

# Ben AND Rachel



# hello <sup>WE ARE</sup> Ben & Rachel

FROM CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
ALONG WITH OUR SON, ASHER.

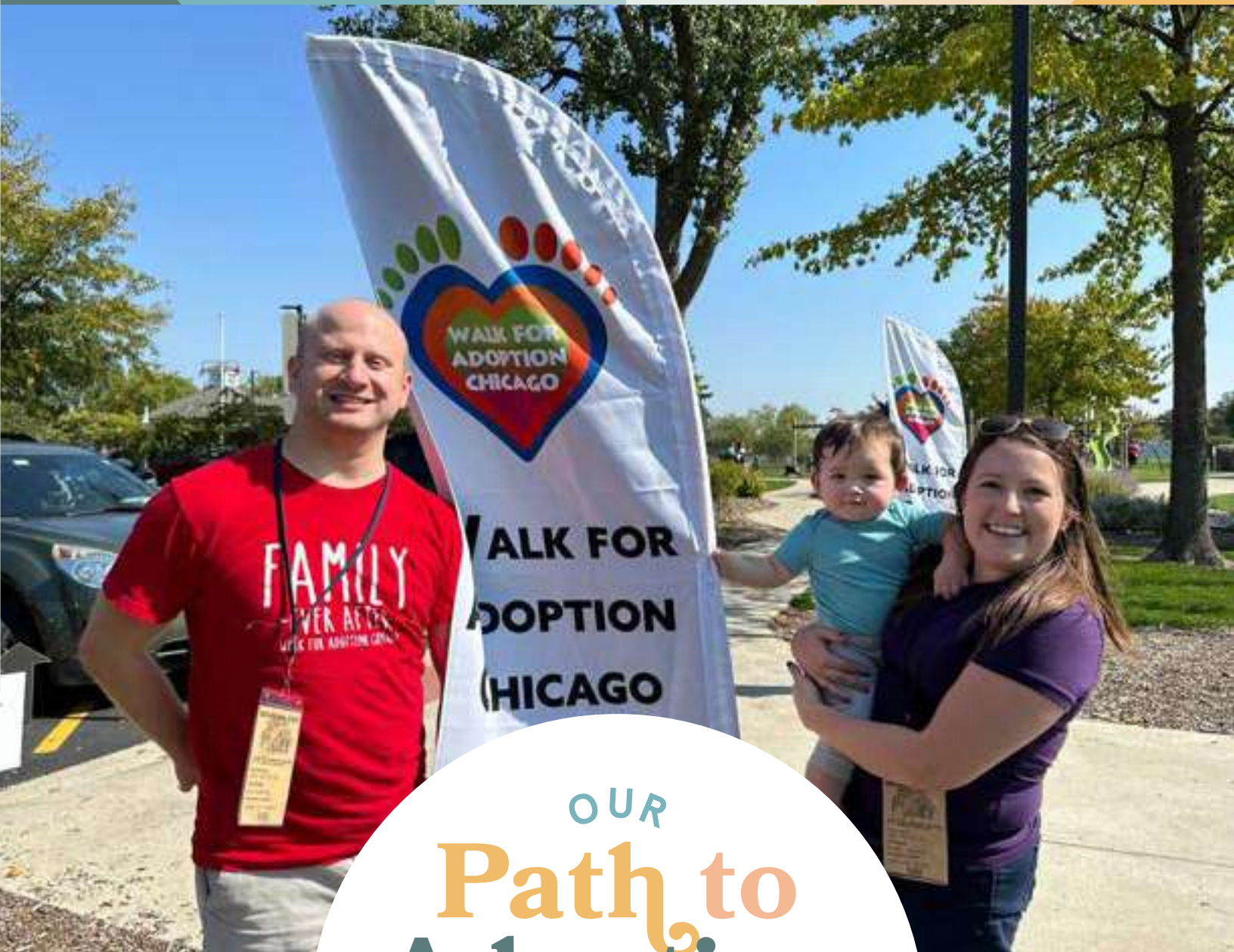
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Thank you so much for taking the time to look at our profile and get to know us.

We are in awe of your strength and recognize that this might be a difficult time for you. We appreciate the courage it must take to consider adoption and are thankful to you for considering us to raise your baby.







## OUR Path to Adoption

**We are incredibly excited to have the opportunity to become adoptive parents to another child!**

We decided to adopt again because we have always dreamed of having a larger family, but had some fertility challenges along the way. The challenges we faced taught us how strong we are as a couple and how deep our desire to have a family is. **We are so thankful that we were given the opportunity to adopt our son, Asher, and feel so fortunate to have an open adoption with his birth family.** We are ready to grow our family again through adoption and share our lives with another child.



# Our Story

We met in 2014 at a Summer town festival when we ordered the same drink at a bar.

We started a conversation and went on our first date the next day. After going on dates for the next three days, we knew that we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together, but took our time dating. We got engaged, bought our first home together and were married in 2017. We have always genuinely enjoyed spending time together. Whether we are spending a day at home, going to a concert, or spending the day at the park, we are having fun and laughing. When Asher joined our family in 2022, his sense of humor fit right in with ours!

WE ARE

looking forward  
to sharing  
laughter with  
another baby as a

family of four  
someday.



At a cooking class



Exploring a park on vacation





# Hobbies & Interests

**One of our favorite hobbies together is music.**

We both grew up playing music and have continued to play music in our adult lives. We often play music together and we used to play in a community jazz band prior to Asher's arrival. In addition to playing music, we also love listening to music and like to explore different genres and styles of music. We enjoy listening to live music. There are lots of different outdoor concerts in the summer months in our area and we go to as many different concerts as we can.

We are also close to many live music venues. **We have been able to share our love of music with Asher and feel that music is important in any child's life whether they want to play an instrument or not.** After seeing how much Asher loves music, we can't wait to share this experience with another child someday.

When possible, we like to get out and spend time with friends playing bingo or challenging ourselves with trivia. We have several restaurants nearby that often have these as fun events and host from time to time.



Rachel and Ben at a concert

Playing music together



Summer music festival





# About Rachel

**I have a master's degree in social work and work as a therapist. I would describe myself as a caring person.**

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In my free time, I love reading and my favorite books are mysteries. I have loved being able to pass my love of reading on to our son and we read together almost every day. When I am not reading, I enjoy music. I started playing piano at the age of 5 and participated in both band and orchestra playing various instruments all through school as well as in college. I have been able to continue my love of music in community bands as an adult and have been focusing on playing string bass most recently. In the spring and summer months, I enjoy gardening and like to try planting different types of flowers as well as a vegetable garden.

Rachel playing bass



# RACHEL'S fun facts

**Musical instrument:**  
String Bass

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**Dessert:**  
Chocolate cake

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**What you like to collect:**  
Anything with a dachshund

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**Children's Book:**  
The Snowy Day

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**Author:**  
Ruth Ware

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**Can't live without:**  
Coffee

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**Seasonal activity:**  
Looking at Christmas lights in our neighborhood

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**Vacation Spot:**  
Florida Keys

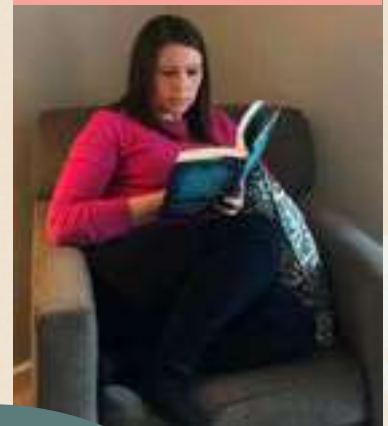


Rachel and Asher at the park

Mini-golfing fun



Rachel reading a book



by Ben

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Rachel is a loving and caring person. Rachel is intelligent and is always trying to learn more to further her education. She is often learning more about her field or attending virtual seminars. Rachel has a flexible work schedule, so she is home with Asher a few days each week. She always comes up with great ideas for activities to do with Asher, like taking him to a music class or toddler yoga. Rachel encourages reading and is often taking a book off the shelf to read to Asher. Seeing Rachel's loving nature with Asher makes me look forward to our future parenting another child together.



# About Ben

**I have a bachelor's degree in IT business administration and work as an IT analyst.**

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I have always enjoyed technology and working on computers. I have built several computers and found enjoyment from the building phase when I began building them several years ago. This is something I plan to do in the future and share with Asher someday. In my free time, I like playing video games. I also built a retro arcade in our basement that has been great for playing games with friends or as a family. I play in a community soccer league about once a week and like getting outside to play when I can. I have been playing trumpet since elementary school and have been able to continue playing in community bands in our area.

**Ben fixing a computer**







Working on a project around the house

Playing soccer



With Asher at the park



by Rachel

Ben is easy-going, has a great sense of humor, and is the most caring person I have ever met. Ben is often spending time helping our families with projects and lending a hand to neighbors when needed. Anytime he is asked to help out, Ben is always there. Seeing Ben as a father has been amazing. He is always making Asher laugh and isn't afraid to get on the floor to play with him. Ben has a strong bond with Asher and Asher loves his dad! I can't wait to see Ben connect with another child in the same way.

# BEN'S fun facts

**Musical instrument:**  
Trumpet

**Dessert:**  
Ice cream

**Sport You Like to Play:**  
Soccer

**Children's Book:**  
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

**Lunch Box Snack:**  
Dunkaroos/Oreos

**Ice Cream Flavor:**  
Cookies & Cream

**Seasonal activity:**  
Watching scary movies for Halloween

**Favorite Movie:**  
Marvel Comic movies



## OUR Home & Community

We moved into our four bedroom, split level home in the spring of 2020 and have been working on projects to make it our own. One of the things we love the most about this house is the dining room. **We like to host our families and friends for holidays, celebrations, and game nights and the dining room has plenty of space for this.** We have been able to host some holidays in our home with Asher and can't wait to continue this with another child at our table.

**We live in a friendly neighborhood in a great school district.**

There is a newly renovated park just down the street from our home and several forest preserves nearby. The park has a playground, basketball courts, soccer nets, and baseball diamonds. **We love going for walks through the neighborhood and taking Asher to the park. We often picture ourselves going to the park with another child and our hearts feel full thinking about this.**



# THE Best thing about our community is the summer festivals.

Our community, along with many other neighboring communities, holds festivals throughout the summer months with good food, parades, carnivals, and live music. We have so many opportunities to get out to different festivals within a 15 minute drive of our home. We have been able to take Asher to many different festivals and are looking forward to doing this as a family of four someday.



Summer concert in our community



Visit to the pumpkin patch

Halloween with Asher



## OUR Favorite Traditions

One of our favorite times of year is fall and we have a few traditions for the fall season and Halloween.

We have quite a few options for apple orchards, pumpkin patches, and corn mazes in our area. We love picking apples and exploring a pumpkin patch each year. We have always enjoyed Halloween and handing out candy in our neighborhood. We were able to take Asher trick or treating in our neighborhood this past year and dressed up with him. **We are looking forward to coming up with more group costume ideas with another child to trick or treat with us!**





Celebrating Asher's culture & background

FUTURE BIG  
**brother**  
**Asher**



Playing outside as a family

## Asher was adopted as a newborn in November 2022.

He is a happy little boy and loves smiling. He is very social and connects with other children very easily. He would be thrilled to have a sibling to play with someday! **Asher has a very diverse cultural background and we love celebrating this with him and incorporating new traditions into our family.**



OUR DOG  
**Molly**



Asher and Molly playing ball

We have a 13 year old miniature dachshund named Molly. She has lots of energy and her favorite game is fetch. **She is great with kids and loves being able to play with our son.** She would be thrilled to have another child to snuggle with and throw her ball for her someday!





Ben's family



Rachel's family

# Family AND Friends

Our family members include both of our parents, our brothers and our sister-in-laws.

Friends and family at Asher's birthday party



We live within a 15 minute drive of each of our families, which allows us to see everyone for birthdays and holidays or just a weekend BBQ. We often play silly games when we get together with our family and love doing a turkey ring toss for Thanksgiving every year. We consider our friends to be our family and are lucky that we have an amazing friend group nearby. **Our family and friends adore Asher and are thrilled that we are hoping to adopt another child.**





Rachel's family celebrating Asher's birthday



With Ben's family



Friends at a BBQ at our house



With Asher's birth family



**We are lucky to be able to have such a great relationship with Asher's birth family.**

We have been able to keep in touch regularly and had our first visit with Asher's birth family right before his first birthday. We keep pictures of Asher's birth family in our home and often show him the pictures and talk to him about them. **Should you choose us as adoptive parents, we welcome the same open relationship with you.**



# Thoughts<sup>OUR</sup> on Parenting

**Our goals as parents are to create a loving and supportive environment, encourage exploration and hobbies, and maintain connection to culture and birth family.**

We are very involved as parents and plan to always be involved in whatever our children are doing. We want to encourage and support them in whatever is important to them. We have strong communication in our family and hope to pass this on to our children. We want them to always be able to openly speak about anything that is on their mind. We believe that it is always important to listen to different opinions and experiences without judgement and hope that our children will learn this from us.

**We are comfortable with any level of openness in adoption and understand that this may change from time to time.** We plan to always support our children in maintaining connection to birth family as well as exploring their culture and background. **We are always open to incorporating new traditions into our family.**



Carousel ride with Asher

# IN Closing



**We are so thankful to you for taking time to get to know us.**

Words can't describe how grateful we are to be considered as adoptive parents to another child. We will support you in whatever decision you make and know it will be the best decision for you and your baby. If you choose us as the adoptive parents, we want you to know we are comfortable with any level of openness in our

adoption. We are ready to follow your lead and understand that your needs in terms of openness may change from time to time. We are more than willing to go with the flow. We have been able to experience both the joy and grief of the adoption process with our son and his birth family and are prepared to support you in this process as well. We plan to support this baby in maintaining a connection with you throughout their life and making sure they know how strong and brave you are.