort. I can't wait to welcome a child into our home and show them this big, vibrant world.





# Things that bring me joy

## Music



My mom used to tell the story that I was born humming a song she sang to me when she was pregnant. Impossible as that sounds, I almost believe it - I've been singing longer than I can remember. As a little girl, I'd put my dad's records on the turntable and play each one until I had every harmony memorized. When I started middle school, I began singing in competitive choral groups, which continued straight through high school. Anything that would allow me to sing - I was there for it. Eventually, my love of music and singing led me to a music degree and a career as a working vocalist and vocal teacher. Though I no longer sing professionally, music is still a part of my every day. I sing to my animals, in the car, while I'm cleaning. Singing is my constant comfort and lifelong passion. My mother and grandmother were singers, and it's something that connects us all. Some of my favorite memories are those of tucking my daughter into bed and singing to her until her breath softened and she drifted to sleep, just like my mom used to do with me. I have waited and wished to be able to share the gift of music with another child, and I'm keeping myself warmed up for those sleepy lullabies.

# Learning

I am such a nerd. And I've been fortunate to be able to explore a formal education in multiple fields. After a number of years in the music scene, I decided to change course entirely and study psychology. I had always been fascinated by the way we humans think, and what makes us do the things we do. But with my terrible high school record, and being a single mom, I didn't think I'd ever get the chance to go back to school. At first, I re-enrolled in a community college in the Bay Area, and after I worked up my courage, I applied to transfer to Stanford, where I conducted research in multiple labs, working with some of my academic heroes. I was humbled to have been accepted to study at such an outstanding school, and even more in awe when I was able to study at Oxford as an exchange student. When I was younger, I didn't dare to imagine I would have such opportunities, since my parents had not prepared me for college. Today, I'm incredibly grateful that I have that knowledge and experience to lean on as I guide our future child on their own path of discovery.



# Meet Cristian

My childhood was wonderful, with very engaged and supportive parents. I was encouraged to be creative and curious, to try, to fail, to succeed, to be my own self—and I knew that my family always had my back. I want to provide that for your baby too. I can't wait to get excited with them as they discover their interests and we explore new ones together. I'm eager to see the joy in their eyes at their accomplishments, and be supportive of them through disappointments. I look forward to holding them close as they sleep on my chest, feeding them, bathing them, changing diapers. I look forward to family dinners, story-time, picnics, day trips to the coast and exploring the world, near and far. I am a software engineer by day, and a dog-cuddling, dad jokester by night (Dee Dee is rolling her eyes as I write this). Family time is important to me. Whether I'm hiking, doing yoga at the gym, cooking a meal, or watching awful reality TV, I can't imagine doing these things without the people I love. At night, when I'm nuzzling my dogs, calling them by all 27 of their nicknames and putting them in their cozy bed, I imagine climbing the stairs with a sleepy child in my arms, who knows they are the center of my universe.







# Things that bring me joy



## The Ocean

One of the things I'm most looking forward to sharing with my child is the place that constantly calls to me (other than home) – the ocean. As a very young child I remember desperately wanting to see the ocean, and one of my oldest memories is my first trip to see the ocean at the Oregon Coast. Decades later, that very location is still my favorite and most frequented vacation spot. The smell of the sea and the tingle of cool salty air is transcendent. I feel reborn bathing in it, and I delight in the drying and dried saltwater on my skin and in my hair. Standing at the edge of the Pacific feels as if I'm standing at the edge of the universe, and when the ocean horizon meets star filled sky, in a sense I truly am. The ocean seemingly contains just as many wonders as the cosmos, and there is no better setting to feel at one with it all than a clear and mild night, laying in the sand, staring at a dense field of stars, with the roll of the waves lulling you in a trance.



## Projects

I love a good challenge, and I love an interesting technical problem. Nothing is more satisfying and fulfilling than a job well done, be it at work, at home, or somewhere in between. I've always had a penchant for electronics and mechanisms; making and fixing things. I translated this enthusiasm into a master's degree in robotics. I've solved problems in space rocket control, walking robots, and precision manufacturing--you might even be reading this on a device that has been processed on one of my machines! I've been incredibly fortunate to have a gratifying career where I get to work on novel challenges, but projects around the house can be just as rewarding. Dee Dee always seems to have a project for us to work on, be it as mundane as mowing and edging the lawn. We are both big into DIY projects and it gives us the perfect opportunity to practice our critical thinking and creative skills - qualities we plan to foster in our child along with the confidence to try and fail until they find the answers that are just right.

# Our Dream for You and Your Baby

Our greatest hope is to create a family of healthy, loving relationships, and this includes you.

As you know, families are all different – some are chosen. If you choose to place your child in our home, we will honor their uniqueness and welcome the special relationships they will have with their birth family. Not only is our goal to create a bond with you through this journey, making sure your gift and sacrifice will benefit your baby, but you as well.

We want you to achieve your dreams, big and small. We know first hand that life is full of unexpected challenges. But we hope you feel reassured that we will be here, providing for and protecting your baby. They will be thriving in love and encouragement, so that you can focus on yourself. You deserve to be safe and confident in your choice as you work toward your own goals.

Of course, relationships all change over time, and we are committed to being flexible and compassionate throughout our journey as a family. We hope to be able to share updates with you – pictures, phone calls, even visits in person. But if your heart leads you to a different space, we will respect that, keeping the door open for you if you do want to walk through it again.

Though we have no children in our home currently, we would love to have a second child join our family when the time is right. Having a sibling to grow up with is such a gift, and we'd love to be able to give your baby the lifelong companion and best friend they deserve. As parents, we will teach our children to be honest, confident, thoughtful and warmhearted. We dream that this child will love themselves, trust that they can come to us first when they need help, and share their talents and gifts in ways that feed their spirit. We will give them the skills to make loving friendships, to help others in need, and to enjoy the beauty in their life. And throughout all this, we will honor their origins, their birth family, and the bonds of love between you and your baby that will last forever.



# Home Life

Where your baby will  
live and be loved



Our home is a spacious, light-filled, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom two-story house in a beautiful neighborhood, in Beaverton, Oregon. It's just a couple minutes from forest/walking trails, shopping, restaurants, and a warm, family-friendly community all around.



Our family room is the cozy spot where we cuddle up with the dogs and watch movies. We have a piano for practicing scales, and family-sized couch that is perfect for an afternoon cat nap.



The kitchen is the heart of our home! Here, we cook dinners together and catch up on our day. It's where all our holiday feasts come together, and where Dee Dee bakes personalized birthday cakes for everyone. This is the hangout for many parties and get-togethers we host throughout the year.



The living room is where you will most likely find our dogs being couch potatoes. And it's the room where the holidays come alive!



Our backyard has two large decks with a generous grassy area for kids and animals to run around - the perfect place for backyard antics!



# Through the Seasons

## Spring

During spring, the colors of Oregon really like to show off. The cherry blossoms and our pink dogwood tree are some of our favorite parts of springtime. Oregon hosts a yearly tulip festival that we love to attend, with train rides and carnival games for kids.



## Summer



In the summer, you can find us hanging out on our backyard swing, firing up the BBQ, and relaxing in the hot tub. Our fitness club has an amazing pool with a slides. The place is packed with families and kiddos all summer, and we can't wait to bring a little one along to make some new friends. Beach trips are a must!





## Fall

When the colors change, we love decorating and celebrating the different seasons. With gorgeous leaves falling in our backyard. We get excited to carve pumpkins, and visit the corn maze. It's also the height of baseball season, when Dee Dee is always hoping to see her favorite SF Giants in the World Series.



## Winter

In December we light up the house inside and out! This is our favorite time to watch all the holiday movies, drink lots of hot chocolate and make gingerbread houses together. We make fires on the cold nights and get cozy with the dogs on the couch. Movie and game nights are big in the cold months.



# Our Community

## Big Sister

One of the best ways we could think to demonstrate our dedication to raising an amazing child is to tell you about the one who is already a part of our family. Dee Dee's daughter, Zoe, is a talented, empathetic, hilarious young woman, who has enriched both of our lives by just being herself. Zoe currently lives in Chicago, but she makes frequent trips to mom's for holidays and just hanging out. She recently graduated from the University of Oregon with a major in advertising and has a passion for product design.



Throughout her childhood, Zoe was an independent and creative force. She began teaching herself Spanish in the 6th grade, and by the time she graduated from high school, she had already earned all her college credit toward a second language. In her senior year of high school, Zoe studied abroad in Chile, where she perfected her Spanish skills. She is excited to teach her little sibling Spanish and share her love of Chilean culture.

As a child, Zoe was active in school theater and music productions, singing and playing string instruments in the orchestra. She attended summer camp for several years and this summer will be working as a camp counselor at her old camp, which has been a dream of hers since she attended. In school, her favorite subjects were math and science, and she made a wide circle of friends she is still close with today.



Zoe loves traveling and has recently finished a solo train trip across the country. She has also travelled to Mexico, Belgium, France, Spain, and Germany. She's eager to stamp her passport with even more adventure in the near future. Of course, Dee Dee is biased, but words don't do justice to describe the love and pride she feels for Zoe. It has been, simply, her life's greatest joy to get to be her mother, watching her grow and develop into the inspiring young person she is. We have every confidence that we will feel just as much awe and inspiration raising a child together, and we are overjoyed that they will have Zoe there to be their biggest cheerleader and big sister.

# Extended Family



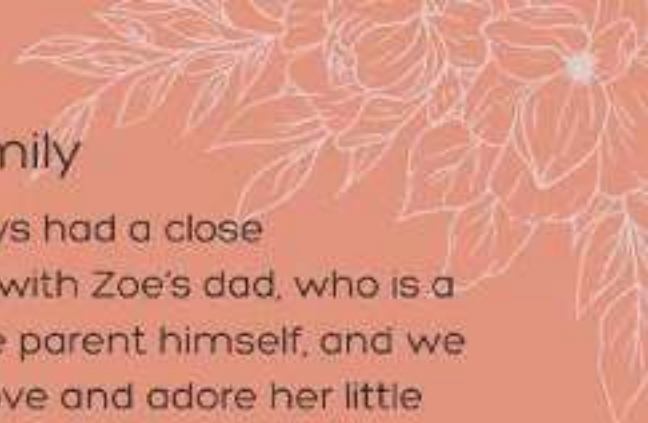
## Cristian's Family

Grandma, grandpa and Uncle Tim are all excited for a new little one - Kathy. "gramma" is a retired home economics teacher and superstar homemaker. She has been making baby blankets for kiddos that she knows for years. She almost can't contain herself when she thinks about making a special gift for her own grandchild.

## Dee Dee's Family

Adoption isn't new to our family. Dee Dee's sister and brother-in-law are adoptive parents to her nephew, Antonio. Not only have they navigated a transracial adoption, but Antonio has enjoyed an open relationship with members of his birth family. Today, he is a smart, funny, caring, talented young man and professional chef who has been a bright light for our whole family.





## Zoe's Family

We've always had a close relationship with Zoe's dad, who is a second-time parent himself, and we absolutely love and adore her little brother as if he were our own. One of Dee Dee's most cherished memories was at bedtime, when Zoe's brother sought her out for a cuddle and settled in for the night so he could hold her hand as he fell asleep.

## Dee Dee's Bestie

Dee Dee's best friend Kelly has been a faithful support throughout our journey. She is an early childhood educator whose entire family, for years, has shown up for Dee Dee as if they were her own. Kelly has two nieces and a nephew, and is excited to become and "auntie" again.



## Cristian's Bestie



Cristian's best friend Viju has been a constant source of selfless support. He is a truly loving and warm friend who has been keeping his thoughts positive for us as we've navigated multiple setbacks on our journey to grow our family. His smile and humor has been a continuing comfort for us.

# Travel

One of our favorite and most rewarding things to do is travel internationally. We have been fortunate as a family to visit 11 countries - some more than once! While we love going back to our favorites, we have many more on our bucket list. As we look back through our photo albums and pick out some of our favorite shots to share with you, we can't help but get excited, thinking about our dreams of bringing a child along on our new journeys and making memories that we will all remember forever. We feel so blessed to be in a position to share more than our home, but to share the experiences that make life worth living. Our family believes that possessions are eventually all lost to time, but our experiences are ours to keep.



Florence



Pisa



Rome



Bologna



Genoa



Verona



Parma

## Italy

Some of the best food, art and architecture in the world!

# Mexico

We've been to Mexico so many times, we've lost count. It's a place we come back to for the food, the history and the beaches. We love that each time we come back there is something new to discover!



San Miguel De  
Allende



Isla Mujeres



Chichén Itzá



Tulum



Cancun



León



Gran Cenote



Ik kil Cenote



Playa Del  
Carmen

## One- time Trips...



Havana,  
Cuba



Shang Hai,  
China



Valparaíso,  
Chile

# United Kingdom

The UK is a favorite, as Dee Dee was able to spend 6 months studying at Oxford and came to love the beautiful countryside, and historic sites throughout the lands. Scotland and Wales are the next on our list for this region.



Oxford,  
England



Bath,  
England



London,  
England



Cotswolds,  
England



Salisbury,  
England



Dublin,  
Ireland



Guernsey,  
British Isles

# Europe



Paris,  
France



Brussels,  
Belgium



Munich,  
Germany



Ldköping,  
Sweden



# Spain

Spain is another place we find ourselves going back to. We've been tracking the progress on Gaudí's famous Sagrada Família over three visits! Our favorite thing about Spain is absolutely the mixture of Roman Catholic, Arabic and Jewish Influence in the architecture - not to mention some of the most outstanding museums, paintings, dance, and the stunning range of geography in a single country.



La Sagrada Família

1st time



2nd time



3rd time



Sevilla



Segovia



Madrid



Bolonia



Sevilla



Córdoba



Tarifa



Granada

# Gallery





in blaming the farts on  
this guy



in homemade cakes



in TRAVELING!



in being serious



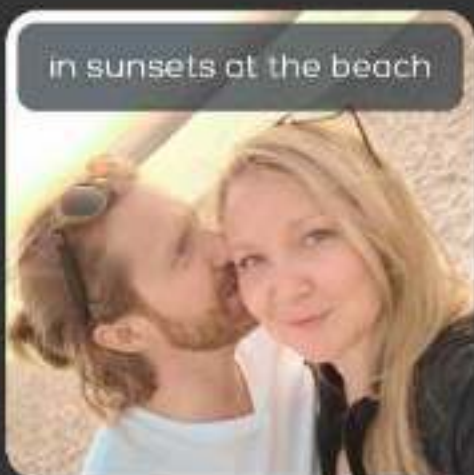
in being weird



in turning down the  
temp and complaining  
about being cold



In matching PJs, movies,  
and 2 bags of popcorn



in sunsets at the beach



in laughing out loud!

# Quotes



"My friend Kelly and I used to joke about finding a goofy guy like Chip Gaines. It's like, as long as he has a sense of humor, we're gonna be fine. But I didn't actually think I'd find his doppelgänger. And I ended up with a goofball for sure, but Cristian is also the most patient, flexible, kind and calming person I've ever met. He's my rock."

-DEE DEE

"Dee Dee shows her love in creative ways. In fact, her most endearing feature is how she glows around children and animals. She started a tradition of waking up early on Zoe's birthday to blast the Beatles 'Birthday' song over a speaker, and puts it on repeat until it's played the number of times that corresponds with Zoe's age for that particular year. She does this for the dogs too. And the cat. And me."

-CRISTIAN



# The Beginning of Something New

Thank you for spending your time getting to know us. We are excited to meet you and to answer any questions you may have. If you are unsure about how to proceed, we can help you get in touch with the right services to help support you on your path.

We hope this is a new beginning for all of us - the beginning of a lifetime journey that makes a child the center of our world, that grows a family by more than one, that brings you comfort and sets you on a path to your own brighter future. We will always hold you in our thoughts and hearts. And we will never take for granted the life-changing gift you have brought into our lives through your own strength and sacrifice.

This beginning might be a hard one, but together we will face it, as it transforms us all into a uniquely beautiful family around this child.

Dee Dee

&  
Cristian

